Training and Mobilization of Believers

Believers can be seen as a swarm of bees; their participation is essential to the advance of the Church in a world controlled by Satan. This course examines the definition of a layman, various biblical principles behind lay involvement in the Church, and their commitment to the Church. The student will reflect on what is necessary to deepen and strengthen the faith of the believers in his local church so that they become enthused and zealous for the work of the Master. He will learn how he can motivate, develop, and use the gifts of the believers so that each one contributes to the growth of the Church of our Lord. The goal of the course is to teach the SOE student how to improve the believers' participation in bringing God's love and salvation to a lost world.

#	Unit	Lessons	Assignments
1.	Introduction	Program and Assignments	1) Read and meditate
2.		Introduction	on the book of Acts.
3.	Modern perceptions	A Big Problem in Many Churches Today	
4.		Definitions of the word, "Laity"	2) Read The
5.		Definition of the word, "Church"	Tent Maker Manuel
6.		Role of the Believers in the early Church	
7.	Keys of success	Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church – 1	3) Summarize a book
8.		Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church – 2	you have read on discipleship.
9.		Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church - 3	
10.		Difference Between the Early and Modern Churches	4) Present the summary
11.		The Importance of Discipleship Training	orally in class, if
12.	Mobilization	Advantages of Discipleship Training	possible.
13.		Doing God's Will in Your Work Place	
14.		Relationships in a Biblical Church	5) The SOE arranges a
15.		How to Equip the Believers	seminar to inform pastors
16.		How to Train the Believers	of the problem and to
17.		Helping Believers Realize their Potential	propose solutions.
18.		Some Movements Throughout History -	
19.		Some Movements Throughout History - Meth.	6) SOE arranges a seminar
20.		Some Movements Throughout History – Korea	to inform the laity of
21.		Some Movements Throughout History – India	the problem and to
22.	Our Testimony	An Effective Testimony - 1	propose solutions.
23.		An Effective Testimony - 2	
24.		Contents of our Testimony	
25.	Discipleship	Discipleship 1	7) Attend classes
26.		Discipleship 2	regularly
27.		Incorporation of New Believers into the Church	
28.		Discipleship Training for Fruit-bearing	
29.		What does it mean to Mobilize Believers?	
30.		Mobilizing Believers to Increased Prayer	
31.		Mobilizing Believers by Inductive Bible Study (IBS)	8) Read IBS Manual
32.		Mobilizing Believers for Increased Witness	
33.		Mobilizing Believers to Increased Giving - 1	
34.		Mobilizing the Laity to Increased Giving - 2	
35.		Mobilizing Believers: Some Practical Suggestions	
36.		Mobilizing Believers to Build Horizontal Relationships	
37.		Mobilizing Believers to Complete the Unfinished	
38.		Conclusion	

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Introduction

Believers are a dynamic force in the harvest field; their participation is essential to the advancement of the Church in a world controlled by Satan. This course examines various biblical principles behind believers' involvement in the Church and their commitment to the Church. The student will reflect on what is necessary to deepen and strengthen the Christian faith of the believers in his local church so that they become enthused and zealous for the work of the Master. He will learn how he can motivate, develop, and use the gifts of the believers so that each one contributes to the growth of the Church of our Lord. The goal of the course is to teach the student how to improve the believers' participation in his community.

The believers in our churches are a great force of harvesters in the world. In some churches, their contribution toward the progress of the Gospel is very important. In other cases, it is neglected, almost even non-existent.

The Church has a mission to evangelize all the peoples of the world by making them disciples of Jesus Christ. Its most important task is to announce the Good News of the Messiah to everyone. This task is far too great for the clergy alone.

When Christ left the earth, he left his Church with the specific mission of witnessing for him to **"Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** Acts 1:8

This divine mission continues throughout the ages. The Church must go everywhere in the world to preach the Good News of salvation. Majority World Churches too often inherited the West's faulty practice of distinguishing between laity and clergy. The early missions gave a solid education to those who wanted to become pastors or priests. But too often they neglected the training and participation of those who weren't in "full-time ministry."

This erroneous dichotomy was one of the greatest obstacles to effective Church growth for centuries. It consisted of preferential treatment of the paid clergy and the creation of two classes within God's Church. But we must not forget that Christ's death tore away the temple veil from top to bottom to give everyone free and equal access to the universal priesthood.

Perhaps the greatest weakness in the Church today is that there are millions of so called members who are not truly obedient to God's Word. And what is worse, they do not even find the situation strange. The more we recognize and obey Christ's intention that the Church be a harvest force for completing the Great Commission, the more we will understand that all God's children are to be involved in this Commission. There is no chance of victory in any venture when 90% of those involved are not trained or mobilized, but that is precisely the situation in our churches today.

Most of the so-called Christians do not really understand what trusting in Christ means or how to participate in His ministry in their particular situation, whatever that may be.

Believers are the people of God, just as much as are the paid clergy, and they can take part in the heavenly inheritance. Their participation is essential for the advance of the Church.

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This course is derived from an earlier course entitled "Lay Training for Church Growth," developed by Dr. Dale Garside and Rev. Nyamuke 'Ubul for the International School of Evangelism in Kinshasa, Dem. Rep. of Congo.

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A Big Problem in Many Churches Today

Some churches have lost their power, zeal, enthusiasm, and even their authority for Christian witness. Some churches are totally confused because of their poor understanding of the commandments Jesus left with us.

We grieve over the spiritual poverty in these churches, even in the most evangelical ones. We would like them to be more alive, enthusiastic, and conquering. The reason for their spiritual poverty is, more than anything else, the lack of putting into practice the Word of God.

Christ's message is powerful, but the Church is often weak and powerless. It has not succeeded in changing the world because the Church itself is divided and in pieces.

So many people have been disappointed by the Church and have lost their confidence in it because it has not lived up to its calling as salt and light.

Today the call is being heard everywhere: the crisis is within the Church itself. The Church is too dependent on artificial means to simulate and stimulate true spiritual power. The institution has lost its impact.

Our error lies in the way we measure our progress and status. We have based our success on this question: "How many people are present?" We should be asking a different question: "How well are the believers doing spiritually, and what is their impact in the world?"

Far from being pessimistic concerning our changing world, the Church can rediscover its mission if the Christians return to the source, God's Word, to discover the true calling of the Christian, according to Christ's command.

Reflecting and studying the role of believers will help us understand the unique calling of the Christian: to be Christ's witness.

Let's be aware that every time period calls Christians out in a particular way to renewal by the Holy Spirit so that they become witnesses to a world which is burning up. If Christians refuse to fulfill their obligations, who will do so? No one will. Experience proves so more than once. If Christians refuse to accept their responsibility, they are not worthy of His trust. They no longer have a reason for being.

The only way the Church can mobilize its members to fulfill their responsibility is to offer them solid biblical teachings on the subject. Continuous discipleship training of the believers must be the priority of each church.

A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS' COMMAND: LUKE 5:10, 6:40; MATTHEW 28:19-20

The mission that Jesus entrusted to us is to make disciples. The Bible says that a disciple will be like his Master; that means that the Church has a mission to make people like Christ. Christ Himself trained disciples, and He orders us to do as He did: **"As the Father sent me, so I send you."**

The Church can fulfill this mission by using the following four basic steps:

1. **DEEPEN** the Christian faith of believers so that they are aware and convinced that they are fulfilling God's task which Christ left with the Church.
2. **FEED** the believers spiritually so that they become true witnesses in their families, in their neighborhoods, and anywhere God has placed them.
3. **EQUIP** the believers so that they become committed and zealous about fulfilling the work of the Lord, because they are trained for a specific task in relationship to their abilities.
4. **GIVE** the believers opportunities to perfect their knowledge about God so that they truly serve Him as God's people everywhere they go.

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Definitions of the Word, "Laity"

1. A BIBLICAL DEFINITION

The word “laity” comes from the Greek word, “Laos”.

In the Old Testament, LAOS means the people of God; in the New Testament, it is applied to the Christian community.

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel, the prophets and other Jews, were described as one group, God’s people.

This idea remains intact in the New Testament. The Church is not a building or a denomination, or the clergy. It is God’s people. The New Testament Church (laos) means God’s people, a community, a group of Christians who meet anywhere in what is essentially an assembly of saints; that is, people set apart from the world for God. This is the true meaning of the Greek word, "laos," from which comes the word, laity.

2. BASIC QUESTIONS

The basic question needing an answer is: “What is the place of ordinary Christians in the life and activities of the Church?” Should the believers simply attend church meetings, put their offerings in the plate to support the church’s program, and do nothing more?

The Church today is looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men. Men are God’s methods.

If each Christian were trained and motivated to win one person to Christ, then to train a believer to repeat that process, the world would be won in less than 40 years.

Our greatest interest is therefore that of knowing how the believers can be witnesses for Jesus Christ in the context of their work, expertise, and spiritual gifts, since all those who make up God’s people have been chosen. They have received the same grace and the same direction from the Holy Spirit in order to assume various responsibilities in the Church. Consequently, believers’ training must be a priority in the Church.

In most people’s minds, evangelism is a matter for professionals, trained to do that task: “After all,” they say, “I am only a baker or a carpenter; I know nothing about theology; I have never been to seminary. Let pastors do the work; they were trained for it.” This attitude represents the greatest tragedy the Church has ever known. The damage it has done is so extensive that it cannot be fully expressed here.

3. THE EARLY CHURCH

It was not so in the early Church. Everyone in it was evangelizing. That is why, after 300 years of continual growth, the Church of Jesus Christ experienced surprising results. The Roman Empire, totally pagan at its base, was deeply shaken and conquered by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; Jesus’ disciples crossed seas and deserts, went into the darkest jungles, entered into every Roman city, to witness, even to the senate and in the emperor’s palace, until there was a Christian emperor on the throne. How was it possible? Everyone was evangelizing.

Satan managed to infiltrate the Church, and today it is estimated that 95% of Christians have never led a soul to Christ. The witness of the Church was decimated, its power undermined.

Satan has not only deceived the believers, but also pastors, about the goal of their ministry. In Ephesians 4:11-16, we read that Christ **“gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service.”** If we really grasped that concept, we would see a revolutionary upheaval in many ministries. What determines the basic criterion for the pastorate can be expressed in a question: “How many saints have I prepared for the ministry of the Church?”

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Definition of the word, "Church"

1. WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT:
   1.1. It is not a social club
   1.2. It is not an insurance company
   1.3. It is not a building
   1.4. It is not a religious institution
   1.5. It is not a denomination
   1.6. It is not the ecumenical movement
2. WHAT THE CHURCH IS:
   2.1. The Church is the people of God. 1 Peter 2:9-10
   2.2. The Church is Christ's body. Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 12:27
   2.3. Christ is the head of the body that is the Church. Colossians 1:18
   2.4. The Church is one. 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:3-6
   2.5. The Church is a Body with unity in diversity. 1 Corinthians 12:14-17
   2.6. Each member makes up part of the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:13
3. THE INTERDEPENDENCY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
   3.1. **The Church is the community** of all those who believe in Jesus Christ and who live according to the Scriptures by faith and action given by the Holy Spirit.
   3.2. **They meet together** for Holy Communion and baptism, to worship, pray, praise God, enjoy fellowship, witness, participate in the ministry of the Word, follow biblical teachings, and participate in the progress of the Gospel.
   3.3. Since the word, "laity," has meant "God's people" since the beginning of the Church, **all believers play an important role** in the functioning of the body.
4. THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH – SPEAKING TO BELIEVERS, THE BIBLE SAYS: 1 PETER 2:7-10
   4.1. You are a chosen race,
   4.2. You are a royal priesthood,
   4.3. You are a holy nation,
   4.4. You are a people belonging to God.
5. THE INHERITANCE OF BELIEVERS 1 PETER 1:3-4
   5.1. All believers, church members as well as the pastors, take part in the inheritance of the saints.
   5.2. All Church members are part of the mystical body of Christ, thanks to the baptism they receive which joins them together with Jesus.
   5.3. The believers have the obligation and the right to fulfill the role of priests in the world because they are made priests by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit who strengthens and confirms them. Revelation 1:5
   5.4. The Holy Spirit sanctifies God's people to do the work of the ministry; He grants special gifts to the faithful. 1 Corinthians 12:7
6. THE MISSION OF ALL BELIEVERS
   6.1. All true Christians are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, that they might proclaim the glory of God among the unsaved. 1 Peter 2:4-10
   6.2. The believers testify of Christ to all through their good deeds. Colossians 3:17
   6.3. It is by faith, hope, and love that they live out this calling. 1 Corinthians 13:13
   6.4. Love is the key element in the greatest commandment given by our Lord and compels Church members to work for God's glory, the coming of His kingdom, and the communication of eternal life to all men.
   6.5. All Christians in the world must take on this task, that of working so that all may know of God's love and accept His offer of salvation freely given to those who believe and accept it.

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Role of the Believers in the early Church

INTRODUCTION:

- *In the early Church, everyone participated actively in the whole life of the Church.*
- *The members were not passive, but active.*
- *Let's analyze how they contributed to the work of the Lord.*

1. JESUS' GENERAL COMMAND – THAT WE MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. MAT 28:19-20
2. JESUS' SPECIFIC COMMAND – "YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM … TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH." ACTS 1:8
3. WHO CARRIED OUT JESUS' COMMAND? ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD DID. ACTS 1-7
   - 3.1. In the early Church all the believers were involved in witnessing and making disciples, and their work was accepted by the Apostles.
   - 3.2. Because of the persecution in Jerusalem, Christians scattered everywhere into the countryside around Judea and Samaria, witnessing of Christ and His resurrection, while the apostles remained in Jerusalem. Acts 8:1,4
   - 3.3. Philip was a lay evangelist who preached in Samaria fruitfully. Acts 6:5, 8:5
   - 3.4. The apostles Peter and John were sent to build upon the work of the believers. Acts 8:14
4. THE GOSPEL SPREAD TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH BECAUSE OF THIS FAITHFUL WITNESS OF BELIEVERS.
   - 4.1. The Gospel was taken into Ethiopia, Africa. Acts 8:26-39
   - 4.2. Believers went into Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. Acts 11:19-24
   - 4.3. The Church of Jerusalem sent Barnabas to build up the work. Acts 11:22-23
   - 4.4. Christians took the Gospel to Rome; Paul went to encourage this work and is believed to have carried the message on to Spain.
   - 4.5. The Apostle Thomas brought the Gospel message all the way to India.

CONCLUSION

- *All believers in the early Church were fully involved in the evangelism of the world.*
- *The apostles visited churches founded by the believers, a fact that shows the importance of the role of believers then and now.*
- *In our day, we must admit that some churches neglect or underestimate the role of the believers.*
- *The believers had great responsibilities and numerous opportunities to evangelize and bear fruit for the kingdom of God.*

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Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church - 1

INTRODUCTION:

- *In the early years of the Church the believers participated greatly in carrying out the Great Commission.*
- *We should seek to discover the keys to their fruitfulness. How and why were the believers so fruitful then, in contrast to so many today who are not spiritually fruitful?*
- *Below are some of the keys that motivated believers to work effectively for the King of glory.* *Acts 2:37-47*

1. FIRST KEY: THEY HEARD GOD'S WORD ACTS 2:37
   1.1. After having heard Peter's sermon, their hearts were pierced. We see here that the believers listened to God's Word and that the Word brought faith to them, for the Bible says that faith comes from what we hear, and what we hear comes from the Word of God. Romans 10:17
   1.2. Hearing God's Word is the first step in becoming a Christian. Today people are invited to join the church without first hearing the Good News. Perhaps they are invited because they are from our ethnic group. Consequently, these pagans enter the church and contribute to its confusion. The Church must be built on the foundation of the Word because it is the only source of authentic faith.
2. SECOND KEY: THEY REPENTENTED OF THEIR SINS.
   2.1. "Peter told them: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38
   2.2. Peter's declaration is clear, precise, and deep, thus summarizing salvation: God's work and man's response. He asked them:
      2.2.1. To repent, meaning both a profound regret for sin and the desire for complete moral renewal.
      2.2.2. To receive baptism. This is the public confession of belief in Christ as Savior and Messiah.
   2.3. Repentance is the primary condition for salvation and for entry into God's family.
   2.4. The first Christians were repentant people, men and women who had put their trust in Jesus. False repentance was easily detected, as in the cases of Simon the magician, Ananias and Saphira, etc.
3. THIRD KEY: THEY WERE OBEDIENT TO CHRIST'S COMMANDS. ACTS 2:41-42
   3.1. The key to the success that God gave the first Christians was their obedience. God developed the spiritual gifts of those who obeyed. The first Christians obeyed the Lord's commandments, beginning with baptism.
   3.2. Too often today, Christians want to bargain with God and His Word. They want to obey it halfway, which makes their commitment superficial. The Church must teach the need to fully obey the Word as opposed to partial obedience to Christ's commands. King Saul obeyed God partially and was corrected by Samuel, God's judge. **"Obedience is better than sacrifice."** 1 Samuel 15:22
   3.3. God honored the faith of the early Christians because of their obedience to the Lord. Many Christians today are lukewarm, backslidden, or without power because of their disobedience.
4. FOURTH KEY: THEY PERSEVERED IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE APOSTLES. ACTS 2:42
   4.1. An essential activity of the early Christians was the teaching of the Word. 2 Tim 2:15
   4.2. God said: **"My people are dying due to lack of knowledge."** Hosea 4:6; Luke 4:4
   4.3. We have much to do to return the Bible to the rightful place it occupied in the early Church. We must return to a child-like faith, to the complete revelation of God, and to an assurance based only on what is written. There are still so many so-called Christians who neglect a daily reading of the Word of God.
   4.4. Let's understand that if we neglect the Scriptures, our faith will not grow and we will remain spiritually immature. Let us be like the Christians of Berea and those of the Reformation. Let us read the Bible ardently and strive to put it into practice. Acts 17:11
   4.5. Today, churches spend much time in songs and announcements, but the time for preaching and teaching is limited. The apostles were true masters of the Word of Jesus. Their teachings aimed undoubtedly at new believers to help them to learn Jesus' words by heart. The teaching times were coupled with fellowship and joy in the Lord.
   4.6. Preaching or exhortation is different than teaching. The Church must restore the authority of the Bible. Jesus is the supreme Master of the Word, and He exhorted His disciples to teach His commandments to the nations; the Church in every generation must also make teaching a priority.
   4.7. Unfortunately, some churches today are theologically illiterate and lack in systematic teaching of the Word. They are fed on crumbs. Messages are too often hastily and haphazardly prepared. The result is doctrinal malnutrition and spiritual famine. In such cases members may easily fall prey to false teaching and cults.

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Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church - 2

5. FIFTH KEY: THEY PERSEVERED IN FELLOWSHIP.
   5.1. Fellowship means intimate unity in love for the same Savior who is the Head of the Church. The first Christians practiced it, even outside the temple, by meeting together each day.
   5.2. The first Christians fully understood Jesus' words on love. "Love one another, as I have also loved you. Love one another, for by this, all will know you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:34-35
   5.3. They also understood the importance of Psalm 133 where the Psalmist exhorts the brothers to remain in the fellowship because it is in such meetings that God sends His blessings on life.
   5.4. The same faith and the same love for the same Savior was the bond that united them; these are essential ingredients of any church.
   5.5. On the other hand, churches today often resemble a stadium full of people who are not living out that fellowship sincerely, but only meeting together on Sundays in a rally-type atmosphere. Some Christians meet only with others who share a common cultural, social, political or philosophical interest, but they do not fellowship with other Christians.
   5.6. Fellowship is the fundamental characteristic of the New Testament believers. That is, they experienced a most intimate union of thought, will, and feelings in community together.
   5.7. The Spirit alone creates that precious fellowship of the believers.
6. SIXTH KEY: THEY OBSERVED THE LORD'S SUPPER TOGETHER ACTS 2:42
   6.1. "...They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread..." Acts 2:42
   6.2. Joyfully and humbly, Christians broke bread, that is, they shared together in the Lord's Supper and a meal, they praised God, they had favor with all the people, and the Lord added to their fellowship those who were saved. Acts 2:46-47
   6.3. The result was a beautiful and holy community pleasing to God. For Christians, the breaking of bread was another opportunity to remember the work of Jesus on the cross at Golgotha, and each time the early Christians remembered Jesus with a fellowship dinner, they discovered that Christ was present with them, as He had promised. This fact motivated them to spread His Gospel. Breaking bread was therefore a powerful factor for mobilizing Christians to do Christ's work.
7. SEVENTH KEY: THEY PERSEVERED IN PRAYER ACTS 2:42
   7.1. "They devoted themselves to prayer." Acts 2:42
   7.2. The early Church was urged "that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for everyone." 1Ti 2:1
   7.3. The first Christians understood the importance of prayer both in private and in public.
   7.4. Community prayers were common, practiced in all the assemblies, especially before and after the Lord's Supper. Acts 2:42-47
   7.5. Prayers were considered a part of grace, a discipline to be developed by the Spirit in the life of the members of the Church.
   7.6. The Spirit gives to us, who are God's people, **"access to the Father by one Spirit."** Ephesians 2:18
   7.7. We must use this privilege by constantly praying in the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26
   7.8. Neglecting prayer is one of the greatest sins among Christians.
   7.9. Prayer remains an essential element of holiness and progress in the spiritual life of Christians.
   7.10. God gives this grace called prayer, but believers often neglects to appropriate it, which leads to spiritual misery for the individual and for the church. Praying assemblies are rare. In principle, we all agree that it must be done, but in practice and too often, we neglect to do it.

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Keys to the Fruitfulness of the early Church - 3

8. EIGHTH KEY: THEY SHARED THEIR POSSESSIONS WITH THOSE IN NEED ACTS 2:44-45
   8.1. "All the believers were together and had everything in common, selling their possessions and goods; they gave to everyone as he had need." Acts 2:44-45
   8.2. Joy of the new life in Christ motivated the Christians to share their goods spontaneously. The detachment from earthly possessions led to generous expressions of love.
   8.3. There is no equal sharing when some people have advantages over the masses. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Christians could share with each other equally and freely.
   8.4. Modern communism used these verses, imposing material equality by forcing the people to share. Members of the early Church who shared their possessions did so voluntarily and were motivated by Christ's love.
   8.5. Biblical sharing says: "What is mine is yours;" communism says, "What is yours is mine." The first says, "What I have, I give to you." The second says, "Give me what you have."
   8.6. We can summarize two of the numerous factors which contributed to sharing among Christians:
      8.6.1. The reality of God's presence and power led to a joy that replaced attachment to material possessions.
      8.6.2. Love and concern motivated Christians to provide for the needs of the misfortunate among them.
   8.7. This aspect of the Christian life implies that the early Church condemned the greed of the rich who claimed to bear the name of Christian.
   8.8. The Church must recognize today that we are only stewards of our possessions, and consequently, we should put them at the disposal of others. Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 6:18
9. NINTH KEY: THEY CONTINUED IN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY ACTS 2:46
   9.1. "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts." Acts 2:46
   9.2. The first Christians were faithful in gathering together and that reinforced their fellowship. They understood the habit of going to assembly meetings every day of the week; it was an important act of worship to the Lord.
   9.3. Worship services, prayer meetings and Bible studies were the main activities of the Church. These meetings were important events in the life of the Church.
   9.4. Today, faithful attendance in meetings is a serious problem because people are busy and work hard to earn their living. Consequently, most go to church only on Sundays.
   9.5. The task of the Church is to exalt Christ before an onlooking world; it exists to bear witness of Him, thus glorifying the Father.
   9.6. Christ founded the Church, and He is its head, heart, and Lord. He, not the Church, is the power that transforms men.
   9.7. The Church has the mission to lift up Christ so He can do His transforming work in the hearts of men.
   9.8. Early Church members met regularly in the name of Christ. The believers follow the example of the early Christians by meeting regularly in worship services, prayer meetings, and Bible studies.
   9.9. The Church can organize many meetings for the different groups and their various needs so that all Christians will be involved. Varied and interesting activities will make our churches strong.

CONCLUSION

- *What gave strength to these lay people from the early Church was that they had had a personal encounter with Christ. Their lives were totally transformed by the Spirit of God living within them.*
- *When churches have members who haven't had a personal encounter with Christ, those churches can resemble a business, an institution or a social gathering.*
- *The Church is always and only the assembly of true believers.*

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The Difference Between the Early and Modern Churches

INTRODUCTION:

- *God used the believers in the early Church to stimulate its growth because of their obedience to the command that Jesus left them to make disciples.*
- *God is the same today, so why is there such a difference between the believers then and now?*

1. THE EARLY CHRISTIANS UNDERSTOOD THE GREAT COMMISSION.
   - 1.1. They understood that their mission was to be witnesses: in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost ends of Earth. Acts 1:8
   - 1.2. They understood that the message to be preached was the Gospel. Luke 24:46-48
     - 1.2.1. They were to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Luke 24:47
     - 1.2.2. They preached the Gospel in anticipation of the inheritance of the Saints. 1 Peter 2:4-10
   - 1.3. They understood that they were to preach the Good News. 1 Cor. 9:16
   - 1.4. They understood that they were to teach and disciple new believers. Matthew 28:20
   - 1.5. They understood the task to be accomplished: Evangelism Acts 8:1-8; 14:1-4
   - 1.6. They understood what was needed to prepare for the mission: Fasting, praying, laying on of hands, sending. Acts 13:1-3
     - 1.6.1. They depended entirely on the Holy Spirit.
     - 1.6.2. They were strong in spiritual things, strong with an inner strength.
     - 1.6.3. There was perfect agreement among the leaders as to the mission.
     - 1.6.4. Without pride or jealously, the task was divided up according to the aptitudes of each one.
2. MANY CHURCHES TODAY HAVE AN UNCLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.
   - 2.1. Many churches have become highly developed organizations rather than living organisms.
   - 2.2. Many lay people have become inactive in the spiritual ministries of the Church and in the evangelization of the world.
   - 2.3. The Church too often looks inward and not outward toward the world. Matthew 24:14
   - 2.4. Christians today are overly concerned with external matters such as buildings, salaries, rituals, etc.
   - 2.5. The early Christians were focused on the true mission of the Church that is internal, eternal, and spiritual.
     - 2.5.1. Internal – God lives in the hearts of His children, not in buildings or institutions. 1 Cor. 3:16-17
     - 2.5.2. Eternal – God is much more concerned with the eternal than with the temporal. Mark 8:36
     - 2.5.3. Spiritual – God wants to save our souls, not just heal our bodies or bless us materially. Lk. 19:10

CONCLUSION

- *We must disciple our believers to be men and women who will turn the world upside down. Acts 17:6*
- *We must help our believers understand that they are part of the royal priesthood, and all have the privileges and responsibilities of the priesthood. 1 Peter 2:9*
- *We must help our believers understand that the uninvolved Christian does not have a place in God's kingdom; only those who are active will have places in God's kingdom.*
- *We must help our believers understand that revival is the normal state of the Church; anything less is an abnormal state for the Church.*
- *We must help our believers understand that the disciple is disciplined. Luke 14:26-33*
- *Laziness will be severely punished by God. Matthew 25:26*
- *We must help our believers understand that there is a big difference between the organization of the Church and the organism of the Church. The first is simply a temporal institution (an institution of this temporary world); the second is a living, vibrant, and eternal body – the very body of Jesus Christ, of which He is the head! Hallelujah!.*

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The Importance of Discipleship Training

INTRODUCTION:

- *Many Church members seek to discover their gifts, find their place in the body of Christ, and use their talents for His kingdom.*
- *Believers long to be trained according to the talents God has given them so that they can fulfill ministries that will help the body.*
- *The elders, including the pastor, have a vital role in discerning who among the believers is ready for training for increased responsibilities that will please God and edify others in the body.*

1. IT'S IMPORTANT TO TRAIN THE BELIEVERS BECAUSE THEY WANT AND NEED TRAINING.
   1.1. Many Christians today desire to be true witnesses of Jesus Christ, and at the bottom of their hearts they want to bear much fruit, but are not capable of doing it because they are not trained.
   1.2. God said: "My people are dying for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6
   1.3. One role of the Church is to give its members knowledge of God's Word, especially to let them know their role in God's plan. Leaders must discern the gifts of believers so that they can be oriented and trained according to the ability and gifts they have received from the Lord.
   1.4. When the believers are trained, they can be invited to collaborate in the work of the Church.
   1.5. When they are adequately trained they will know what must be done and will impact their surroundings with that burning fire of evangelism in all its contagious practicality.
2. IT'S IMPORTANT TO TRAIN THE BELIEVERS BECAUSE GOD WANTS SPIRITUAL RENEWAL IN THE CHURCH.
   2.1. It is necessary to avoid heaping too much on too few, as is too often done when a few leaders are burdened with too much responsibility.
      2.1.1. Some claim to be willing and able to do anything you ask, anywhere at any time, but in accepting too many tasks and responsibilities the quality of their service suffers.
      2.1.2. The church leader who wants to accomplish the most in the best way possible must train the laity as disciples to share in the ministries of the church.
   2.2. It is important that the believers be trained to carry out the Great Commission fruitfully.
   2.3. When we study the early Church we realize just how much we need spiritual renewal.
   2.4. When we train the believers in our churches it will revive them and the Church so that they resemble the model we find in the Scriptures: **"a radiant church without stain or wrinkle, or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."** Eph 5:27
3. ILLUSTRATION OF THE TRAINED ELEPHANT: WHAT JESUS DID WHEN HE TRAINED THE BELIEVERS

A man illustrated the importance of lay ministry by the following story. In India, for many years, elephant hunters were to capture only the adult animals. It was one of the most dangerous jobs for a man to do. Those in that trade had to run, climb onto the animal, tie a rope around its foot, climb down, and attach the other end of the rope to a tree. Many lost their lives in their attempts; others were made invalids when they tried to capture the elephants.

Then one day, a worker thought of a better method. He instructed his friends: "Let's go about it another way. Let's catch a young elephant, raise it with a lot of affection, and feed it well. When it understands what we expect of it, it will obey us, and we will take it back to the jungle to be with its own." They did so, and when they saw that the young elephant became obedient to their training, they soaked it with the scent of other elephants so that it would not be rejected in the wild. They led it to the jungle. The herd was made up of many elephants which surrounded the newcomer to smell it; the young elephant was accepted into the herd. The Indian hunters hid among the trees and waited until nightfall. At that time, they gave out a signal which their elephant had learned to recognize, and it meant, "Return to the house." The young animal began to walk on the return path. All the other elephants followed it to the fenced-in area. When they were all inside, the hunters closed the door. They had just learned that the best way to catch adult elephants was to collaborate with a trained one.

In the same way as the hunters brought the wild elephants into their fenced compound by having a trained elephant lead them into it, Jesus uses believers to lead others like them into the kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION

- *God does not overload anyone. He wants to see all His children sharing in the responsibilities of the Church.*
- *If He gives us a task, it is not to overwhelm us; rather, it is because of His grace. He wants to save us from the emptiness of a useless life.*
- *God wants Christians to have fruitful ministries in the Church.* *John 15:1-2*

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Advantages of Discipleship Training

INTRODUCTION:

- *This lesson is to serve as a review of the first eleven lessons of this course and to apply the principles learned to our own individual ministry contests.*
- *Each of the statements below is to be considered and discussed together by the whole class together.*
- *Once we understand the principles we will relate them to our individual ministries.*

1. DISCIPLED MEMBERS WILL BE MORE COMMITTED TO THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH.
   1.1. Why is it that members become more committed in Church ministries when they are discipled?
   1.2. Do you know of any Christians who are active in Church ministries without being paid to do it?
2. MEMBERS WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY WHEN THEY ARE DISCIPLED.
   2.1. Why is it that members grow spiritually when they are intentionally and consistently discipled by the leadership for the work of the ministry?
   2.2. What are some Bible verses that talk about the importance of the growth of all believers within the body of Christ?
3. A SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIBILITY WILL FILL THE CHURCH WHEN THE BELIEVERS ARE DISCIPLED.
   3.1. What is the link between the believers' understanding of the Word and their sense of responsibility in the body of Christ?
   3.2. What steps need to be taken so that local churches in your area essentially become Bible schools that train the people of God for ministry?
4. WELL-TRAINED MEMBERS WILL BECOME ACTIVE WITNESSES AMONG NON-CHRISTIANS.
   4.1. What courses do you know of that train believers to be active witnesses in their community?
   4.2. Are the majority of mature believers in your area-churches active witnesses among non-believers? Why or why not?
5. TRAINING WILL HELP THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.
   5.1. What is the difference between quantitative and qualitative growth in the Church?
   5.2. What happens in a church that focuses only on quantitative growth?
   5.3. Is it biblically wrong to desire quantitative growth?
   5.4. What is God's desire concerning the growth of the Church?
6. THE CHURCH WILL EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE AND THE POWER OF GOD.
   6.1. In what ways will a church that disciples its members experience God's presence and power?
   6.2. Why does a church that disciples the believers experience more of God's presence and power than a church that does not train the believers?
7. THE CHURCH WILL EXPERIENCE WARM SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP.
   7.1. Does a church that does not train the believers experience warm spiritual fellowship?
   7.2. Why does a church that trains the believers experience warm spiritual fellowship?
8. MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN MORE CHURCH ACTIVITIES.
   8.1. What is the impact on church leadership if the believers participate more in church activities?
   8.2. In what Bible passages do we see the believers participating in many church activities?
9. MEMBERS WILL SHARE MORE WILLINGLY WHAT THEY OWN WITH THOSE IN NEED: THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL-HELP MINISTRIES WILL FLOURISH.
   9.1. What are some examples of believers who have freely and selflessly shared with others?
   9.2. How might the discipling of believers increase this ministry?
10. MEMBERS WILL BECOME THE LIGHT AND SALT OF THE EARTH. MATTHEW 5:13-16
    10.1. In your opinion, what does it mean to be salt and light in India?
    10.2. What are some Bible passages that clearly show that God wants us to be salt and light?
11. MEMBERS WILL LEARN TO LIVE OUT THEIR FAITH IN CHURCH, AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, AT WORK, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OR VILLAGE, WITH THE GOAL OF TRANSFORMING THE SOCIETY AROUND THEM.
    11.1. Why do some churches limit their ministries to what goes on inside the church building?
    11.2. How can discipleship training help teach believers to live out their faith outside the church also?

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Doing God's Will in Your Work Place

INTRODUCTION:

- *This lesson addresses the problem of church members who are fervent when they are with other believers, but when not with believers they do not appear to be much different than non-believers.*
- *The goal of this lesson is to encourage all believers to not only express their faith when with other believers, but also when they are out amongst unbelievers.*

1. BELIEVERS MUST LIVE IN THE WORLD WITHOUT BEING PART OF THE WORLD. JN. 15:19, JN. 17:16
2. THE WORK WE DO DOES NOT MATTER TO GOD AS MUCH AS WHETHER WE ARE BRINGING HIM GLORY IN OUR WORK PLACE. IT IS WRITTEN: **"DO ALL IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST."** COLOSSIANS 3:17
   - 2.1. If we are to do **"everything in the name of the Lord,"** the activity is less important than is the motivation behind it.
   - 2.2. It is not the activity which defines the Christian; it is his or her position in Christ. Motivations come from our position in Christ, which results in living in a manner worthy of the Lord, no matter what the work.
   - 2.3. Satan tries to convince us that our lives can be divided into "spiritual" and "secular" parts. But God does not want us to be holy only some of the time. Nor does He want us to be holy only in some places (such as at church) and not at others.
   - 2.4. He wants us to be wholly committed and wholly sanctified to Him. Everything we are and everything we do and everywhere we go is to be done in Jesus' name and for His glory.
3. THERE ARE COUNTLESS USEFUL AND PRECIOUS JOBS TO DO FOR THE LORD.
   - 3.1. Let's take the example of an engineer at the water company: Our planet will need in this decade three times as much drinkable water as is now available. Who will come forward to help people find enough potable water? We can close our eyes and ears to this problem and allow people to die from water-borne diseases. Or we can work hard to provide solutions to the problem and thereby gain the respect of our colleagues, so that when we share about God's salvation with them our witness will be respected and will have credibility.
   - 3.2. No matter what work we do, we need to do our best as unto the Lord.
     - 3.2.1. Suppose that one day the area hospital is looking for a surgeon and that the best one available is a Spirit-filled Christian.
     - 3.2.2. Imagine that it is the same for journalists for the area newspapers, for the corner mechanic, the refrigerator repairman, even those doing the lowest, dirtiest work around.
     - 3.2.3. Wouldn't that be surprising? Yet isn't that how many have been convinced of the truth for hundreds of years? Wasn't Joseph the best minister Pharaoh ever found? Wasn't Daniel the best advisor Babylon ever had? Wasn't Nehemiah an exceptionally good governor in Jerusalem? Wasn't Esther an excellent advocate for her people in time of crisis?
   - 3.3. It is essential that Christians witness about Jesus Christ in any place at any time.
     - 3.3.1. In the mind of too many Christians, giving a drink of water has nothing to do with evangelism, nor does repairing a vehicle, raising a child, managing finances, or inventing;
     - 3.3.2. People don't see the relationship between their occupations and witness.
4. SOME JOBS SHOULD BE AVOIDED BECAUSE THEY MAY DISCOURAGE OUR FAITH OR COMPROMISE OUR WITNESS.
   - 4.1. For example, working in a bar would be a difficult place for a Christian to maintain a good testimony.
   - 4.2. Christians must be careful not to take on the sinful values of some work environments.

CONCLUSION

- *Living in the world does not mean the believer is to be of the world.*
- *Everything we do, everywhere we go, whomever we meet, whenever we connect with others, we are to submit all of it to the glory of God and allow Him to work through us in all circumstances.*
- *Never are we called to isolate ourselves from non-believers as do some monks in their monasteries. Nor are we called to so integrate with non-believers that we tolerate and even adopt their secular values.*
- *We are called to be transformation agents in a world of spiritual and material need, and we can best do this in our homes, schools, and work – the places where we spend most of our time.*

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Relationships in a Biblical Church

INTRODUCTION:

- *In God's work, no one can afford to work in isolation. When He created man, God did not want him to live a solitary life.*
- *Christians can live together in harmony because of the love of God in our hearts.*
- *Collaboration in the ministry between pastors and his members can be a source of great success and blessing and is a necessary factor for fruitful evangelism and church growth.*
- *A sense of humility is essential for there to be a fruitful and non-competitive relationship between the pastors and his members.* *Phil. 2:1-6*

1. A BIBLICAL CHURCH IS CHARACTERIZED BY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PASTOR AND HIS TEAM.
   - 1.1. In a healthy church the pastor and members have together forged the mission of the church.
   - 1.2. In a healthy church the pastor knows the gifts and burdens of his church members.
   - 1.3. In a healthy church the pastor helps each Christian develop his or her gifts for the benefit of the whole Christian community. Eph. 4:11-12
2. A BIBLICAL CHURCH IS CHARACTERIZED BY TRUST, LOVE, COLLABORATION, AND DIALOG.
   - 2.1. In a healthy church the pastor is not a domineering chief, but a servant leader, a conductor: Jesus said, "I am in your midst as a servant." Luke 22:27
   - 2.2. In a healthy church the ministries can be compared to an orchestra in which there are many instruments or many musicians.
     - 2.2.1. Different musicians are found for guitar, trumpet, etc....
     - 2.2.2. Each instrument is different than the others, but when the differences are combined, there is great harmony. Likewise in the church, the pastor and members all collaborate together.
     - 2.2.3. The leader is the Holy Spirit: He puts warmth, power and organization into the assembly for the edification and the progress of the Church.
     - 2.2.4. The ministries of the pastor and members complement each other: Luke 22:24-27, 1 Peter 5:2-4; Ephesians 4:4-15; Acts 20:26-28,35; Colossians 4:17; 1 Timothy 3:13.
     - 2.2.5. The Jewish historian, Josephus, said the first-century Christians were known for their love toward others.
3. A BIBLICAL CHURCH IS CHARACTERIZED BY SOME FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF ALL HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS.
   - 3.1. We must pray each day for one another, making specific requests to God concerning our relationships.
   - 3.2. We must have respect for each other and toward the church hierarchy.
   - 3.3. We must know how to resolve our conflicts peaceably and to forgive each other, building a new relational base of love and truth.
   - 3.4. We must tolerate the hard-hearted and the weak without favoring others over them.
   - 3.5. We must consider the interests of others as being equally important as our own.
   - 3.6. We must accept and profitably use the spiritual gifts of each Christian, no matter what his or her position is in society.
   - 3.7. We must banish pride and selfishness and think only of the cause of Christ.
   - 3.8. We must cultivate friendship by caring for others and by investing our lives in them. One example of how to do this would be by inviting others to fellowship dinners.
   - 3.9. All God's children, even pastors, must accept being under the authority of another, and understand that their advice can contribute to our edification.
   - 3.10. The roles and responsibilities of the pastor and church members should be defined clearly, with the support of the leadership team, and declared to the church body.

CONCLUSION

- *God is a God of relationships, therefore our relationships with others are key to our witness for Christ.*
- *The Biblical church is like a home and those in it should love each other as family members love each other. When the body does not get along, God is not pleased, nor is He honored.*
- *The world is looking at the church from the outside, and many non-believers are especially looking at the relationships between the church leaders and the members.*
- *Let us therefore be one with God and in fellowship one with another, so that God will be honored and pleased, and more unbelievers will be attracted to His love as manifested in us.*

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How to Equip the Believers

INTRODUCTION:

- *We are all convinced that discipleship training is indispensable for the growth of the Church.*
- *The question we must ask is: "How can we equip the believers in our churches for fruitful service?"*

1. PROCEDURES - HOW CAN WE CHANGE THE VISION AND BEHAVIOR OF THE BELIEVERS?

The change in behavior is brought about by their relationship with Christ, and the change in vision is brought about by relationship with the pastor:

1.1. With well-prepared preaching.
1.2. With solid teachings on the essential points of the Word of God and the Church.
1.3. With training and information seminars
1.4. With spiritual retreats
1.5. With conferences (debates, discussions)
1.6. With discipleship (follow-up)
1.7. With better lessons on baptism, marriage, child dedication, etc.

2. THEMES - WHAT SUBJECTS NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT TO THE LAITY?

2.1. The biblical role of believers
2.2. The discovery of each one's spiritual gifts
2.3. The doctrines of the Church
2.4. Jesus' method of discipleship

Jesus had a method for training His disciples: He spent time with them, He taught them, and He gave them something to do.

3. PRINCIPLES – WHAT BASIC PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED TO EQUIP THE BELIEVERS?

3.1. We must stop being speakers only, and start being doers, if we want to train disciples.
3.2. We must begin by becoming spiritual parents. In other words, we must bear spiritual children by bringing others to Christ.
3.3. There has to be a relationship between the trainer and trainee based on love – Jesus loved His disciples. ("I no longer call you servants, but my friends…") John 15:15
3.4. Discipleship expresses itself in a relationship of trainer to trainee, based on Christ's model.
3.4.1. Christ's example: "Give them something to eat yourselves." Mk. 6:37
3.4.2. A disciple of Christ is someone who resembles Christ: he exhibits the characteristics of Christ.
3.5. Characteristics: What set Christ apart from others?
3.5.1. Christ submitted and obeyed and died for our salvation. Phil. 2:8
3.5.2. Christ loves with a perfect love. John 15, especially verses 9 and 12
3.5.3. Christ is unique because he prays for His disciples. Luke 6:12, Jn. 17: 15, 20-21
3.6. Christ corrected His disciples.
3.6.1. When James and John wanted to bring down fire on the Samaritans, Jesus corrected them severely. Luke 9:55
3.6.2. When Peter objected to the idea of the crucifixion, Jesus said to Him: "Get behind me, Satan!" Matthew 16:23

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How to Train the Believers

1. VALUE THE LAITY AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR TRAINING.
   1.1. Teach all Christians that they are important in the congregation's eyes. They need to know they are of value to God and to you.
      1.1.1. All church members must know that God gave them spiritual gifts which the Church needs.
      1.1.2. The bigger the congregation, the more each member may be overlooked.
      1.1.3. In a big congregation, a member may feel unimportant; nevertheless, as in a physical body, each cell is important. It is the same in the Church.
   1.2. Motivate saints to grow in their faith and in their walk with Christ.
      1.2.1. One of the most important things a pastor can do is to motivate his members.
      1.2.2. To motivate others, you must be motivated yourself.
      1.2.3. Sermons must have a goal; preach on subjects which have practical application that the laity can implement in their daily lives.
   1.3. Seek tangible ways to affirm and encourage the believers in their spiritual commitments and in all they do for the kingdom of God.
      1.3.1. Publicly honor and express appreciation to all those who serve the church body, complete a training program or fulfill any other church-sponsored activity.
      1.3.2. When new members see the importance given to others for their hard work, they will also want to receive the same consideration.
   1.4. Give praise. Phil. 4:8
      1.4.1. We all want others to think we are doing something valid; this helps our image of ourselves. In daily life, the average individual receives very little praise or appreciation.
      1.4.2. We can all find something to criticize in those we know; likewise, we can find things to praise.
      1.4.3. We must express more praise and appreciation for others, whether it is to a servant in a restaurant or a member of our congregation.
      1.4.4. In giving praise, your logic should be the following: "This person is God's creation. My Savior Jesus died for this person. I will find something to say to this person to express God's love for him/her and to encourage him/her in his/her spiritual walk."
2. CHANGE THE NOTION THAT ONLY THE PASTOR IS TO WITNESS AND/OR TO SERVE GOD

Dr. James Kennedy said, "Satan has succeeded so well that it is estimated that 95% of American members of churches have never led anyone to Christ. This is how the Church's witness has been weakened, and the members continue to assert: 'It's up to the pastor to do it!' I can happily state today that we are seeing a reversal of that tendency and that a growing number of churches and laity are becoming aware of their responsibility to witness and are doing something about it."

3. ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRAINING THE BELIEVERS YOURSELF.

"The greatest responsibility that pastors have is to train the laity for evangelism. The church is made up of 99% of non-mobilized laity, and if they desert us, it is certain that the battle will be lost." (Kennedy)

4. ACCEPT YOUR ROLE AS PASTOR, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION.

"Satan has not only deceived the laity, but pastors also, concerning the goal of ministry. In Ephesians 4, we read that ***'Christ gave (to the church) some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, pastors and teachers, to prepare some for works of service.'*** *This passage shows us that it is imperative that pastors exercise all of their Church duties, in order to effectively equip the saints for church ministries." (Kennedy)*

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Helping Believers Realize their Potential

1. JESUS REALIZED HIS POTENTIAL.
   - 1.1. Jesus said: "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, to accomplish His work." John 4:34
   - 1.2. He came into the world to look for those who were lost. Luke 19:10
   - 1.3. In what appears to be a parting address, He said to His disciples: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works I do, and he will do even greater, because I am going to be with the Father." John 14:12
   - 1.4. When He left to be with His Father, He gave the Church the Great Commission. Mark 16:15
2. THE CHURCH CAN ALSO REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL.
   - 2.1. Just as Christ gave us, His children, the Great Commission, He accompanied this assignment with the assurance that it can be achieved.
   - 2.2. The body of Christ (the Church) is made up of different parts which cooperate with each other to reach the objective set forth by Christ, the Head of the Church.
   - 2.3. There must be healthy cooperation among God's children before the Church can accomplish the task of total evangelism of the world.
3. THE CHURCH WILL REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL ONLY THROUGH COOPERATION WITH GOD.
   - 3.1. Malachi 2:10; Romans 3:2; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; Proverbs 29:18; Joel 2:28; Mark 16:15,19, 20.
   - 3.2. As soon as a sinner receives saving grace in God:
     - 3.2.1. Jesus becomes His Savior. Matthew 1:21
     - 3.2.2. He is adopted into the family of God. Jn. 1:12
     - 3.2.3. God becomes His Father. Rom. 8:15
     - 3.2.4. He is indwelled with the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 3:16
     - 3.2.5. The Holy Spirit becomes His Counselor. John 14:26
     - 3.2.6. The Holy Spirit gives him/her some gifts to use for the building up of the Church. 1 Cor. 12:11
   - 3.3. All the members of the family of God ought to:
     - 3.3.1. Share the same vision to evangelize the world.
     - 3.3.2. Strive to obey God in all things.
     - 3.3.3. Have the same objective to plant a church in each community and to preach the Gospel to every person.
   - 3.4. All believers who take part in this family relationship must therefore unite to share the Gospel in every corner of the world.
     - 3.4.1. Two are better than one; a rope with three strands will not break. Ecc. 4:9,12b.
     - 3.4.2. Believers have a common source. Genesis 1:26, John 1:9
     - 3.4.3. Believers have a common faith. Jude 3, Matthew 1:21, John 1:29, Luke 19:10
     - 3.4.4. Believers have a common vision and goal. Proverbs 29:18, Habakuk 2:3, Luke 10:33
     - 3.4.5. Believers have a common commitment. 2 Timothy 2:2
4. THE CHURCH WILL REALIZE ITS POTENTIAL ONLY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
   - 4.1. You are a witnesses for Jesus Christ only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8
   - 4.2. God sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to empower His people to live victoriously and to reach the world with His salvation. Acts 2:1-4
   - 4.3. The Holy Spirit gave God's children boldness to preach the Good News. Acts 4:31
   - 4.4. The Holy Spirit gave believers joy in spite of persecution. Acts 13:52
   - 4.5. We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can likewise preach the Word with boldness and carry out the Great Commission. Eph. 5:18,

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Some Movements Throughout History – Moravians & Quakers

INTRODUCTION:

- *We can learn a great deal about how God leads and blesses churches today by learning about how He led and blessed the Church in the past.*
- *In the next few lessons we will study several different periods in the past when the Spirit of God moved in extraordinary ways and brought dramatic spiritual and numeric growth.*
- *By observing the dynamics of special movements of God in the past we can better understand what pleases God and how to more gain His blessings today.*

1. THE MORAVIANS
   - 1.1. John Huss (1369-1415) was an early pre-Luther Reformer, a popular preacher at Prague, in what is now the Czech Republic. He was influenced by Wycliffe's writings and began to proclaim the unique authority of the Scriptures, protesting at the same time against the worship of images, the sale of indulgences, and the corruption of the clergy.
   - 1.2. More significantly, he preached against the Catholic Church's policy that only the clergy could read the Word of God and take Holy Communion (the Eucharist). He was among the first to expound the priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:9).
   - 1.3. He preached the gospel in the whole area; many people believed. Up to 90% of Bohemians (in present-day Czech Republic) left the Catholic Church to follow Huss' teachings.
   - 1.4. He was eventually arrested and burned alive; his disciple, Jerome of Prague, was also burned. Nevertheless, many followers maintained the spiritual movement begun by Huss.
   - 1.5. Persecuted in the Czech Republic and in Germany, some of his followers took refuge in England, and some found asylum at the home of Count Louis Zinzendorf, a wealthy German nobleman.
   - 1.6. He granted land where they built a village which was named "Huvinhut" in German, meaning "Protection from the Lord."
   - 1.7. Those who had joined the movement read and meditated on God's Word every day, after their program of family visits. They also began an around-the-clock prayer vigil which continued for over 100 years!
   - 1.8. They were known as "the Brotherhood."
   - 1.9. They were the first Protestants to commission and send out a significant number of missionaries.
2. QUAKERS (ALSO KNOWN AS THE FRIENDS SOCIETY)
   - 2.1. Within a century after the Protestant Reformation, many Protestant churches had fallen away from true godliness.
     - 2.1.1. The Protestant denominations generally became so involved in secular politics and in the pursuit of power and wealth they lost their spiritual identity.
     - 2.1.2. Many Protestants returned to Catholicism, especially when Catholics became kings.
     - 2.1.3. Sinful practices, such as drunkenness and sexual immorality, had crept into the Church.
     - 2.1.4. Even the pastors and priests were guilty of general spiritual depravity.
   - 2.2. In this context of worldliness in the Christian churches, God raised up a man named George Fox in England in the mid-1600s who denounced abuse and immorality among Christians and pastors.
   - 2.3. He was not a pastor himself, but a layman, but his preaching was so strong it made his audience tremble; that is why they were called Quakers, that is, tremblers.
   - 2.4. He was arrested, persecuted, and put into prison repeatedly, as was his wife. During it all, he responded with evangelical exhortations.
   - 2.5. The Quakers appointed no pastors. The movement was led by lay leaders who had little or no formal theological training. Each congregation was autonomous. And women were given much opportunity to lead in worship, in Bible study and in Christian service.
   - 2.6. Quakers maintained a good testimony of holiness and righteousness in England. Within fifty years the movement had strong followings in Holland, Ireland and New England (present eastern USA).
   - 2.7. Politically and socially, the Quakers were influential. They were against slavery and war, for example. They refused to take oaths, and they would not join the military service because, for them, that did not represent a peaceful lifestyle in the Lord.

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Some Movements Throughout History – Methodism

1. CHURCHES IN ENGLAND IN THE MID 1700S HAD BECOME MATERIALLY PROSPEROUS BUT SPIRITUALLY POOR.
   1.1. This was a period of great social upheaval because of the industrial revolution. The rich were becoming richer while the masses became more and more miserable. Their situation was terrible!
   1.2. Anglicanism was the state religion. Its priests were generously paid by the state, and were often far more interested in social status and comfort than in the things of God.
   1.3. Non-Anglicans were oppressed politically. For example, they were not allowed state employment. Because of such political and economic factors, many came into the Anglican churches only for temporal benefit. Meanwhile, the Anglican Church catered only to the wealthy, largely neglecting the poor.
   1.4. At this time (eighteenth century) there was a small remnant of truly-dedicated believers from the Puritan movement, as well as some revivalists affected by the Moravians, the Quakers, and by the Great Awakening in the American colonies.
2. JOHN WESLEY WAS AN ANGLICAN MINISTER WHO BEGAN PREACHING IN ENGLAND'S SLUMS AND RURAL AREAS.
   2.1. He was preceded by his contemporary, the great revival preacher George Whitfield, who also preached in the shantytowns to the downtrodden.
   2.2. Whitfield preached to crowds of as many as 30,000, leading many thousands to salvation.
   2.3. At first, Wesley didn't want to preach outside his chapel, but when he saw the spiritual hunger of the marginalized, he understood God's call on him to this important mission field.
   2.4. Wesley drew large crowds as well, but the strength of his ministry was in the system of "methods" of spiritual growth and discipleship he instituted; his followers were consequently called "Methodists."
3. WESLEY'S "CLASS MEETINGS"
   3.1. A central component of the Methodist movement was the establishment of "class meetings" made up of from ten to twelve members. These groups met weekly or even twice per week in homes, or in a shop or factory room – any place where from ten to twelve could meet – and were a tremendous source of mutual support and spiritual dynamism.
   3.2. A leader was commissioned to lead each "class meeting." Class leaders came from every level of society, wealthy or poor, educated or illiterate, young or old.
   3.3. Class leaders were to visit each member of their class every week, to inquire about his/her spiritual wellbeing and to encourage and pray with him/her.
   3.4. The focus of the class meetings was spiritual self-examination, confession of sin, prayer and exhortation.
   3.5. England was transformed as thousands found deliverance from sinful vices.
   3.6. Some historians credit the Methodist movement as the reason England escaped the terrible violence experienced in neighboring France during the French Revolution.
4. THE NUMBER OF CLASS MEETINGS GREW RAPIDLY.
   4.1. The movement had spread throughout the English Isles to North and South America, to India and to many other nations as well.
   4.2. As God blessed, the number of class leaders continued to grow exponentially.
   4.3. Class leadership became a perfect training and testing ground for future leaders of the Methodist movement. Capable class leaders were given opportunities to receive greater leadership responsibilities and to eventually become ordained ministers.

NOTE

- *While George Whitfield was generally considered a better preacher than John Wesley, it is arguably the class meetings – and the strong leadership of their lay leaders – that resulted in Methodism eventually becoming a worldwide movement.*

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Some Movements Throughout History - Korea

1. ARRIVAL OF CHRISTIANITY AND SUBSEQUENT GROWTH
   1.1. Korea had a long history of being dominated by both China and Japan. These nations made it impossible for Protestant missionaries to arrive in Korea until 1884.
   1.2. After ten years of mission work (from 1884-1894) there were only 236 baptized believers. However, in the following 15 years the number of Christians grew to more than 26,000 (by 1909). Five years later (1914) the number had more than tripled and in 1936 the number had surpassed 1,68,000.
   1.3. Much of the growth was in northern Korea, where the Church would later be driven underground and eventually be all but eliminated by the communist government. Meanwhile Church growth in southern Korea began exploding in 1945 when South Korea was finally freed from foreign domination.
   1.4. Samuel H. Moffett wrote of the Korean Church's rapid growth: "These three factors—Bible training for the whole church, the cleansing exhilaration of the Spirit, and an emphasis on a personal sharing of the faith with others—combined to set off a spiritual chain explosion in Korea."
   1.5. In the years of Japanese rule leading up to World War II, Christians were among those leading the resistance to the foreign occupiers and state-sponsored Shintoism. When South Korea finally became independent in 1945, the Church was finally free to grow.
   1.6. Today there are approximately 50,000 congregations in South Korea, including six of the ten largest churches in the world.
   1.7. Over 20,000 missionaries are currently sent out by South Korea's churches, and the number is increasing.
2. THE CHURCH'S RAPID GROWTH CAN LARGELY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE MOBILIZATION OF STRONG CELL LEADERSHIP.
   2.1. For example, the largest church in the world is the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, with 8,00,000 members in 2007. Its founder and leading pastor, David Yonggi Cho, had a breakdown early in his ministry and recognized he couldn't lead the church by himself. He commissioned a team of leaders from among his members to lead small cell groups that would meet in homes and shops to worship, pray and study the Word together.
   2.2. The number of these groups – and their leaders – grew rapidly. Today there are tens of thousands of these cell groups led by lay men and women.
3. ANOTHER FORM OF MOBILIZATION IS SEEN IN KOREA'S DYNAMIC PRAYER MOVEMENT.
   3.1. Great numbers of Korean Christians meet early every morning for prayer.
   3.2. Most churches in Korea today host early-morning prayer gatherings.
4. PRAYER MOUNTAINS ARE ANOTHER MINISTRY IN KOREA THROUGH WHICH MANY LAKHS ARE MOBILIZED FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND DEVOTION.
   4.1. The Choi Ja-Sil Prayer Mountain, a ministry of the Yoido Full Gospel Church, has 211 "prayer grottos" where pilgrims can pray and wait quietly in God's presence. Over 100 lakhs visit the Prayer Mountain every year. Guest facilities there can accommodate 10,000.
   4.2. There are many other smaller prayer mountains in Korea, and now in other nations as well, including the United States, Nigeria, Uganda and others.

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Some Movements Throughout History – India [1]

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
   1.1. St. Thomas sailed to India in 52 AD to spread the Christian faith in Kerala for the first time.
   1.2. It was his mission to espouse Christ to India, by baptism in white robes, and to plant churches.
   1.3. Bartholomew came to minister in India in the 2nd century at Mumbai-Kalyan along the Konkan coast.
2. CHRISTIANITY'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN SOCIETY
   2.1. William Carey came to India in 1793, learned Bengali and completed the first Bengali New Testament.
   2.2. With a second-hand printing press Carey began the task of printing the Bible in Bengali. He translated the Bible into Sanskrit. In Carey's lifetime, the mission printed and distributed the Bible in whole or part in 44 languages and dialects.
   2.3. In 1818, the mission founded Serampore College to train indigenous ministers for the growing church and to provide education in the arts and sciences to anyone regardless of caste.
   2.4. Carey used his influence with the Governor-General to help put a stop to the practices of infant sacrifice and *sati* (immolation of a recently-widowed woman on her husband's funeral pyre).
   2.5. 765 people were baptized by Carey and thousands were trained by him in his 22 years of ministry. Before his death 26 churches were planted and established by him.
3. CHURCH RAPID GROWTH – POPULATION OF INDIA SINCE 1961 – 2011.

Year	*Number of Christians*	*Increased growth*	*Total Population*
In 1961	1,07,28,086		43,92,34,771
In 1971	1,42,23,382	34,95,296	54,81,59,652
In 1981	1,61,65,447	19,42,065	68,33,29,097
In 1991	1,96,40,284	34,74,837	84,64,21,039
In 2001	2,40,80,016	44,39,732	1,02,87,37,436
In 2011	7,10,11,000	4,69,30,984	1,21,01,93,422

4. PRESENT
   4.1. Until the 1960's the work of the Church was largely controlled by foreign missionaries, but now indigenous leaders have assumed this responsibility.
   4.2. It is estimated that there are more than 1,00,000 un-ordained church planters, evangelists and social workers who lead tens of thousands of Christ-following congregations. For example, house churches are springing up and spreading to every area of India. These are proving culturally appropriate, affordable, biblically authentic and effective for witnessing of God's truth.
   4.3. Persecution has not only refined the Church and drawn it together, but it has also caused the Church to re-evaluate its methods and priorities in evangelism and ministry.
   4.4. Millions of Indian believers are involved in massive prayer movements, mostly driven by women and children, which is bringing Kingdom growth.
   4.5. Millions have become more open to the message of Christ through literature, radio, TV programs, Christian videos, and the Talking Bible.
   4.6. The number of evangelical movements is increasing many fold; they are being used of God to mature and stabilize believers.
   4.7. Effective discipling through Portable Bible Schools, Schools of Evangelism, Great Commission Challenge Camps for youths, Inductive Bible Study seminars, Prayer Seminars etc., are bringing many new believers to faith; these are becoming disciples and in turn are going and proclaiming to their family and friends.
   4.8. India is sending missionaries to the world, and the movement is gaining strength; many Indian youths are involved in the IT sector. There is much demand from the outside world for them.
   4.9. Ministry amongst the Dalits: Christians are at the forefront of bringing them out from centuries-long oppression. The opportunity remains to reach 30 crores with the gospel.
   4.10. Scheduled Tribes are responding to the gospel and are coming in large numbers in India. The laity is taking the gospel to each household.

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An Effective Testimony - 1

INTRODUCTION:

- *One who has lived, experienced, and told what has happened to him, is a first-hand witness. His report of what he has lived and experienced is his testimony.*
- *The true witness is one who has actually experienced the event.*
- *The witness has a responsibility to give an accurate, clear report of that experience, which is his/her testimony.*

1. TO HAVE A GOOD CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY, WE MUST HAVE AN EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION IN JESUS.
   - 1.1. A testimony is an explanation of one's personal encounter with the Lord.
   - 1.2. An effective testimony consists of telling what God has done in one's life, especially about one's forgiveness, salvation and new life in Christ.
   - 1.3. To give a good testimony, the Christian must talk more of his meeting the Lord, not of meeting someone else or of someone else's meeting with Him.
   - 1.4. The true spirit of Christianity is the sharing of what one has seen and heard (John 1:3). See, for example, the man blind from birth. John 9:1-12
2. SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY WITH A GROUP OF BELIEVERS; DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF.
   - 2.1. We should belong to a good biblical church which has a good testimony, preaches Jesus Christ, and uses the Bible as the basis of its faith.
   - 2.2. It is in Christian community that we find the greatest possibility for spiritual growth, the greatest satisfaction for our personal needs, and the greatest opening to be useful to those around us.
3. BE TACTFUL IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE.
   - 3.1. Be filled with Christ's love in your life and others will be attracted to Him.
   - 3.2. Be humble Philippians 2:3
     - 3.2.1. The witness shows humility by considering his listener as superior to him.
     - 3.2.2. If you lower yourself voluntarily, Christ will exalt you.
   - 3.3. Be ready to listen
     - 3.3.1. Philip's example with the Ethiopian eunuch shows the importance of listening.
     - 3.3.2. We should be attentive and respectful of the person with whom we are sharing our witness.
4. WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE GENERAL ATTITUDES AND PREJUDICES OF OUR LISTENERS.
   - 4.1. For example, how we share God's truth with a Muslim will be different than how we share with a Hindu. Similarly, how we share with a person of high social or economic status will be different from how we share with a person of low social or economic standing.
   - 4.2. It is obvious that we should speak with a child differently than how we would speak with an elderly person. We also understand that women and men see life and the world differently, and that we therefore must approach them in light of these differences.
   - 4.3. Young person have attitudes and prejudices that are unique to their generation.
   - 4.4. People of different social and economic standing need to be approached in a manner that recognizes their biases. This is true as well regarding people of various political stances.
5. WE SHOULD ADAPT OUR EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL TO THE UNDERSTANDING AND NEEDS OF OUR LISTENERS.
   - 5.1. For example, just as the Apostle Paul appealed to the Athenians' recognition of an "unknown" god, we must seek indications of God's presence and power in our context and then relate these indications to the lives and needs of our listeners. Acts 22:1-2
   - 5.2. Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman about her need for water, and addressed her deeper longings for human acceptance. He helped her understand that in God we can have "living water" and that God's love will always satisfy. John 4:1-26
   - 5.3. What are the needs of our listener? Is he or she hungry, sick, etc.?
6. WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR TESTIMONY ON HELPING OUR LISTENERS TO KNOW JESUS PERSONALLY.
   - 6.1. Don't focus on the many rules in our churches which are often not in keeping with the Gospel. Focus instead on proclaiming Jesus and His Good News.
   - 6.2. The disciples proclaimed Jesus Christ, His life, death, resurrection, justification of all our sin for those who believe in Him and receive Him. Romans 1:16

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An Effective Testimony - 2

7. WE SHOULD USE THE WORD OF GOD WHEN WE TESTIFY.
   - 7.1. The Word is the only truth, the sure standard for all doctrine and all life. It is never found lacking nor is it misleading; the one who builds on its foundation will stand against the powers of hell.
   - 7.2. The Word of God is powerful in and of itself. Hebrews 4:12
   - 7.3. It is imperative that we use the Word of God, look for appropriate verses, and respond to the needs of seekers.
   - 7.4. Note how Philip used the Word when he shared with the eunuch. Acts 8
     - 7.4.1. Many people are like the Ethiopian eunuch, who told Philip "How can I understand (the Scriptures) unless someone explains it to me?". They read the Bible like a history book; they do not understand it.
     - 7.4.2. Philip presented Jesus as the Bible presented Him. Likewise, we must lead people toward the Word which is Jesus Christ Himself. Acts 8:35
     - 7.4.3. Philip led the eunuch to give his life to Jesus.
8. WE SHOULD STRIVE TO GIVE PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DECISION TO RECEIVE CHRIST INTO THEIR HEARTS. JOHN 1:12-13
   - 8.1. When we have the opportunity to share our faith story (our testimony) with others, we should ask God to help us invite the other(s) to ask Jesus to forgive them and come into their heart(s).
   - 8.2. It is not enough for our listeners to simply believe in Christ; we must help them to also receive Christ into their hearts and lives. James 2:19
   - 8.3. He who receives Jesus as his Savior is forgiven, changed and adopted into God's family. He can pray to God directly and will live eternally.
   - 8.4. God asked Paul and his companions to make known God's "Yes:" Jesus Christ came to save the world. He never says "No" to someone who asks Him to come into his heart. 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
   - 8.5. Jesus is the proof that God does not want to leave men to their own destruction, victims of their ignorance. God wants all men to be saved, and for people to obey him by giving their lives to Him and by renouncing all idols and false masters. 2 Peter 3:9
9. THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:
   - 9.1. When we lead someone to Christ it is helpful to lead that person in a prayer of confession. In other words, we can encourage someone to invite Jesus into their heart by leading them in a prayer that they can repeat out loud after you.
   - 9.2. The prayer to become a believer should include an expression of repentance of sin, a request that God forgive their sins and an invitation of God into their heart and life.
   - 9.3. Here is a sample prayer that can be used to lead someone to Christ. Just pray each phrase and let them repeat after you: "Dear God, I'm sorry for my sins. Please forgive me and make my heart totally pure and clean. Please come into my heart and life and give me the strength and wisdom to follow your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen."
10. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:
    - 10.1. Every Christian should know how to lead people to Christ.
    - 10.2. "Sharing our testimony" is nothing more than telling our story about how we found new life in Christ. Even the newest believer can do this, without knowing the Scriptures or any theological terms. The important thing is to share what you know happened to you.
    - 10.3. For example, the blind man healed by Jesus in John 9:13-34 didn't know a lot of theology, but he knew that Jesus had restored his sight. To the Pharisees' questions about his healing and about Jesus he said, in essence, "I don't know anything about Him, except that he healed me!" John 9:25
    - 10.4. As Christian leaders, our highest priority must be to lead and equip Christians to share the Good News with others. 2 Timothy 2:2
    - 10.5. But keep in mind that it is God who saves, not us or our testimony. Paul Little said: "It is the Holy Spirit, not you, who saves an individual. We are privileged ambassadors for Jesus Christ; we communicate a verbal message, and we can show by our personality what Jesus' grace can accomplish. But we must never be so ignorant as to believe we have saved a soul or that we have led it to Jesus Christ. No one can call Jesus Lord unless it is by the Holy Spirit."

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Contents of our Testimony

INTRODUCTION:

- *The Apostle Paul summarizes the Gospel this way: "Christ died for our sin, as the Scriptures say, He was buried, and He arose from the dead on the third day." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*
- *When we share our faith story – our testimony – with others, there are four basic truths about the Gospel that we should never neglect to include: (1) God loves us, (2) We have sinned, (3) Jesus made a way for us and (4) Each person must request God's salvation in order to receive it.*

1. GOD, THE CREATOR, LOVES US, HIS CREATION.
   - 1.1. We must show people the greatness of God's love for His creatures. John 3:16
   - 1.2. God loves us no matter how terribly we have sinned. He isn't willing that any should be separated from His love. John 3:17
2. ALL HAVE SINNED AGAINST GOD.
   - 2.1. All have sinned. Of all the most noble and most righteous people in all of human history, everyone has sinned (except the God-man Jesus Christ). Romans 3:23
   - 2.2. Because of our sin, we are condemned to eternal death unless something is done to remedy the situation. Romans 6:23
   - 2.3. God is totally holy, pure, just and righteous, and therefore cannot allow sin into His presence.
3. JESUS MADE A WAY FOR OUR SINS TO BE FORGIVEN AND FOR US TO BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD.
   - 3.1. The proof of His love is that Jesus died on the cross. He who was just was made unjust for us. Thanks to His death on the cross, we can have eternal life. Romans 5:8
   - 3.2. He saved us by His mercy, for we are incapable of saving ourselves. Titus 3:5
4. WE MUST ASK GOD TO FORGIVE OUR SINS AND TO GIVE US THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.
   - 4.1. God doesn't force Himself on anyone. He waits patiently for us to ask for His mercy and grace. Help him understand that it is not enough to believe only in Christ. He must believe in Him **and** receive Him.
   - 4.2. When we share our testimony with others, we should help the listener open his heart to Christ. This can be done by asking him a question such as: "Is there any reason why you shouldn't receive the Lord Jesus Christ now as your personal Lord and Savior?"
   - 4.3. If he agrees, invite him to pray and ask Christ to forgive his sins and to come into his life. You can have him or her say a prayer such as in yesterday's lesson (Lesson #23, Point 9.3).
5. REVIEW: A DEFINITION OF SAVING FAITH
   - 5.1. Melvin Hodges proposes the following ingredients in the process by which men must receive new life in Jesus Christ.
     - 5.1.1. Fixing attention on the Lord Jesus Christ Acts 16:31
     - 5.1.2. Confessing sins to receive forgiveness 1John 1:9
     - 5.1.3. Repenting of sins and going toward God Acts 2:36
     - 5.1.4. Receiving Christ by an act of faith John 1:12-13
     - 5.1.5. Speaking of Christ to others Romans 10:9, Luke 12:8

CONCLUSION:

- *Many who call themselves Christians do not know how to speak about their faith. Isn't that shameful?*
- *We who have experienced God's forgiveness and new life have wonderful news to share with others – that God loves us and has saved us from our sin and has freed us from its bondage!*
- *Let's rise up to witness and lead people toward the true spring of living water, the true way, and the One who said: "I have come so that they might have life, and that they have it abundantly." John 10:10*

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Discipleship - 1

INTRODUCTION:

- *New believers make their entry into God's family as spiritual babies. They can be compared to infants who are completely dependent on their parents for survival.*
- *Believers are called to grow, to become spiritually mature. This should be the goal of every believer. It is therefore important to disciple new believers and lead them into spiritual maturity.*
- *The local church must establish contact with the new believers immediately after conversion.*
- *Melvin Hodges proposes that each church have a special class to give instruction to new believers so that they can prepare for baptism and membership into the church.*

1. MAKE DISCIPLES, NOT JUST BELIEVERS. MATTHEW 28:19-20
   1.1. New believers should never be abandoned. Rather, they need training and encouragement to grow in their relationship with Christ and to follow Him step by step. This new voyage with Christ is a growth-process which will last all their lives.
   1.2. New believers have many questions about their new faith. If these questions are not well answered the new believers might become discouraged and fall away from their new faith.
   1.3. We need to teach new believers to walk with God in such a way that they will continuously grow in their faith and spiritual maturity.
   1.4. There are some churches where the preachers speak only about sin and repentance, but they do not teach their flock how to walk toward spiritual growth in newness of life.
   1.5. The goal of evangelism is to make disciples of all nations.
   1.6. Philip Keith shares his experience: He had led many to Christ who, afterwards, turned away from the faith. Discouraged, he examined himself in the light of God's Word, and he received a revelation when he read Matthew 28:19-20 where Jesus asks us to make disciples, not just believers.
2. LEAD DISCIPLES FROM GROWTH TO MATURITY.
   2.1. The Church can be compared to a maternity ward.
      2.1.1. In this comparison, the evangelist has the role of a midwife.
      2.1.2. One who leads new believers closer to Christ is like a spiritual mother who must see that the baby is protected, fed and nurtured.
      2.1.3. Spiritual "milk" for the baby is God's Word. The Church must make it a priority to provide "milk" for the new Christian. 1 Peter 2:2
   2.2. The Church can be compared to a hostel.
      2.2.1. As in a hostel, the pastor, elders, and deacons welcome the guests and provide for their needs.
      2.2.2. Melvin Hodges recommends that we build schools to train new believers within the hostel so that they grow.
   2.3. The Church can be compared to an athletic team. 1 Cor 9:24
      2.3.1. The members of the church – even the new believers – are the team members. Heb. 12:1
      2.3.2. The pastor is like a player-coach; he plays, but also he trains and equips the members like athletes to reach their full potential.
      2.3.3. The spectators are the angels and the saints who have died and have completed their "race."
3. WE DISCIPLE BY OUR EXAMPLE AS MUCH AS THROUGH OUR TEACHING.
   3.1. Paul said: "Be imitators of me as I am of Jesus Christ." 1 Cor 11:1
   3.2. Just as Paul could instruct his disciples to imitate him, we should model for our disciples what it looks like to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. TEACH DISCIPLES THAT THEY ARE TO BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT.
   4.1. As soon as a person becomes a disciple, he must learn to communicate the Good News of what has happened in his life and heart to others. Again, this is communicated with words but also through our actions and the attitudes of our hearts.
   4.2. Our responsibility of discipling a new believer isn't complete until that believer becomes a discipler of others.
   4.3. When believers assume their role as fruit-bearers, the Church grows as it should, spiritually and / or numerically.

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Discipleship - 2

5. CREATE A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR DISCIPLES IN YOUR CHURCH
   5.1. Churches should create discipleship training programs to strengthen believers in their faith and in their walk with God. Some churches are full of inactive members because they were never taught or shown how to be a true disciple.
   5.2. Some churches give instruction to new believers before they receive baptism (even though this isn't the biblical practice). While this biblical teaching may be excellent, it should not be considered sufficient for the discipling of new believers. Their – and our – discipleship process never ends, for the depths of God's love can never be fully exhausted.
   5.3. One system for ensuring that new believers are well discipled is to pair each new believer with a mature Christian who will meet regularly. (This can be called spiritual parenting.) The two can study the Word of God together, pray and consider together how God is leading in their lives.
6. ENSURE THE GOOD HEALTH OF THE LOCAL CHURCH WHERE DISCIPLES MEET TO WORSHIP AND GROW.
   6.1. A healthy church is one with a good leader (shepherd) who bases his preaching and teaching on the Word of God, who preaches salvation by faith and not by works, and who formulates a strategy to increase the number of members and the spiritual maturity of those in his spiritual care.
   6.2. A healthy church is one where its members are encouraged to discover their spiritual gifts and to put them together for the building up of the whole body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:12
   6.3. A healthy church is one which understands its mission, which maintains a strong witness in the community, and which constantly thinks of unreached people to evangelize. Matthew 5:14-16
   6.4. It is a church which serves the people and has projects to help them.
   6.5. Finally, it is a church which depends only on the Lord as its Head and on the Bible as its only source of authority.
7. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE WAY JESUS DEVELOPED AND TRAINED HIS DISCIPLES.
   7.1. Jesus is our perfect model for making disciples.
   7.2. Jesus desires that we train up a wave of disciples for the spreading of His Word.
   7.3. Jesus gave particular attention to new believers.
8. TEACH YOUR DISCIPLES ABOUT SANCTIFICATION.
   8.1. Disciples must learn that it will cost something to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. They must learn that they must die to themselves. Luke 9:23
   8.2. They must obey the Word and apply it in every area of their lives.
   8.3. They must be capable of teaching others how to lead a holy life.
   8.4. They must be equipped to train others in the way of the cross.

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The Incorporation of New Believers into the Church

INTRODUCTION:

- *When people give their hearts to the Lord they are like helpless newborn babies.*
- *They need constant care and spiritual "milk" in their early development.*

1. DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING CANNOT WAIT.
   1.1. New believers must be encouraged to become actively involved in a local church. This should be done as soon as it is practically possible to do so.
   1.2. If they are not incorporated into the life of the church in the beginning of their Christian life, they will not develop a healthy view of the Church and of their role in it.
   1.3. The Church helps new believers understand that they should follow the leading of the Holy Spirit without delay.
   1.4. Here is a piece of advice from Charles Finney: "The first thing to teach them is this: Do not wait when God shows you what you must do."
2. THE CHURCH MUST HELP DISCIPLES FIND THEIR PLACE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.
   2.1. The Church must welcome new believers as soon as they introduce themselves because their character as Christians will be shaped and fashioned by the example of older and more mature disciples in the Church body.
   2.2. It is inadvisable to allow the new believers to fend for themselves in their new faith.
   2.3. They must be helped so they can find a place where they can grow and become effective in Christian service.
   2.4. If new believers are not properly discipled there will be a need to re-evangelize them. Those who fall away are often more difficult to win back to the Lord.
   2.5. The appropriate and favorable time to train a Christian is when the heart is still supple and sensitive, and hungry for the truth.
3. THE DISCIPLE-MAKER MUST NOT FORSAKE HIS DISCIPLES BUT INCORPORATE THEM INTO THE CHURCH.
   3.1. Normally, we do not give birth to a child with the intention of leaving it in the street; likewise, we should not give birth to a spiritual child and later abandon it to its own devices.
   3.2. Abandoned spiritual newborns easily return to their former religion or become the prey of false cults and heresies.
   3.3. We must take the new believers to a church which represents God's kingdom, a family where God reigns as Lord.
4. THE CHURCH MUST ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING NEW BELIEVERS IN THE WORD.
   4.1. It should be noted that the evangelist is not usually the one to nurture and disciple new believers. His gift is evangelism; there are others better equipped to nurture.
   4.2. The whole church must be involved in the nurture and discipling of new believers.
   4.3. There is truth in the proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." It is also true that "It takes a whole church to raise a new believer."
5. THE CHURCH MUST ALSO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PERFECTING THE SAINTS. EPH. 4:11-15
   5.1. Believers must be discipled to discover and develop their spiritual gifts.
   5.2. The goal of equipping the saints is to build them up in their faith and train them to do the work of the ministry.
   5.3. The leaders should not be expected to do all the work of the ministry. It should be shared by all the saints.
   5.4. Believers must be nurtured in their spiritual growth to the point that they become soul-winners and disciplers themselves.

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Discipleship Training for Fruit-bearing

INTRODUCTION:

- *We should teach new believers how to share their faith story, about how they first met God as their Lord and Savior.*
- *We should teach them that the reason they share is to honor God, not anyone or anything else.*
- *We should especially be careful to warn them of the danger of pride.*
- *We should encourage them to invite others to join them in the family of God.*

1. EFFECTIVE TESTIMONIES LEAD TO EFFECTIVE RESULTS.
   1.1. John Stott said that the quality of a person's testimony is a distinctive mark of those who put the Word of God into practice.
   1.2. The new birth results in a dramatic spiritual transformation. The testimony of this spiritual vitality radiates the truth of the Good News. It is clearly expressed in the changed lifestyle and values of the new believer.
   1.3. Each disciple is to have an active role in God's plan to reach the world. He participates in effective witnessing for his Lord, Jesus Christ.
   1.4. When we do as the Lord wants we will bear much fruit. Jn. 15:4-5
2. THE MOTIVE BEHIND GOOD RESULTS IS OUR DESIRE TO HONOR GOD.
   2.1. Every Christian is called to participate in witnessing because it is imperative that we do everything to the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31
   2.2. We know that if we witness, God will honor His promises, and the result will be for His glory.
   2.3. We must be careful in our testimony not to encourage people to come to Christ only for material blessings. John 6:26-27
3. THE DANGER OF PRIDE CAN BFING RUIN.
   3.1. When God rewards and blesses believers with spiritual fruit, there is a danger that they will become proud.
   3.2. We must follow the Master's example: we must humble ourselves and recognize that it is God Himself who does His miracles in and through us.
   3.3. When we witness, we are like farmers. We water and sow the spiritual seed, but it is God who makes it grow. Only 1 Cor. 3:6-8
   3.4. The fruit of our work must be for God's glory and not for our own glory.
4. WE HONOR GOD BY PRESENTING HIM WITH LOST SOULS.
   4.1. God our Savior wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim: 2:4
   4.2. The Bible says that when a sinner repents, the angels rejoice in heaven. Lk. 15:10
   4.3. When heaven is celebrating, God is honored; He is celebrating the return of His lost children.
   4.4. Let us keep on winning souls to give more honor to God, and heaven will always be celebrating, and our God will be even more pleased.
   4.5. God loves all His sheep and is pleased when we bring even one into His fold. Lk. 15:4

CONCLUSION:

God wants our light to shine before all men so that everyone glorifies Him. Mt. 5:14-16

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What does it mean to Mobilize Believers? [2]

INTRODUCTION:

- *To "mobilize" something means to get it moving, to make something or someone progress. For example, in a time of war the leader of a country will mobilize the populace to support the war effort. Everyone in the country will be active, whether on the war front, engaged in manufacturing munitions, or in supplying food to the soldiers, or providing medical care, etc.*
- *To mobilize believers means to activate church men and women to serve God and His kingdom, in prayer, in the study of God's Word, in witnessing, in ministering to the widows and orphans and to the poor, and in other expressions of God's grace, compassion and service.*
- *Mobilizing believers takes them beyond discipleship. The goal of discipleship training is that Christians should grow in faith and in righteousness. The goal of mobilization is that Christians should become actively engaged in the worship and service of God and in advancing the kingdom of God.*

1. LEADING "MILK-DRINKING" CHRISTIANS TO BECOME "SOLID-FOOD" CHRISTIANS (THIS IS DISCIPLESHIP.):
   - 1.1. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he had to teach them very simply because they were young in the faith and weren't able to digest (understand) deeper spiritual teaching. 1 Cor. 3:2
   - 1.2. Some Christians are spiritual milk-drinkers. They enjoy God's salvation and His grace, but they haven't yet grown to understand deeper lessons, such as living holy lives, becoming prayer warriors, leading others to Christ, or of being ready to make sacrifices for Christ's glory.
   - 1.3. Those of us in spiritual leadership need to find ways to help young "milk-drinking" Christians grow in their faith and in their understanding of all of God's truth.
   - 1.4. This can be done through teaching and preaching, but also by leading in group Bible studies and by organizing cell groups where God is worshiped, the Word is studied and where Christians come together to encourage and exhort one another and to bear one-another's burdens.
   - 1.5. The author of Hebrews speaks about milk-drinking Christians and those who are able to eat solid food. He defines the mature believers as those who are able to distinguish good from evil; they understand the righteousness of God. Hebrews 5:11-14
2. LEADING "SOLID-FOOD" CHRISTIANS TO BECOME "MEAL-SERVING" CHRISTIANS (THIS IS MOBILIZING.)
   - 2.1. The prophet Jeremiah said eating the Word brought joy and rejoicing to his heart. Jer. 15:17
   - 2.2. When Christians begin to study God's Word, God opens their eyes to His truths and they are soon able to understand deeper spiritual teaching. This is when they become "solid-food-eating" Christians.
   - 2.3. But God wants His children to do more than "eat" of His Word; He wants His children to also be "meal servers." This means that God wants His children to bring others to the "table" to eat of God's "food," and to serve others God's truth, mercy and grace.
   - 2.4. In the Parable of the Great Banquet (in Luke 14:15-23), Jesus told about a man who planned a great feast. He invited all his friends to come, but they were all too busy. So he told his servant to go out to the "highways and hedges, and compel them to come in," so that his house would be filled with guests.
     - 2.4.1. God wants us, His servants, to go out in the highways and hedges to compel unbelievers to come into His kingdom.
     - 2.4.2. It is the responsibility of those of us in Christian leadership to mobilize Christians in our spiritual care to be fully and actively engaged in the worship and service of God and in advancing the kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION:

- *Discipleship is about helping others develop kingdom character. Mobilization is about helping others do the work of the kingdom.*
- *The next eight lessons will address in more detail what this means and how it can be done.*

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MOBILIZING BELIEVERS TO INCREASED PRAYER [3]

3. MOVEMENTS OF PRAYER AND REVIVAL
   - 3.1. The Awakening in Wales and the fame of Evan John Roberts was heard around the world in 1904-05. Roberts had held prayer meetings six days a week at his church for over ten years, and was deeply committed to praying for revival. At times the service consisted only of Roberts opening with "Let's pray." Finally, South Wales became ablaze with revival and within two months new believers numbered 34,000. Within six months 1,00,000 new believers were added to the churches. Spirit-filled gatherings were held in homes, barns, coal mines, quarries etc. All the believers were involved in the prayer movement and in proclaiming the Good News.
   - 3.2. From Los Angeles, Pastor Joseph Smale of the First Baptist Church traveled to the Holy Lands to rest and recuperate after an illness. On his return trip he stopped in Wales to witness the Wales Awakening. In his home church Dr. Smale began to admonish his congregations to experience a similar reviving by the Holy Spirit. Hundreds fell to their knees and began sobbing, repenting, being transformed, and speaking in inarticulate prayers. The meetings continued for fifteen weeks. This moving of the Spirit spread to a second church.
   - 3.3. The most famous figure of this revival was William J. Seymour, a Holiness evangelist from Texas. He gathered believers at the home of Richard and Ruth Asberry on Bonnie Brae Street to receive this Holy Spirit baptism. When it happened the crowds became so great that the building collapsed. They were forced to move to an old Methodist church at 312 Azusa Street. Beginning in April of 1906 sessions were held day and night for three years, and all-night prayer meetings became common.
   - 3.4. Asia: Prayer meetings and Bible studies in Asia turned many hearts to confession, tears, and commitments to Christ. There was a marked increase in requests for communion and baptism in lands where Buddha and Mohammed reigned. During the first decade of the century in India Christianity increased sixteen times faster than the Hindu religion, and ninety-percent of the nurses became Christians. At Mukti in India the dramatic story was reported about a girl with a visible fire around her during a prayer meeting. One church in Burma baptized over 3,000 in 1905. In China after a hundred missionaries were martyred during the Boxer Rebellion, people were awakened to prayer and a revival broke out in 1908-09.
4. THE PRIZE AND PROTECTION OF INTERCESSION:
   - 4.1. The greatest prize of our intercession is people meeting Christ as their Lord and Savior.
     - 4.1.1. An angel visited Cornelius and said "Your prayers….. have ascended as a memorial before God….your prayer has been heard." Acts 10: 4, 31
     - 4.1.2. Cornelius' prayers resulted in salvation for him and his family. Acts 10:44
   - 4.2. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe." Proverbs 18:10
   - 4.3. "For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy." Psalm 61:3
   - 4.4. Psalm 91:1-4, Isaiah 26:1, Isaiah 60:18, Zachariah 2:5, Psalm 9:9-10, Psalm 27:1-3,
   - 4.5. Peter was protected from certain death in Acts 12. Herod had arrested James and had him killed. Fervent prayer by the church for Peter's release resulted in his miraculous release. Acts 12:5
5. MOBILIZING BELIEVERS TO PRAY IN DIFFERENT WAYS:
   - 5.1. Prayers can be offered at any time of the day.
     - 5.1.1. We can encourage believers to pray early in the morning Acts 10:44
     - 5.1.2. We can encourage believers to honor the designated hour of prayer, as did the Apostles who gathered at 3:00 pm. Acts 3:1
     - 5.1.3. We can encourage believers to have evening prayers.
   - 5.2. There are different kinds of praying that we can encourage the laity to participate in.
     - 5.2.1. Whole night prayer vigils
     - 5.2.2. Chain praying, in which different individuals, groups, or churches pray in subsequent time periods for 24 hours, a whole week or even longer. This can be done in various locations or in one single location, such as in a church building.
     - 5.2.3. Chain fasting and praying can be done by believers in churches and homes.

CONCLUSION:

- *Believers need to be taught and encouraged to consecrate themselves to faithful intercessory prayer.*
- *When we pray God will surely send revival and thousands and thousands will come out of their sin and become a part of His kingdom by accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.*

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Mobilizing Believers by Inductive Bible Study (IBS) [4]

INTRODUCTION:

- *In this lesson, we are going to examine one particularly effective type of Bible study – the Inductive Bible Study (IBS), a particularly effective method for those who have few Bible study tools.*
- *The IBS approach can be applied to many passages of Scripture, resulting in a rich understanding of the passage studied.*

1. THE NECESSITY OF BIBLE STUDY
   - 1.1. The Bible is the Word of God, our most comprehensive source of information about who God is and how we are to live as His children.
   - 1.2. Every word of the Bible is necessary for spiritual growth. Even Jesus used it in His earthly ministry.
   - 1.3. The Bible is essential for personal sanctification; reading and applying its truths helps us become more like Jesus.
2. THE IBS METHOD
   - 2.1. The IBS method uses the Bible as the primary source of information about the Bible. No other resource is needed.
   - 2.2. IBS is effective because it can be applied to many different passages, and because it helps us understand the Bible passage in its context.
   - 2.3. There are three steps in IBS:
     - 2.3.1. Observation – Pray, read, observe and mark the facts present in the passage of Scripture.
     - 2.3.2. Interpretation - Meditate on the facts, and ask God for their meaning.
     - 2.3.3. Application - Let God change us in the ways which He has just revealed to us.
3. OBSERVATION – LOOKING FOR THE FACTS IN A PASSAGE
   - 3.1. Pray - Ask God by His Spirit to lead you to what book and passage you should study.
   - 3.2. Read - Read and re-read through the whole book until you grasp the general message and meaning of the whole book.
   - 3.3. Then read the whole book through repeatedly to get a rough idea of the general contents of the book, and mark important people and facts, etc .
   - 3.4. Observe and mark the basic facts – Note the author, important people, key words, places, time, etc.
     - 3.4.1. Ask the six questions of Bible Study – Who, What, Where, When, How, and Why.
     - 3.4.2. Look for repeated words – Ask which significant words are being repeated.
4. INTERPRETATION – FINDING THE MEANING OF THE TEXT.
   - 4.1. Study passages of the book chronologically.
   - 4.2. Look for repeated thoughts – often whole thoughts are repeated, not just words.
   - 4.3. Ask yourself: “What is the main issue in this passage?” – This will help us discover the central theme of the passage.
   - 4.4. Ask: “What is the author trying to teach us?” – This will give us the main ideas of the passage.
   - 4.5. Ask: “How does the author develop this idea?” – This will give us the main points that we need to see.
   - 4.6. Ask: “What is the author’s purpose in writing this passage?” – That will help us discover the application of the passage to our lives.
5. APPLICATION - FINDING THE APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES: ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
   - 5.1. How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?
   - 5.2. What truth am I to embrace, believe or order my life by?
   - 5.3. What changes will I make in my beliefs, in my life?

CONCLUSION:

- *IBS ensures that false notions of God’s message do not creep in to the belief system of the new believer, because it is not based on human commentary about the Bible.*
- *Its systematic approach ensures that verses are not taken out of context and associated with distorted interpretations.*
- *In short, IBS is a recommended method of Bible study because it ensures that the believer, new or mature, is being fed a healthy diet of spiritual food that will ultimately bring honor and glory to God through a healthy church.*

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Mobilizing Believers for Increased Witness[5]

INTRODUCTION:

- *We are to be God's witnesses throughout the whole world. It is the responsibility of every spiritual shepherd to teach and lead his spiritual flock to be effective witnesses of God's love and salvation to the world. Matthew 24:14*
- *The Church today is not fulfilling its full potential because many believers do not understand the Scriptural mandate to be God's witnesses.*
- *Every church leader should intentionally disciple those under his care to be witnesses of God's salvation.*

1. WE ARE TO BE WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE AND SALVATION BY OUR GOOD DEEDS, WHICH BRING HIM GLORY.
   - 1.1. Peter said that our good lives will point the pagans to God. 1 Peter 2:12
   - 1.2. Jesus told His followers that their good deeds shine and help unbelievers understand and accept His salvation. Matt. 5:14-16
2. WE ARE TO BE WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE BY OUR VERBAL TESTIMONY.
   - 2.1. After Jesus delivered the demon-possessed man from his demons, He told the man "**tell** how much God has done for you." God wants us to tell others what He has done for us. Luke 8:38-39
   - 2.2. Jesus commands us to **preach** to the people and to testify about Him. Acts 10:42
3. AS SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS, WE MUST LEAD AND TEACH OUR FLOCKS HOW TO BE WITNESSES THROUGH REGULAR TEACHING FROM THE WORD OF GOD.
   - 3.1. At least once—perhaps twice each year—there should be a special training program available to those under our spiritual leadership, to exhort and teach them how to be effective witnesses.
   - 3.2. At least once—perhaps twice each year—there should be a special emphasis on the importance of being "salt and light" to the world, through our good deeds and our verbal witness. Matt. 5:13-16
   - 3.3. At least once—perhaps twice each year—there should be a special emphasis on the importance of taking God's salvation to the whole world. Matt. 28:18-20
4. WE MUST LEAD AND TEACH OUR FLOCKS BY OUR OWN EXAMPLE HOW TO BE WITNESSES.
   - 4.1. Our lives must manifest good deeds, not so others will think more highly of us, but rather so that God will receive glory.
   - 4.2. We must fulfill Jesus' command to "sow the seed" (spread the Good News) generously. As those under our spiritual leadership observe our generous sowing, they will learn how to do likewise and will be encouraged by our example to do the same. Matt. 13:3-13
   - 4.3. One of the best ways to teach and lead others into lives of generous sowing (into lives of dynamic witness) is to take them with us as we sow the seed.
     - 4.3.1. We would do well to schedule regular "sowing" experiences with those we are shepherding. Not only will they be a support to us in this important ministry but they will also profit because they will learn from our example in the process.
     - 4.3.2. Caution: it is highly inadvisable for a man and woman to go out together on ministry assignments alone (unless, of course, they are married to each other). Being alone with another can too easily lead to unhealthy temptation. Further, it can result in rumors that could damage your reputation and ministry.

CONCLUSION:

- *Witnessing is better caught than taught.*
- *An essential step in mobilizing believers to witness is teaching them how to use the Word to share the Gospel.*
- *Equally important is the next step – when the leaders take the believers out to witness and model for them how to do it.*
- *The training must not stop with the Bible study on how to witness, but it must continue with the practical application of actually going out and sharing our faith with non-believers.*
- *This very practical training is discussed in detail in the SOE course on Personal Evangelism.*

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Mobilizing Believers for Increased Giving – 1 [6]

INTRODUCTION:

- *Giving to God is a normal response to the One who has given us so much.*
- *The Bible has much to say about how His children should give. In this lesson we'll study what the Old Testament teaches us about giving and in the next lesson we'll study the New Testament teachings about giving.*

1. GOD OWNS EVERYTHING.
   - 1.1. God created everything, hence everything belongs to God. Gen 1:1, Col. 1:16
   - 1.2. He gives us the strength and health to work.
   - 1.3. Even what we earn or gain as a result of our hard work belongs to God.
2. GOD PROVIDES ALL OUR NEEDS AND WE RESPOND WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS.
   - 2.1. God promises us a great blessing when we seek Him first. Mt. 6:32-33
   - 2.2. God always keeps His promises.
   - 2.3. We need to differentiate between needs and wants. Ps. 23:1
   - 2.4. God's generosity to us prompts us to give back to God. 1 Chron. 29:14
3. GOD ASKS US TO BE CONTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE.
   - 3.1. God has already given us what we need. Mt. 6:25-34
   - 3.2. We have trouble because we wish for more than what we have.
   - 3.3. God gives us strength to endure times of apparent "lack." Phil. 4:13
4. GOD ASKS US IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TO RETURN A TENTH OF OUR INCOME TO HIM. WE CALL THIS THE TITHE.
   - 4.1. The main function of the tithe was the support of those who served God i.e. the Levites. Num 18:21-24
   - 4.2. Sometimes tithes were given to help those in need. Deut. 26:12-14
   - 4.3. Tithing was practiced even before the Law was given to Moses. We read in Genesis 14:20 that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek. And in Genesis 28:22 we see that Jacob promised to give back to God a tenth of everything God gave him.
   - 4.4. Three tithes were required from every Jew:
     - 4.4.1. For the Levites – Num. 18:20-32
     - 4.4.2. For use in the temple, and for the great feasts – Deut. 14:22-27
     - 4.4.3. For the poor of the land every third year – Deut 14:28-29
   - 4.5. The Levites were also supposed to tithe. Num. 18:25-29
   - 4.6. There were freewill offerings other than the tithes, which were also given. Lev 7:12-18; Nu 15:3
   - 4.7. God promises to bless us when we tithe. Mal. 3:10-11
     - 4.7.1. God was angry because the people were not tithing. Mal. 3:8-9.
     - 4.7.2. This verse implies that the current poverty of the people was a result of the people not tithing.

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Mobilizing Believers to Increased Giving – 2.[7]

5. INSTRUCTION ABOUT GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – GOD EXHORTS US TO GIVE GENEROUSLY.
   - 5.1. According to the Apostle Paul, God has bestowed on some the gift of generosity. Romans 12:6-8
     - 5.1.1. Some have the gift of giving, and some do not, but this does not mean that any can refrain from giving.
     - 5.1.2. It simply means that some will find great joy in giving generously to God's work, and it will be easier for them to give to God than it is for others because God has given them this special spiritual gift to do so.
   - 5.2. The teaching in this lesson will be useful to all, especially to those who do not have the gift of giving.
   - 5.3. There is no explicit command in the NT to tithe; on the other hand, there are various commands to give generously.
   - 5.4. Giving begins by giving one's self to the Lord (Rom. 12:1). This implies that a born-again person will give, and the one who does not give actually raises doubts about his/her salvation.
   - 5.5. Giving is often done beyond our means. 2 Cor. 8:3
6. GOD GAVE US A PARABLE OF TWO TREASURES AND TWO DESTINIES.
   - 6.1. Why are we to lay up treasures in heaven? Matthew 6:19-21
     - 6.1.1. There is a saying, "You cannot take your wealth with you, but you can send it ahead of you."
     - 6.1.2. Loss in this life for the Lord equals gain in heaven for the giver. Matthew 19:21, 29
   - 6.2. What are we focusing on? Mt. 6:22-23
     - 6.2.1. If we focus on God, there will be no lack.
     - 6.2.2. If we focus on self, we will continuously want, and never be content.
   - 6.3. Whom are we serving, God or money? Mt. 6:24
     - 6.3.1. Wealth is not bad in and of itself. Greed is. With greed, the more we get, the more we want. Instead of being the master of our money, money becomes our master.
     - 6.3.2. We can only be controlled by one thing: What will it be – money or God?
   - 6.4. Why don't we give as generously as we should?
     - 6.4.1. Some don't give because they are controlled by the love of money (greed). Matt. 19:21-22
     - 6.4.2. Some are not content with what we have.
     - 6.4.3. Some are not focused on their heavenly future.
     - 6.4.4. Some are selfish; they put self before others and before God.

CONCLUSION:

- *Examine your own personal spending habits. Don't live above the level of your people because they might become discouraged and stop or decrease their giving.*
- *Motivate people to give generously to the Lord with good teaching on the subject and by modeling generosity in your own life.*
- *Understand that ultimately your giving to the Lord will come back as blessing in this life and as rewards in the next.* *Ec. 11:1*
- *Our tithes and offering should be brought into the "storehouse." The "storehouse" can be understood as our local church or as any other center where the work of God is being done.* *Malachi 3:10*
- *Once we spend our money for self in the world, we cannot invest it in God's kingdom work.*
- *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* *Acts 20:35*

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Mobilizing Believers: Some Practical Ministry Assignment Suggestions [8]

INTRODUCTION:

- *It is the responsibility of every spiritual shepherd to lead his flock to greater spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is gained through the study of God's Word, through prayer and worship, through the successful navigation of earth's challenges and trials and through the exercise of serving God and others.*

1. SPIRITUAL SHEPHERDS CAN ASSIGN SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK, DEPENDING ON THE INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND SPIRITUAL GIFTING OF THE MEMBERS.
   - 1.1. God's children are united as one body, but we all have different spiritual gifts. Romans 12:4-8
   - 1.2. The different gifts are given by the same Spirit and are to be used "for the common good." We are to serve and help one another in the flock through the exercise of our spiritual gifts. 1 Cor 12:4-7
   - 1.3. God gives us special abilities and functions to serve Him and to build up our fellow believers. Eph 4:11-13
2. FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF SOME POSSIBLE MINISTRY TEAMS TO WHICH A SPIRITUAL SHEPHERD CAN ASSIGN MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK, ACCORDING TO THEIR SPECIAL SPIRITUAL GIFTING:
   - 2.1. Elders – responsible for matters of spiritual direction and oversight of the flock
   - 2.2. Gospel team – helps plan and oversee effective evangelism by the church members to the unbelievers in their community
   - 2.3. Missionary team – helps in arrangements and running of Portable Bible Schools, conferences in villages, summer youth camps, Vacation Bible schools, etc.
   - 2.4. Training/teaching team – helps further the flock's understanding of God's truth. This could include Sunday school teachers as well as leaders of adult Bible study groups.
   - 2.5. Mentoring team – helps give guidance to younger members in ministry
   - 2.6. Women's team – helps oversee the training and nurturing of the women of the flock
   - 2.7. Youth team – helps oversee the training and nurturing of youth in the flock
   - 2.8. Children's team – helps oversee the training and nurture of children in the flock
   - 2.9. Finance team – responsible for oversight and management of the flock's bank account(s), of its payments and other financial transactions
   - 2.10. Catering team – helps in cooking and serving food
   - 2.11. Maintenance team – responsible for upkeep and/or repairs to the facilities where the flock meets
   - 2.12. Cleaning team – responsible for cleaning the facilities as needed
   - 2.13. Drama team – occasionally helps the shepherd (when requested) by presenting dramatic performances to illustrate a truth being presented that day
   - 2.14. Visitation team – helps the shepherd with visiting those in the hospital and others who are sick and/or are in need of a visit of spiritual encouragement and prayer
   - 2.15. Welcoming team – helps ensure that visitors to the gatherings of the flock are warmly received and made to feel welcome
   - 2.16. Worship team – helps the shepherd ensure that the quality of corporate worship is pleasing to the Lord and to those in attendance
   - 2.17. Communion team – helps make arrangements for communion services
   - 2.18. Baptism team – helps make arrangements for baptismal services
   - 2.19. Baby dedication team – helps make arrangements for when infants are to be dedicated
   - 2.20. Marriage team – helps make arrangements for marriage ceremonies
   - 2.21. Funerals team – helps make arrangements, when necessary, for funeral services
   - 2.22. Community awareness team – made up of those specially attuned to the neighboring community. They could suggest ways in which the flock might respond to a community need or situation. In some instances, this team might warn of growing sentiment against the flock by some in the community.

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Mobilizing Believers to Build Horizontal Relationships [9]

1. THE CHURCH IS TO BE A UNITED CHURCH: JOHN 17

The prayer of Christ is practical and prophetic. The Lord undoubtedly saw the divisions that would come in Christendom and thus prayed that the world might see a united Church, a Church at unity in and with itself. Unity is one of the most powerful forces in earth.

- 1.1. Christ said, "I will build My Church" (not churches). Mathew 16:18, 19
- 1.2. The Lord added to "the Church." Acts 2:47
- 1.3. There was persecution against the Church. Acts 8:3
- 1.4. Saul made havoc of the Church. Acts 8:1-3
- 1.5. The Church throughout the whole region had rest, not "the churches," as in Acts 9:31
- 1.6. The Church in the wilderness, one Church, though 12 tribes Acts 7:38.
- 1.7. Elders of the Church Acts 20:17.
- 1.8. A glorious Church Ephesians 5:25-27.
- 1.9. Jesus is the one head over the Church. Ephesians 1:22.
  - 1.9.1. The word "Church" is used of the One Universal Church about 80 times.
  - 1.9.2. The word is used of local and scattered groups about 40 times.
  - 1.9.3. "Church of God" is used about eight times, and "churches of Christ" is used once. Romans 16:16
  - 1.9.4. Christ's body is one universal, united Church; every member in the Church is to be united in building horizontal relations with every member of this one united body.

2. THE CHURCH IS TO BE OF ONE ACCORD, ONE HEART, AND ONE MIND.
   - 2.1. The Early Church was of one accord, one heart and one mind. Acts 1:14, Philippians 1:27; 2:2
   - 2.2. There the Lord commanded the blessing. Psalm 133
   - 2.3. The Lord gives us one heart. Ezekiel 11:19
   - 2.4. The trumpeters and singers made one sound. 2 Chronicles 5:13-14
   - 2.5. Believers of every congregation are to build an atmosphere in the Church where everyone becomes of one accord, one heart and one mind.

3. GOD GIVES US SEVEN SYMBOLS OF UNITY AND ONENESS.
   - 3.1. There is one body but many members. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18.
   - 3.2. There is a sevenfold oneness here. Ephesians 4:4-6.
   - 3.3. Christ and His Bride are to be one as in a marriage. Ephesians 5:23-32.
   - 3.4. We must discern the oneness of the Body. 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 11:27-30.
   - 3.5. The Lord is making Jew and Gentile one new man. Ephesians 2:11-16.
   - 3.6. Christ died to gather all scattered together into one. John 11:50-52.
   - 3.7. There is one body but various offices and functions. Romans 12:1-5.

4. THE WORD SPEAKS OF FOUR TYPES OF UNITY. JOHN 17:11, 21, 22, 23.
   - 4.1. Unity in the Name of God John 17:6, 11, 12, 26.
   - 4.2. Unity in the Word of God John 17:6, 8, 14, 17, 19, 20.
   - 4.3. Unity in the Glory of God John 17:2, 4, 5, 10, 22, 24.
   - 4.4. Unity in the Love of God John 17:23, 24, 26.

5. CHRISTIAN FAMILIES CAN ENJOY SUPERNATURAL UNITY.
   - 5.1. Husbands and wives can have healthy relationships with each other. Eph. 5: 22-28
   - 5.2. Parents and children can have healthy relationships with each other. Eph. 6:1-4
   - 5.3. Fathers and sons can have healthy relationships with each other. Mal. 4:5-6

CONCLUSION

- *Here we have the very secret and power of unity, the glory of unity and the perfection of unity - John 17:21,22,23*
- *The Lord has purposed this kind of Church and nothing in heaven or hell or earth will frustrate this purpose. All believers are to work towards this goal of Building Horizontal Relationship.*

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Mobilizing Believers to Complete the Unfinished Task [10]

1. THE WORLD'S PEOPLES
   1.1. It was only during the 1990's – nearly 2,000 years after Jesus' commandment that we disciple all peoples – that a reasonably complete listing of the world's peoples and languages was developed, thanks to the painstaking research done by various key groups with such a global vision.
   1.2. Of the world's 16,350 peoples in the Joshua Project List (10,340, if country boundaries are ignored), 6,645 are counted in the Least Reached/Unreached category – 40.6% of all peoples. The total population of individuals from unreached peoples is 28.4 crores, or 41.1% of humanity. The vast majority of the unreached originate from the 10/40 Window area.
2. CHALLENGES FOR PRAYER
   2.1. **The majority of the least reached** are last to hear the gospel precisely because they are the most isolated from witnessing Christians and the most difficult to reach.
   2.2. **Few of the 6,645 least reached peoples have any known Christians** among them, but Christians generally constitute a very small minority – on average 0.4% of the population. In coming to Christ, and especially in trying to reach their own people, they face many pressures and even persecution.
   2.3. **There are many very small groups by population size –** 574 have less than 100 people, 3,040 have less than 1,000 people and 7,930 have less than 10,000 people.
   2.4. **Churches around the world need to gain a vision for unreached peoples.** Peoples – or *ethne* in the NT Greek – are the fundamental units in God's plan for the redemption of all humanity; this is a non-negotiable biblical reality.
   2.5. **There must be disciples made from every people on earth,** made clear throughout the Old Testament, the Gospels and Revelation. This implies the need for a body of believers in every people and more, a Church that impacts every part of that people. This goal is the essence of the Great Commission and the crux of God's purposes for humanity. It is also linked to the coming again of the Lord Jesus for His Church. Pray that every believer may passionately pursue this goal to conclusion and then be the generation that brings back the King! Mt. 24:14
3. THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH

All members in the church have to do the work of God in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard or believed. It is God's chosen means for carrying out the Great Commission and completing His purposes for humanity (Rev 5:9-10, 7:9-10). It is also the venue for the work of the Holy Spirit among God's people – for sanctifying, for discipling, for attaining maturity to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ep 4:13, 5:17). Here are some of the key issues where prayer for the global Church is warranted:

   3.1. Maintaining a clear witness to the uniqueness of Christ in the midst of growing religious pluralism.
   3.2. Sustaining the centrality of the Scriptures: many Christians are becoming uncertain in their convictions because of issues of culture and compromise with the world, of false doctrines and of gender and sexuality.
   3.3. The effective functioning of local congregations – a community where all members participate.
4. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.
   4.1. Discipleship is regarded as the greatest challenge facing the Church today.
   4.2. An outward emphasis that remains focused on outreach, evangelism, mission and community engagement is essential for healthy churches.
   4.3. The Church needs a holistic ethos that is engaged in society on all levels.
   4.4. We must pay particular attention to our youth. The temptations of the world are more accessible than ever, and the pressures they place on believing young people are intense.
   4.5. The vitality of Christians' spiritual life should be maintained as a training and equipping priority.
   4.6. Believers must be trained and prepared to face the rising levels of persecution in our world today.

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Conclusion

1. MULTIPLICATION IS SUPERIOR TO ADDITION.
   1.1. God's will for His Church is that it should grow both in quantity and in quality.
   1.2. If each Christian is mobilized for witness, the Church will grow healthily.
   1.3. If each Christian would reach one person per year, we would reach the whole world in a single generation, and God would be glorified.
2. WE NEED A STRATEGY TO REGAIN LOST GROUND.
   2.1. We are here to save souls; God is very pleased when we win souls. We don't want to lead people to our imperfect denominations; let's lead them to the perfect Christ instead.
   2.2. The total Christian population is only one-third of the globe, but God wants the whole world to be won for His glory. 2 Peters 3:9
3. GOD EXPECTS EVERY BELIEVER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT COMMISSION.
   3.1. God has given us His command – and His power – to witness. Acts 1:8
   3.2. Jesus is the central focus of our testimony; our testimony for Christ must therefore reflect a commitment of our whole life to Him.
   3.3. We must love our neighbors as God loves us. (After all, God loves them as much as He does us.)
   3.4. The Bible says that the fields – souls waiting to be saved – are ripe for the harvest. John 4:35
4. WITHOUT VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH.
   4.1. The believer must have vision; if there is no vision, the people go on unchecked. We who believe have the vision and the goal to save souls. Proverbs 29:18
   4.2. Therefore, we must all have a vision to make disciples - in our families, our church, city and our world.
5. WE MUST RADICALLY CHANGE THE WAY WE TRAIN AND MOBILIZE BELIEVERS FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION.
   5.1. The objective of our training is to help members show their faith in Jesus Christ by a life and behavior which is clearly righteous and "apart" from that of non-Christians. 2 Cor. 6:17
   5.2. All believers must participate in the teaching of the Word and in the discipleship of new believers. To complete their equipping for the ministry, they need ongoing training: courses, seminars, etc.
   5.3. The Church must also encourage its members to commit themselves to personally helping widows, the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, the prisoners, the sick and others in need.
   5.4. The Church must encourage active commitment among its members for complementary activities of service outside the local church.
6. APPLICATION
   6.1. We must proclaim our faith and affirm that Jesus is the only legitimate Savior for all humanity. Because of His forgiveness, His sacrifice, His victory over death, we proclaim that He alone is capable of preventing men from going to hell. How will non-Christians hear God's Word if we do not obey the Lord's Great Commission? Rom. 10:14
   6.2. Obedience must be the trait which distinguishes us from simple listeners. We must be known for putting the Word of God into practice. James 1:22
   6.3. Rise up, dear brothers and sisters, to plant the Lord's cross in people's hearts, from village to village, from city to city and from nation to nation.

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