

BECOME A DISCIPLE-MAKING DISCIPLE

WORKBOOK

HUDDLE GUIDE

2021

*A 52-week guide with everything you'll need to lead your huddle.
Part foundation, part practice, and a whole lot of encouragement.*



MERCY ROAD CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*This guide is not sold for profit.

Table of Contents

04

Introduction

14

Interval #1: Biblical Overview (6 weeks)

140

Interval #2: Invitation and Challenge (4 weeks)

148

Interval #3: Kairos Moments (4 weeks)

156

Interval #4: UP IN OUT (9 weeks)

164

Interval #5: Covenant and Kingdom (4 weeks)

172

Interval #6: Rhythms of Life (4 weeks)

180

Interval #7: Multiplying Missional Disciples (4 weeks)

190

Interval #8: Personal Calling (4 weeks)

200

Interval #9: Prayer (4 weeks)

208

Interval #10: Person of Peace (4 weeks)

216

Review (4 weeks)

220

Launching the next huddle (2 weeks)

Introduction to Huddle



Introduction:

You've said "yes" to huddle- either as a disciple or disciple-maker. Whether you are the disciple or the disciple-maker, we celebrate your decision to move toward a fuller and more dynamic relationship with Jesus.

**"The time has come," he said, "The Kingdom of God is near.
Repent and believe the good news!" -Mark 1:15**

What is a disciple?

- 'Disciple' is rooted from the Greek word mathetes. The translation of mathetes is learner.
- A disciple has oriented his/her life around becoming a lifelong learner of Jesus.
- A disciple intentionally pursues Jesus in both character and competence.
- Pursuing Jesus in character means showing love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, especially when no one is looking.

“but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” - Galatians 5:22-23

Pursuing Jesus in competence means actually doing what He did. Jesus’s competency exhibits itself through skills like teaching, healing, pastoring, prophecy, evangelism, and disciple-making. Growing in Jesus’s character and competence is God’s desire for us. The more we grow in this, the more we become like Him and are vessels of His love and restoration for the world.

The way He acted is how we act.

The way He loved is how we love.

“For the creation waits in eager anticipation for the children of God to be revealed.” -Romans 8:19-21

What Is Huddle?

Huddle is a group of 4-10 people committed to becoming disciple-making disciples. Huddles meet weekly for 10-12 months in a closed group with a strong leader who:

- Gives disciples access to his/her life. This means they share life and openly model the discipleship process in their lives as well.
- Coaches the huddle on how to teach the characteristics and competencies of Jesus to others.
- Equips and empowers disciples to take part in the transformation process through hearing God in their lives and responding through action.
- Helps disciples grow in spiritual maturity.
- Fosters an atmosphere of openness, honesty, trust, and FUN.
- Helps disciples launch their own huddle.

WHAT IS A HUDDLE LEADER?

- A committed disciple
- A humble servant
- A continual learner

The huddle leader's goal is to serve the people they lead by empowering them to be more prayerful, dedicated in service to God, and more skilled in their personal discipleship and the discipleship of others. The journey is between huddle participants and God; huddle leaders facilitate rather than solve problems.

Huddle leaders share tools that disciples can use to hear God in their own lives and then share with others (future disciples).

Huddle leaders provide leadership, direction, and facilitation in this process.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT HUDDLE?

A great huddle consists of a group of people committed to listening for God and depending on the Holy Spirit consistently through this huddle process. This happens by consistently answering the following questions:

- **What is God saying to me?**
- **What am I going to do about it?**

Successful huddles are committed to the following:

Consistent attendance - Vulnerability - Focus - Humility

Over the course of a year, disciples and disciple-makers are changed while intentionally moving toward Jesus.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

If you've disciplined folks in a huddle multiple times, this guide is a great way to get refreshed on Mercy Road's vehicle of disciple-making. Additionally, you'll find week-by-week outlines to help you stay the course.

If you're leading your very first huddle, this guide will help you as you go and equip you as you lead.

It's important that you have been through a huddle before you lead a huddle.

If you're intimidated by leading in this capacity, remember:

You grow as a huddle leader every time you lead a huddle. You are not alone!

WHY HUDDLE?

We believe that engaging in a huddle is a profound way of growing in your relationship with Jesus and fulfilling the Great Commission as proclaimed by Jesus' last words on earth:

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

WE HUDDLE BECAUSE:

1. It's a vehicle to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples.
2. It's intentional.

WHY HUDDLE?

1. To learn through scripture about who Jesus is and what He has done for us.
2. To learn through prayer how to listen to Jesus in our daily life (What is God speaking to you?).
3. To learn how to be obedient in what God is asking of us (What are you going to do about it?).
4. “To learn how to share this knowledge & heart change with others.”

-Tricia Morgan, huddle leader

“No one accidentally creates disciples. Discipleship is an intentional pursuit.”

- Mike Breen

THE PHASES OF HUDDLE

PHASE 1: Language

The first 2-3 months, huddles are getting to know one another and establishing common language that offers a framework for expressing ideas, beliefs, and truths about God's Kingdom. This language of God's Kingdom gives everyone handles that can easily be remembered, processed, and shared. With this language, huddle members engage in two main questions:

What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?

The huddle leader's job is NOT to fix issues in participants' lives; it's to help the disciple learn to HEAR GOD for themselves.

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

- Matthew 11:28-30

PHASE 2: Rhythms

This phase focuses on learning rhythms of life and acknowledging the swinging pendulum of rest and work. We begin to understand that we were created to work from a place of rest.

This is a challenging phase because it's counter cultural to what we have been taught. This will take encouragement from the leader while adjustments are being made by huddle members.

As we see in John 15, real rest is found in our connection to God; we have to slow down to hear Him and gain energy from Him. Resisting the urge toward constant activity and entertainment will be arduous, but learning to take a day off (Sabbath) and spending time with God every day is vital to connecting with our Father.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” - John 15:1-4

PHASE 3: Mission

As we grow in relationship with God, we become connected to God’s mission, responding in authority and obedience to exercise his power to make concrete, actionable changes in our lives and the world.

This UP, IN, and OUT way of life helps us integrate mission and spiritual growth. While we are building rhythms of listening to God and responding to Him and experiencing His overflow in our hearts, we begin to discover a boldness and desire to do something to share His love with others.

**“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”
- John 7:37-38**

PHASE 4: Leadership

The Great Commission tells us to make disciples who then make disciples who then make disciples. As stated before, Huddle isn’t just for our own benefit, but also for the benefit of others. Therefore, the expectation is that if you’re in a huddle, you will one day lead a huddle (or some other intentional, discipleship vehicle).

Once you know the disciple-making language, have sustainable rhythms of hearing and responding to God, and are living a life that expresses evidence of God’s power, YOU’RE READY to launch your own huddle.

CONTENT AND CONTEXT

In the final parable on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27), Jesus talks about two different people:

1. The wise man who HEARS Jesus' words and puts them into PRACTICE.
2. The fool who hears Jesus' words but doesn't do anything with them.

Huddle is connected to both CONTENT (hearing Jesus' words) and CONTEXT (practically living out Jesus' words). This is how we grow in wisdom. Huddle will consist of WISDOM more than content. Jesus engaged us in what was happening in our lives vs. bringing a curriculum.

CONTENT

- Bible Content - Everything is grounded in the Bible. Therefore, it is important for everyone in the huddle to have an overview of the Bible, understand its purpose, and grow in ability to actively engage with it.

- Core Content - Spending time in the key teachings or principles of Jesus (doctrine). Additionally, it is part of the core content to disciple in a group setting (4-10 people) rather than one-on-one. Jesus did not disciple one-on-one because he knew the value of a group of people learning together with him.

- Personal Content - These are the cultural statements embedded into Mercy Road's DNA that have helped us grow in our relationship with Jesus:

Live Boldly. Love Deeply.

**We're a hospital for sinners,
not a museum for saints.**

You may also have your own personal content that has contributed to your understanding of Jesus.

CONTEXT

Context is how we discern what is happening in our own lives as well as those in our huddle, and then help guide toward practical steps of transformation.

- Character- What does my current lifestyle reflect about my character? Where do I see weaknesses in my character? How can I take steps in my life so that it looks more like Jesus's? Character is about BEING.

- Competency- When I look at my life, where have I seen growth in competency? Where are my weaknesses in taking steps toward growth? What could Jesus do that I can't? Competency is about DOING.

- Leadership- How can I grow in my leadership? How can I take on responsibility in huddle (and life) to practically learn to lead? Leadership is about GIVING and GROWING. Huddle leaders facilitate this in a gradual release method that looks like this:

Phase 1: I do, you watch

Phase 2: I do, you help

Phase 3: You do, I help

Phase 4: You do, I watch

FRAMEWORK

The year of huddle consists of 12 intervals:

1. Biblical Overview
2. Invitation and Challenge
3. Kairos Moments
4. UP IN OUT
5. Covenant and Kingdom
6. Rhythms of Life
7. Multiplying Missional Disciples
8. Personal Calling
9. Prayer
10. Person of Peace
11. Review
12. Launching the next huddle

There is both framework and freedom about which to choose to engage in deeper study. Here is the framework of each 4-week interval (discluding intervals 1 & 12, which are not four weeks):

Week 1: Content - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

Week 2: Personal - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

Week 3: Leadership - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

Week 4: Mission - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

***Deeper Dive:** Some sections have additional experiences that groups or individuals can participate in to engage deeper with that tool.

NOTES



INTERVAL #1

Biblical Overview



WEEK 1

Group Discussion

Before you start this Biblical Study, get to know the other people in your Huddle:

- What is one thing you want your Huddle to know about you?
- What drew you to Huddle?
- How would you describe your relationship with the Bible?
(There's no good or bad answer; this is to help you identify where you are starting.)

Unfamiliar - Never really engaged with it on my own.

Familiar - I understand "the majors" and have read some.

Close - I have been personally engaging with the Bible for a number of years.

- What have been your challenges in studying the Bible?
- What do you hope to gain in the next few weeks while studying the Bible?
- How can this Huddle encourage you in the next six weeks to stay engaged in this section of Huddle?
- What are some practical steps you can take this week to do your homework?

Bible Fast Facts

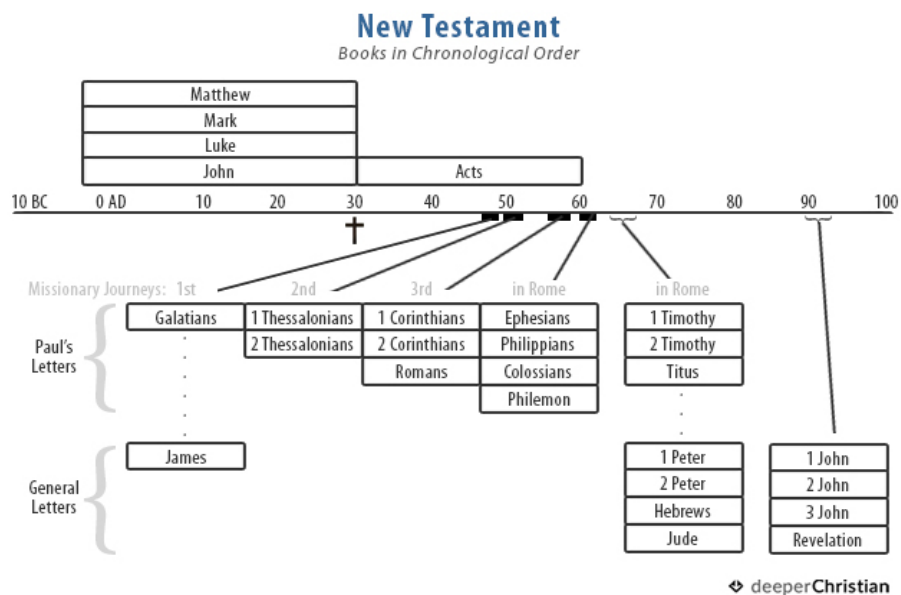
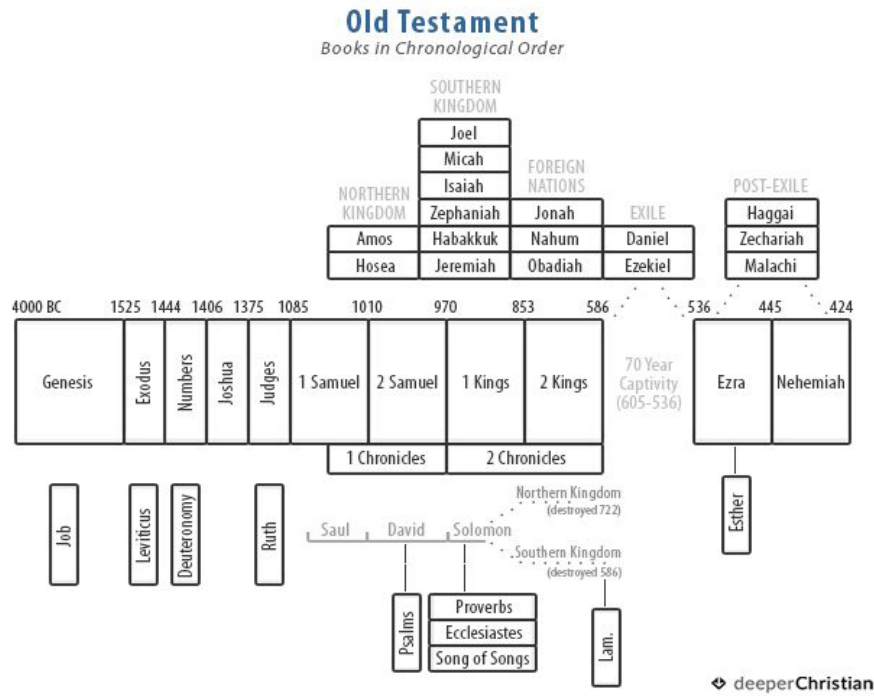
Library consisting of:

- 66 books
- 40 authors
- Written over the span of 2,500 years
- The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.

The Bible is arranged in genres, not in chronological order.

NARRATIVE/ HISTORICAL	POETRY	PROPHECY/ APOCALYPSE	EPISTLES/ TEACHING
Genesis	Psalms	Isaiah	Romans
Exodus	Song of Solomon	Jeremiah	1 Corinthians
Leviticus	Lamentations	Ezekiel	2 Corinthians
Numbers	WISDOM	Daniel	Galatians
Deuteronomy	Job	Hosea	Ephesians
Joshua	Proverbs	Joel	Philippians
Judges	Ecclesiastes	Amos	Colossians
Ruth	GOSPELS	Obadiah	1 Thessalonians
1 Samuel	Matthew	Jonah	2 Thessalonians
2 Samuel	Mark	Micah	1 Timothy
1 Kings	Luke	Nahum	2 Timothy
2 Kings	John	Habakkuk	Titus
1 Chronicles		Zephaniah	Philemon
2 Chronicles		Haggai	Hebrews
Ezra		Zechariah	James
Nehemiah		Malachi	1 Peter
Esther		Revelation	2 Peter
Acts			1 John
			2 John
			3 John
			Jude

In chronological order, the Bible would look like this:



The Bible did not begin as one book, but as a library. It is generally arranged by topics rather than chronological order. The Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Bible) is divided into three parts:

The Law (Torah): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Deuteronomy

The Prophets (Nevi'im): Historical books & the prophets

The Writings (Ketuvim): Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles

For the next six weeks, we are going to examine the Bible as one complete story, connecting the people, places, and promises of God. At the conclusion of this six weeks, you will:

- Understand the Bible as a whole
- Connect the people, places, and events of God's story
- Discover how the Old Testament is connected to the New Testament
- Reflect on what God is saying to you and what to do about it

Six Week Format:

- On your own homework (broken down into five devotionals)
- Group Discussion Guide (discuss homework from the previous week)

WEEK 1

On Your Own

Introduction: This week we'll cover the first 11 chapters of the Bible and major themes:

- Creation of the World
- Humans
- The Fall
- The Flood
- The Tower of Babel

DAY 1

The Bible was written for us. In all honesty, many would say that they haven't engaged with the Bible because it's boring, and the reason it can seem boring is because we don't understand it.

Take a quick self-assessment (this is just for you!)

I understand the general story from Genesis to Revelation.

YES Kind Of NO

I feel intimidated talking about the Bible.

YES Kind Of NO

I'm not sure if I understand the Bible like most "church people" do.

YES Kind Of NO

I've never looked at the Bible as one connected story.

YES Kind Of NO

I would like to have more confidence in my Biblical knowledge.

YES Kind Of NO

It seems like it's just too much for me— too many facts and details to make sense of.

YES Kind Of NO

I don't have enough time to read the Bible and try to make sense of it.

YES Kind Of NO

Write down anything else that keeps you from studying the Bible. What are the stumbling blocks/hesitations that keep you from engaging with Scripture?

Take a few minutes and talk to God about these stumbling blocks. Ask God to help you remove those hesitations and hindrances.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 2: Creation & Fall

Read Genesis 1. Highlight in your Bible what God created each day and jot down any additional notes/reflections.

- Day 1: Light/Dark & Day/Night
- Day 2: Sky/Heaven
- Day 3: Earth/Seas & Plants
- Day 4: Sun/Moon/Stars
- Day 5: Birds/Fish
- Day 6: Land Animals & Humans
- Day 7: Rest

“In the beginning..” God created all things. Specifically on Day 6, God created humans in his own image.

Re-read Genesis 1:26-28. What does God say about...

- Our likeness?
- Our authority/dominion?

God created us in his own image- to reflect him and to be the representation of how he loves.

Genesis 1:28 is known as the “cultural mandate.” Andy Crouch writes in his book *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*:

“Culture is what we make of the world. Culture is, first of all, the name for our relentless, restless human effort to take the world as it’s given to us and make something else.”

This effort is not something we invented. This call to create was built into our original DNA and affirmed by God’s first instruction to us. The cultural mandate answers these foundational questions:

Why are we here on earth? What is our purpose?

God answered this question in the beginning by giving us the earth and our bodies and telling us to make people and culture. We are to take the world and make something more of it. This was God’s plan to make himself known and active in the world. Genesis 1:28 reminds us that everything we do matters to God. In particular, our daily work and relationships matter because it is a way of obeying the first mandate of Scripture.

“When we take the world as it is given to us and help to make something more of it, and when this more is consistent with God’s purposes, then we are doing exactly what God intended for us from the beginning.” - *Mark D. Roberts*

Reflect on the following:

- In your own life, how do you take the world as it is given to you and make more of it? How are you living out the cultural mandate in your professional work? In your serving? In your family life? In your community?
- How can you be more intentional with the cultural mandate in your life?

In Genesis 2, we see that God gave Adam and Eve a great place to live, and all of their needs were met in the Garden with Him. In Genesis 3, we see the serpent approach Adam and Eve and taunt them with this question: *Does God really have my best in mind?*

God was clear to Adam and Eve: They could eat from any tree except for one. Satan uses that one tree to plant and nurture the seed of doubt in their minds.

Read Genesis 3 and reflect on the following:

What question does Satan ask Eve in Genesis 3:1?

In your own words, describe Satan's approach in Genesis 3:2-7?

You may have used words like cunning or deceitful. John 10:10 tells us that Satan "comes only to steal and kill and destroy." And that is exactly what we see happening here.

Reflect:

- Why do you think Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit from the tree, even though God was clear in his instructions to them?
- Why do we make choices that are clearly against what God has instructed of us?

This changes everything. God created us to have freewill– we can choose to either live according to his rules (in a world he created and created us for) or not live according to those rules. Adam and Eve chose not to. Because they were the first humans, their decision has shaped every person who came after them. This was the natural consequence of their actions. Our choices matter, not just for us, but for every person around us now and to come after us.

Their disobedience resulted in the natural consequence of being separated from God. We are created in God’s image, but we enter the world spiritually separated from Him. Because God is perfect, the stain of disobedience (sin) puts us in a state of opposition from Him. The good news is that we don’t have to stay separated. By ourselves, we cannot bridge the gap of separation. But God can and does bridge a way to Him, and that is the story the Bible tells.

Take a moment to reflect upon these questions:

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 3: Where Are You?

Adam and Eve suddenly realized that they were naked once they disobeyed. They were fearful and shameful. In reaction, they attempted to hide from God.

Read Genesis 3:9. What did God ask Adam and Eve?

Knowing that God is all knowing and that he knew where they were, what do you think God was getting at in this question?

God was not asking for their location. He was asking about their condition.

Essentially, He was asking, “Where is your heart? What are you thinking to blatantly disregard me and then think you can hide?”

This isn’t just a history lesson; this is a present lesson.

Take a few minutes and imagine God asking you right now, “Where are you?”

Don’t edit your answer or feel that you have to share this with anyone except Him.

Read Genesis 3:10. What is Adam’s response to God’s question?

Often, the blame game follows after we have disobeyed.

Read Genesis 3:12-13. Who does Adam blame? Who does Eve blame?

Read Genesis 3:15.

Who is speaking in Genesis 3:15, and who is he speaking to?

Do you think that this eliminates repercussions for Adam and Eve's choice to disobey? Read Genesis 3:16-19 and list some of the ways that sin will continue to affect future generations.

After Adam and Eve are sent out of the garden, this pattern of sin continues in their children. One of their sons (Cain) murders his brother (Abel) out of anger. Cain has a son named Enoch. Adam and Eve later have another son named Seth.

If you're wondering how the earth filled with all these people, read Genesis 5:4. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 more years and had more sons and daughters and so on and so on.

One of the descendents from Seth was Enoch (same name as Cain's son, but different Enoch).

Read Genesis 5:22-24. Describe Enoch's relationship with God.

Let's take a look at how much time passed between people and events. It's helpful to see the big picture. Read Genesis 5:21-32 and fill in the following names:

Enoch fathered _____

Who fathered _____

Who fathered _____

Who fathered _____, _____, and _____.

Unfortunately, humanity continued to decline.

Read Genesis 6:5-8.

God is reflecting the way His creation is behaving, and He is grieved by how far they have wandered. He knows that it will only get worse. He determines that the best way to deal with this is to wipe out creation.

This seems aggressive, but we must remember that we aren't God. His ways are higher than our ways. We may not understand why, but we are invited to trust Him. It would be impossible to put ourselves in God's place because His standards are not our own. He is entirely separate from us, and He is fully sovereign. Simultaneously, God is fully love, so what He does is ultimately loving- whether we can understand that or not.

So Far: God created the world.
God created people.
Adam and Eve sinned.
The fall put creation under the curse of sin.

Take a moment to reflect with questions and thoughts you're having right now.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 4: The Flood

The lives of Noah and his family were spared during the flood. God spoke to Noah and told him the flood was coming and to build the ark in order to keep his family safe. Along with his family, Noah was instructed to bring seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, one pair of every kind of unclean animal, and every kind of bird in order to keep them alive and reproduce for future generations.

Read Genesis 7:4. How long did it rain?

In the Bible, every time the number 40 is used, it indicates a time of testing.

Read Genesis 7:24. The water didn't dry up after 40 days, it just stopped raining then. How long did it take for the water to clear?

Read Genesis 8:20. Once they did get off the boat, what's the first thing they did?

This points to one of the central themes in Scripture: Sacrifice is a symbol for our need of atonement.

Sacrifice: demonstrated our need to be made right with God

Atonement: the reconciliation between God and humankind
accomplished through Jesus Christ.

Read Genesis 3:21. What was the first sacrifice made? Who made it and for what purpose?

Animal sacrifices were modeled by God and required by Him for atonement. Read Genesis 8:20-21. Noah's immediate action after returning to land was seen as honorable and good by God, who called it a pleasing aroma (Genesis 8:21).

Read Genesis 9:1-13. God blesses Noah for his faithfulness and then tells him to do something. What did God tell Noah to do in Genesis 9:1?

What promise does God make? What symbol does God use for His promise?

Often, we'll see a rainbow in the sky and think, "cool" or even take a picture and post it on Instagram. In actuality, this is more than a cool picture. It's a symbol that even when we didn't deserve it, God gave us a second chance.

These events are important to remember because we can easily forget that this is all God's, and He can do anything. He chooses to give us second chances. He chooses to love us. There's nothing we can do to earn this. Amen.

Take a moment to reflect with questions and thoughts you're having right now.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 5: Job & Babel

One of the reasons that the Bible can be difficult to understand as one complete story is that the events didn't occur in the order that we read it.

The Book of Job is the 18th book in the Bible, but it actually occurred sometime shortly after the flood, right around where we are in this chapter. Job was written about a man named Job who suffered greatly– he lost his family, health, and wealth in a short amount of time.

Read Job 1:6-12. Write a brief summary of what is happening in these verses.

We may be feeling some anger here. God has allowed Satan to do whatever he wants with Job, but he cannot take his life. Why would God allow this? It seems cruel and unnecessary.

The name Job means faithfulness amidst suffering.

Job exhibits just this– faithfulness in the middle of suffering. Job believes God is good, especially when He does not understand it.

What experiences in your life have caused you to struggle with believing God is good and that He loves you? Where are you now with these experiences? Take some time to talk to God about this.

Read Genesis 11 and answer the following:

- At this point in history, how many languages did the earth have? (v. 1)
- What did people suggest that they do? (v. 4)
- Why do you think they chose to do this?

Ultimately, humans began to make decisions that elevated themselves and not God. The problem is that we don't belong on that pedestal; only God does. The Tower of Babel was a monument built by people to declare their own importance. When we do this, we begin to worship ourselves rather than giving our worship to the one true God.

God saw this and intervened. He scrambled everyone's ability to understand language and had them spread out rather than accumulating power together. He was reinforcing our need for humility. When we put ourselves above God, we are declaring ourselves independent of Him.

By declaring ourselves independent of God, what do we lose? What are we hoping to gain? How can this be in our best interest?

Take a minute and summarize the main storyline of Genesis up until this point. Reflect on the nature of humans and God. What are some of the patterns of behavior of humans?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

WEEK 2

Group Discussion

- Using a whiteboard or paper, write down the major plot points covered so far. (Keep this for future weeks)
- What new truths did you learn from your study this week?
- What do you think God was actually asking when He called to Adam, “Where are you?” in Genesis 3:9? How do you think God calls to us in the same way?
- What impacts you most about Noah’s story? Why?
- What experiences in your life have caused you to struggle with believing God is good and that He loves you?

NOTES



WEEK 2

On Your Own

Introduction

This week we'll be looking at the period of time in the Bible known as the patriarchs. This is found in Genesis 12-50. Here's an outline of where we are going:

- God called Abram to begin the redemptive process.
- God renames Abram to Abraham and his son Jacob to Israel.
- The 12 sons of Israel = the 12 Tribes of Israel
- Joseph
- Egypt

DAY 1: Abram & The Covenant

We left off at the Tower of Babel. God scattered the people.

Read Genesis 11:1-26. Terah was a descendant of which of Noah's sons?

We discover a bit more about Noah's son, Shem, in Genesis 9:18-27. Here, Noah gets intoxicated and is found naked in his tent. Ham, another of Noah's sons, saw him naked and told his brothers.

Read Genesis 9:23. How did Shem and Japheth respond to their father's state?

As a result of Shem and Japheth protecting their father's honor, they received their father's blessing. Several generations later, Terah was born from this family line.

The word blessing comes from the greek word eulogia. It means:

- praise (of God)
- fine discourse/polished language
- an invocation of blessing or benediction (i.e. an invocation of divine help, blessing, and guidance/a prayer asking for God's help, protection, and guidance)
- Consecration
- a concrete blessing or benefit

Receiving the blessing was a big responsibility. It was a symbol of empowerment that God was specifically using you to be a vessel for making God known and for taking care of your family. Terah was born several generations into his family's line of blessing from Noah.

Read Genesis 11:31 and answer the following: (Mark it on the map below.)

- Where did they start?
- Where did they plan to go?
- Where did they actually end up?



At the conclusion of Genesis 11, Terah dies in Harran. From there (as seen in Genesis 12), Abram and Sarai receive a pivotal assignment from God. In this short account of God's words to Abram, we see a beginning stitch of a bigger story of God's love for this chosen group of people.

Read Genesis 12:1.

- Who is speaking to Abram?
- What does God tell Abram to do?
- Where does He say Abram will end up?

Fill in the blanks for Genesis 12:2-3:

"I will make you into a great _____ ,
and I will _____ you;
I will make your _____ great,
and you will be a _____ .
I will _____ those who bless you,
and whoever _____ you I will curse;
and all peoples on _____
will be blessed through _____."

Read Genesis 12:4. What does Abram do in response?

In order for Abram to do what God asked him to do, what did that require of him?

Reflect: Is it difficult for you to trust and obey God? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 12:5. Where was Abram headed?

What does God tell Abram he is going to do in Genesis 12:7?

Read Genesis 12:10. Why did Abram and his family move from there?

Because of these circumstances, Abram and his family move to Egypt. While they are there, Abram lies to Pharaoh (ruler of Egypt), telling him that Sarai is his sister, rather than his wife. He does this because Pharaoh fell in love with her, and Abram was too afraid to challenge him. Pharaoh ends up learning that they are husband and wife and sends them out of Egypt; they return to Canaan (Genesis 20).

Once they get to Canaan, they discover that the land cannot sustain Abram and his nephew, Lot. They decide to split up. Lot chooses the valley region near the Dead Sea because he thinks it will be the most fertile. He finds that the land is too low to grow anything, and the people there are wicked (Genesis 18-19).

Read Genesis 19:23-26. What does Lot's wife do and what happens as a result?

We continue to see more wickedness, with hints of God's redemption. Lot's daughters got their father drunk and slept with him and became pregnant by him (Genesis 19:30-38).

The younger daughter names her son _____, and he becomes the father of the _____. (Genesis 19:38)

We'll hear of these families again, so take note of this.

Back in Genesis 15, God establishes His covenant with Abram. Through this covenant, Abram becomes the father of the chosen people of God to rescue the world.

Read Genesis 15. What does God tell Abram will happen?

When two people entered into a covenant in that day, they would take part in a ritual. The Hebrew word covenant is barath. To enter into barath, two parties would divide a sacrifice (they would sacrifice animals, cut them in half, and walk between them while reciting the conditions of the covenant).

Read Genesis 15:12. What do we discover about Abram's condition during the covenant process?

This means that God made the covenant with Abram and that God alone is obligated to uphold His end of the promise. God took all of the responsibility: only He can keep this promise, for all time, no matter what.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 2: Ishmael & Isaac

Read Genesis 15. What are some of the main things that stand out to you?

A few years go by, and Sarai doesn't get pregnant, so she decides to take matters into her own hands. She tells Abram to father a child through her maidservant, Hagar. At this time in history, the child would be considered Sarai and Abram's. Because Sarai was beyond conceiving years, biologically, she thought this was the only way God could carry out his promise.

Hagar and Abram conceive a baby. During Hagar's pregnancy, she feels mistreated by Sarai and decides to run away. During her journey, God speaks to her.

Read Genesis 16:7-15. What does God tell Hagar about the child she is pregnant with?

Following Ishmael's birth, God speaks to Abram and changes his name.

Read Genesis 17.

What is Abram's new name? What does this new name mean?

How long does God declare his covenant with him?

What is Abraham's part of the covenant as instructed by God?

What stands out to you about:

Sarai's part in the covenant?

What about Ishmael?

What about every male in Abraham's household?

Three angels visit Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18). Sarah laughs at their news of her conceiving a baby.

Why do you think she laughed? Have you ever laughed at something God shared with you? Why?

A few months later, Sarah delivered a baby boy named Isaac, which means "laughter." Genesis 21 tells us that Ishmael was found making fun of his little brother, Isaac. Hagar and Ishmael are sent away.

Read Genesis 21:11-20. What stands out to you about Ishmael's story?

Ultimately, Ishmael becomes the father of the Arab people, and Isaac is the father of the Jews.

Read Genesis 22:1 and fill in the blanks:

Sometime later God _____ Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"
" _____," he replied.

Genesis 22 tells of Abraham being tested by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. There is a big difference between testing and temptation.

James 1:13-18 says: 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

What does the above verse say about temptation?

James 1:2-4 says: 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

What does James tell us about trials?

Temptation and trials are very different from one another. God uses tests because He knows we can make the choice that reflects our trust and love for Him. Tests allow us to honor Him and strengthen our obedience. Temptation invites us into a situation where the desire is for us to fail; this is from Satan. God wants us to grow in our faith. When testing comes our way, we must remember the character of God, just like Abraham did. He trusted God.

As Abraham is about to sacrifice his son, read what God says in Genesis 22:12-14. What does Abraham call this place?

Reflecting on what you know about Jesus, how are Isaac and Jesus's story similar and different?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 3: Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob

Fast forward a few years– Sarah has died and Abraham is still living. Before Abraham dies, he sends his servant to find a wife for his son, Isaac.

Read Genesis 24:1-4. Where did Abraham want his servant to find a wife for Isaac?

Abraham’s servant finds the woman to be Isaac’s bride, Rebekah. Rebekah becomes pregnant with twins and notices them rumbling in her womb as if they were fighting.

Read Genesis 25:23. What is the reason God gives Rebekah for the babies fighting in her womb?

Jacob and Esau grew up. Jacob enjoyed staying close to home, while Esau was a skillful hunter. The boys’ competitiveness comes to a head when Jacob tricks his brother out of his own birthright.

Read Genesis 25:27-34. In your own words, describe what happened.

Read Genesis 27:18-29. How did Jacob trick his father, Isaac?

What part did Rebekah play in this?

As the first born according to the custom, Esau was to receive the birthright and the blessing.

- Birthright= inheritance
- Blessing= designation of who would be the head of household after the father died.

Esau is furious with his brother. What has happened can't be taken back. Rebekah tells Jacob to flee before his brother finds him. While Jacob is running to safety, he has a dream.

Read Genesis 28:10-15. Describe Jacob's dream.

Most often there are natural consequences for our poor choices, especially intentional, selfish plots like Jacob's. Sometimes we don't exactly get what we deserve, but we get grace and mercy instead. God is bigger than we can imagine and uses any situation He chooses to bring about His will... even Jacob and Esau's story. In this dream, God promises that He will make Jacob into a great many nations. This speaks to God's faithfulness in the covenant with Abraham, and He is seeing it through no matter what.

Jacob heads toward Haran to seek refuge among Rebekah's brother, Laban. There, Jacob meets and falls in love with Laban's daughter, Rachel. Jacob agrees to work for Laban for seven years in exchange for his daughter. When the day of the wedding arrives, Laban tricks Jacob.

Read Genesis 29:21-35. How did Laban trick Jacob?

What does Jacob have to do in order to marry Rachel?

Why did God allow Leah to have children (v. 31)?

Write down the names of Leah's children.

What does Leah say when her fourth son, Judah, is born?

- Judah would become the father of future generations leading to Jesus.

In the meantime, Rachel cannot conceive. Like Sarah, she gives her maidservant to Jacob to conceive two sons.

Read Genesis 30:22-24. What does God allow?

Knowing how Jacob feels about Rachel, how do you think Joseph was treated in comparison to Jacob's other sons?

Jacob is ready to move away from his father-in-law, but Laban does not want him to go. Jacob ends up fleeing with his wives and children. Along the way, Jacob receives word that Esau is headed his way (Genesis 32:6). Jacob is afraid that his brother is coming to seek revenge. He splits his people up into a few different camps to protect them and tells his wives and children to go on ahead of him. While Jacob is alone, a miraculous encounter occurs.

Read Genesis 32:22-32.

What did Jacob tell the man? (v.26)

How did the stranger respond to him?

Whom did Jacob wrestle with?

God didn't leave Jacob the way he found him. He changed his name to Israel and left him with a permanent limp to REMEMBER this night.

Re-read Genesis 32:28. What does the name Israel mean?

How can you relate to this name?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



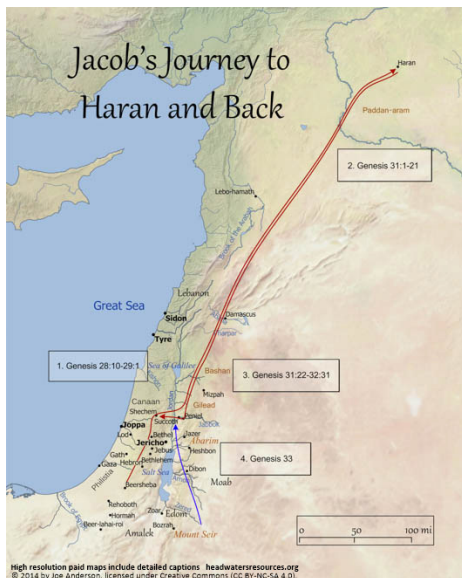
DAY 4: Israel

Jacob must now face his brother, Esau.

Read Genesis 33:1-4. How does Esau respond to seeing Jacob?

Does Esau's response surprise you? Why do you think he responded this way?

Genesis 35:1 tells us that Jacob took his family to Bethel. Feel free to mark their journey on the map:



1. They began in Haran (Laban's territory).
2. They fled toward Canaan (Genesis 31:18).
3. Jacob wrestled with God in Penuel (Genesis 2:30).
4. They arrived in Shechem (Genesis 33:18).
5. God told them to go to Bethel (Genesis 35:1).
6. Rachel dies on the way to Ephrath (Bethlehem) while giving birth to Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-20).

Read Genesis 35:23-26 & take account of Jacob's sons below:

List the names of Leah's sons:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Rachel's sons:

- 1.
- 2.

Bilhah's sons (Rachel's maidservant):

- 1.
- 2.

Zilpah's sons (Leah's maidservant):

- 1.
- 2.

That is a total of 12. These are the 12 tribes of Israel, although this translates a little differently.

Each of these sons moves on to father a tribe that then gets a plot of land. Levi's tribe become the priests, and they do not get a plot of land because the Lord is considered their "land." Therefore, only 11 of the tribes get land.

Joseph does not receive land either. If you remember, he was Jacob's favorite, and therefore Joseph's two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) get their own land. In some ways, it's like Joseph doubled up.

If you take away Levi and Joseph, but then add Manasseh and Ephraim back in, you get 12.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 5: Joseph

Joseph was Rachel's first born son, born later in Jacob's life, and he was Jacob's favorite son. Unfortunately, everyone knew this, and bitterness grew between Joseph and the rest of his brothers. Jacob made a point to let everyone know that Joseph was special and gave him an ornate robe (Genesis 37:3).

Read Genesis 37:1-11. What did Joseph tell his brothers about his dreams?

Read Genesis 37:17-36. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

How did Jacob respond?

Where did Joseph end up?

Joseph is taken to Egypt by his captors and sold as a slave. Potiphar, his owner, begins to trust Joseph until Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of raping her. Joseph is then thrown in prison, and he begins to interpret dreams for the prisoners. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, learns of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams and asks him to interpret his dream.

Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh that Egypt was going to have an abundance of food for the next seven years, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to stock up the extra food, so there would be plenty during the famine. Pharaoh followed Joseph's advice.

Because of Joseph's gift and wisdom, Pharaoh makes him second in command over all of Egypt. When the famine came, Egypt had plenty, but the surrounding areas suffered. During this time, something dramatic happens.

Read Genesis 42:6-20. Who shows up in Egypt?

Who is missing?

What does Joseph tell them to do? (Genesis 42:20)

Why do you think Joseph asks them to do this?

When the brothers return home to their father, Israel (Jacob), they tell him that they must return with Benjamin.

Read Genesis 43:26-31. Who does Joseph ask about?

What brings Joseph to tears?

Read Genesis 45. In your own words, describe what happens.

What surprised you or inspires you from Genesis 45?

Jacob goes to Egypt to be reunited with Joseph. Pharaoh blesses Jacob and gives him the best of the land along with plenty of food. It's a beautiful ending.

Read Genesis 47:29-31. What is Jacob's dying request?

Why does Israel make this request?

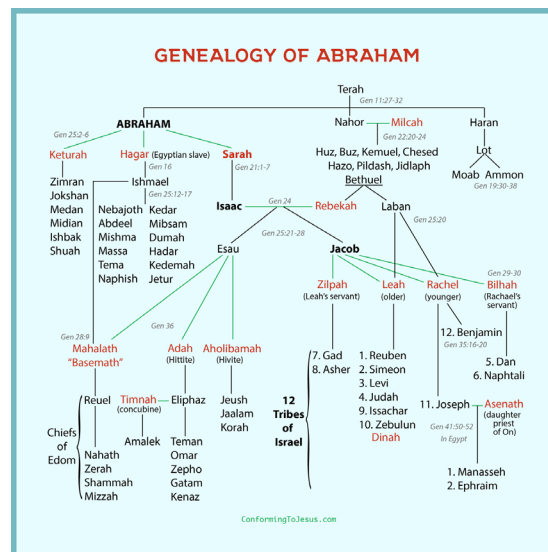
Read Genesis 49:28-33. What do you learn about the place where Jacob will be buried?

Following Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers become fearful that Joseph will turn his back on them.

Read Genesis 50:19-21. What is Joseph's response to his brothers' fear?

The book of Genesis concludes with the death of Joseph. Joseph dies and is buried in Egypt.

Before his death, what did Joseph tell his brothers in Genesis 50:24-25?



- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



WEEK 3

Group Discussion



- Using a whiteboard or paper, write down the major plot points covered so far. (Keep this for future weeks)
- What is distinctive about a covenant? What is significant about the covenant God made with Abram?
- In what ways do you think Jacob’s night wrestling with God changed his life? Describe a time when you have wrestled with God and it changed your character.
- What aspect of Joseph’s life impacts you the most? Why?
- How do people like Abraham, Sarah, or Jacob—people who made mistakes and experienced God’s grace and love—give you hope?
- How does the fear of “getting what you deserve” hold you back from experiencing God’s grace and transformation?
- How are you encouraged to live differently as a result of seeing God’s love and faithfulness?

NOTES



WEEK 3

On Your Own

Introduction:

This week we will examine the Book of Exodus and the journey to the Promised Land. We will specifically look at:

- The oppression of Hebrews and Moses
- The Hebrews wander for 40 years
- God gives the Law to Moses
- The Promised Land
- Judges

DAY 1: Oppression

The people of Israel went to Egypt during the famine. Years later, the Israelites became a threat to the Egyptians because their population grew in great numbers; They were treated as slaves, but still their numbers grew. Because Pharaoh feared they might gain too much power, He tells the midwives to kill any baby boys born to the Israelites.

Read Exodus 1:17. How did the midwives respond to Pharaoh's decree?

Read Exodus 2:1-10. What happens when Moses is born?

This is the second time we have seen a Hebrew becoming a part of Pharaoh's family. Moses was supposed to be thrown in the water to die. Instead, he was placed there by his mother and was rescued.

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's family, knowing that he was a Hebrew. When he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave, he becomes enraged and kills the Egyptian.

When Pharaoh hears of this, he sets out to kill Moses. Moses flees to Midian.

Read Exodus 2:23-25. What happens while Moses is in Midian?

Read Exodus 3:1-6. How does God speak to Moses?

How does Moses respond to God?

What does God remind Moses of in Exodus 3:6?

Read Exodus 3:7-22. What stands out to you about God's instructions? What stands out to you about Moses' response?

Moses and his brother Aaron go to Pharaoh, and just as God said he would, Pharaoh refuses to release the Israelites to freedom. Consequently, God sends ten plagues to punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The plagues were especially personal to the Egyptians because they worshiped many "nature gods." Each of the plagues dismantled the power of the gods the Egyptians worshiped, and showed the power of the one true God. The tenth plague was especially painful: the death of every firstborn child in Egypt.

Just before the last plague, God commands the Israelites to kill a spotless lamb and put its blood on the doorpost of their home. During the night of the plague, God passes over every marked house, protecting the firstborn children of His people. This is what we call Passover.

Jewish tradition commemorates Passover each Spring. It is also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the Bible because the Israelites had to leave Egypt so quickly that they couldn't wait for their bread to rise. Passover is celebrated with bread and food without yeast for this reason (Exodus 12:14-15).

In the New Testament, Jesus was referred to as the spotless lamb on our behalf, protecting us from death. Scriptures have pointed consistently to the need for a sacrifice as a substitution for atonement. From the beginning of time, to Moses, all the way to Jesus, we have seen sacrifices made all for the purposes of bringing us back into an unobstructed relationship with God.

List the instances in the Bible where we have seen a sacrifice made as a substitution?

The Bible points to the incredible love God has for us and how that was fulfilled in the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Keep this in your mind and heart as we walk through these next few weeks and months.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 2: Wandering

During the last plague, all the Egyptian firstborn sons died, except for those with the Passover blood on their doors, including Pharaoh's son. Pharaoh, devastated and grieving, finally tells the Israelites what they've hoped to hear: to leave. God leads them with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night.

Read Exodus 14:5-9. What does Pharaoh decide to do?

As Pharaoh approaches, the Israelites panic. They want to go back.

Read Exodus 14:13-14. What does Moses say to them?

Read Exodus 14:15-31. Describe what happens.

According to Exodus 14:30-31, how did the Israelites respond?

While the Israelites are wandering in the desert, God gives them the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the commandments isn't about keeping a checklist so that we'll be good. The point is that we need God- we were made by Him and for Him. Soon after, God instituted more rules for the Israelites to follow, which is recorded in the Book of Leviticus.

Read Exodus 25:8. What does God tell the Israelites to make and why?

Read Exodus 40:3. What separated the ark of the covenant from the rest of the tabernacle?

The curtain, or veil, serves a powerful meaning later on in the story of God and His people. The curtain symbolizes that we are sinful and cannot stand before a perfect and holy God as we are. The curtain protected us until our perfect substitution and sacrifice came in the form of Jesus. It was at the exact moment of Christ's death that the curtain in the tabernacle was supernaturally torn in two.

Leviticus 16 tells how, once a year, the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, beyond the curtain. The instructions were very specific. An offering or substitution would be made on behalf of the people. This is called the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur, and is considered the holiest day of the year in Jewish custom.

Why don't Christ followers celebrate Yom Kippur?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 3: The Promised Land

The Israelites wander in the wilderness for forty years. During this time, they flip-flop between being disappointed, disbelieving, and disobedient to God. God provided, they were grateful, then they grew weary and went their own way. The Book of Numbers tells the story of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years.

Have you seen this pattern in your life or someone you know?

Reflect on how God has provided for you.

After forty years of wandering, the Israelites arrive at the entrance of Canaan, the Promised Land. Moses sends 12 spies to check out the land and see what is happening there.

Read Numbers 13:25. How long were the spies in the land? What is the significance of this amount of time?

Ten of the twelve spies don't believe that they can take the land.

Read Numbers 14:26-38. What is the consequence of their unbelief?

Who is the exception to the above?

Read Deuteronomy 1:6-8. What does Moses say?

Think about a time when you have been called to trust God more than your circumstances?

What did you learn from that experience?

Deuteronomy is a collection of Moses' final speeches.

Moses passes his leadership on.

Read Deuteronomy 31:7-8. Who does Moses name as the new leader of the Israelites?

Read through Deuteronomy 34. What is most interesting or noteworthy to you.

God did not allow Moses to enter into the land that had been promised to the Israelites because of an act of disobedience (Numbers 20: 2-11). But God honored Moses and buried him Himself in his death.

Have you ever worked hard toward something, but did not get to experience the fullness of that work (you didn't enter the "promised land")?

Reflect on your motivation, intent, and growth in your relationship with God through this. Although you didn't experience the fruit of your labor, did it benefit others in the future?

The first time the Israelites got to the promised land, all they had to do was walk in. Because of their lack of faith in God, they had to wait an additional forty years to learn to trust God. When they approached the promised land the second time, they came from the east and had to cross the Jordan River at flood stage.

Why do you think God would have them do this?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 4: Joshua

Since Moses has died, the Lord now speaks to Joshua- the new leader of the Israelites.

Read Joshua 1:1-9. What does God tell Joshua is going to happen?

Joshua sends spies into Jericho again (a city that is a part of Canaan- the promised land). They meet a woman named Rahab who agrees to hide them on her rooftop and lies to the authorities about it.

Read Joshua 2:8-14.

Why does she take this risk?

What does she ask for in return?

Read Joshua 2:15-24.

What does Rahab put out from her window for the spies to know her location?

What other major event(s) does this remind you of how God has saved us?

The Israelites are ready to cross over the Jordan River to enter Canaan. Remember, they are carrying the ark of the covenant with them and it is flood season. Joshua has specific instructions for how they will cross the Jordan.

Read Joshua 3:5-17.

Who is first in crossing the Jordan River?

What happens when their feet touch the water?

What other major event does this remind you of in how God parted waters to allow us to cross over?

As we see above, God uses repetition to help us remember his love and faithfulness toward us. He also asks us to construct physical reminders as well.

Read Joshua 4:1-7.

What does God instruct them to do and why?

Joshua 6 tells of Joshua leading the Israelites to march around the walls of Jericho as commanded by God. Joshua is obedient to God in his leadership, and the walls of Jericho came down.

Have you ever felt like God called you to do something that seemed crazy? Did you do it? What happened?

The Book of Joshua continues to tell how God brought the Israelites into Canaan through Joshua's leadership. The Israelites continue the same pattern of behavior—grumbling, disobedience, hardship, and obedience. Eventually the 12 tribes obtain land. Joshua grows old, but before he dies he reminds the Israelites what God has required of them.

Describe a time when you realized you had a pattern of behavior that was destructive toward yourself or others? What did you do when you realized your destructive pattern of behavior?

Read Joshua 23. What commands stand out to you?

Joshua 24:1-15 retells the Israelites' history starting from the covenant God made with Abraham.

Read Joshua 24:1-15. Sketch out a timeline of Joshua's retelling. Circle the events that personally stood out to you.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 5: Judges

The Israelites conquered most of Canaan but not all of it. This was problematic because the Canaanites worshiped other gods and often led the Israelites away from the one true God. In Joshua, God commanded the Israelites to drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites (Joshua 3:10). These groups were so far away from God (practicing child sacrifice, bestiality, etc.) that God knew that their influence would be devastating to the Israelites, His people.

Soon enough, the Israelites begin to worship Canaanite gods and fall away from God. This was a common pattern of behavior with the Israelites.

Is this still true for us today? Explain why or why not.

Read Judges 2:11-15. What happened as a result of the Israelites' disobedience?

In response, God raises up Judges to keep the people focused on Him and their calling. A Judge is a combination of a military deliverer and civil ruler. During this time, 12 Judges governed Israel:

1. Othniel
2. Ehud
3. Shamgar
4. Deborah
5. Gideon
6. Tola
7. Jair
8. Jephthah
9. Ibzan
10. Elon
11. Abdon
12. Samson

(Eli & Samuel are sometimes referred to as judges)

The Israelites continued old patterns of behavior with each judge. God would raise up a judge and the people would follow. But when the judge died, the people would rebel and sin, and foreign forces would overtake and oppress them. The people would then cry out and repent, and the Lord would raise up another judge to deliver and lead them.

The period of judges ends with Samuel.

Read 1 Samuel chapter 1. How did Samuel end up under the wing of Eli the priest?

Read 1 Samuel chapter 3. What does God tell Samuel?

Samuel continues to serve the Lord, and Eli dies. During this time, the Israelites are wanting to be a nation and have a king like other nations.

Read 1 Samuel 8: 6-9. How does God respond to the Israelites' request?

God called His people to be set apart; to not be like other nations, but they insisted on having their way.

In what ways have you been called to be set apart? Where has this been a struggle for you? In what ways have you been obedient to this? What have you learned from this experience?

If you have insisted on having your way, how has God responded to you? Why do you think he has responded this way?

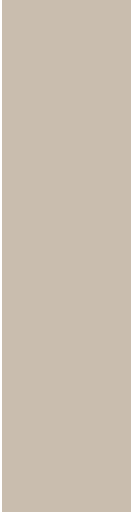
- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



WEEK 4

Group Discussion

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- What part of Moses' life builds your faith in God?
 - Has God ever rescued you in a way you would never have imagined? How did this experience strengthen your faith in God?
 - What stands out to you about the Passover? How do you connect that to your relationship with Jesus?
 - Why do you think God allowed for His people to wander in the wilderness for 40 years?

• In what ways are you called to be set apart from the world? What does this look like in your life?

• Describe a situation where you doubted that God was for you. What caused your doubt?

NOTES



WEEK 4

On Your Own

Introduction:

We have seen the Israelites unite together and escape slavery and oppression in Egypt in search for the Promised Land. They entered and divided up the land among the 12 Tribes. Unfortunately, they did not conquer all of the people in Canaan and experienced their negative influence (worshipping false gods, etc.).

God wants the Israelites (and us) to worship Him, the one true God. The Israelites wanted to look like surrounding nations; this meant wanting a king. Although Samuel warned them that they weren't called to be like everyone else and that this would be a bad decision, they insisted anyway. This week we'll be examining kingdoms and the prophets in the Old Testament. Here's a map of where we are going:

- One Kingdom
- The Temple
- Kingdom Divided
- Exile
- Return

DAY 1: King Saul

The first king was Saul. Samuel met Saul, and God confirmed Saul as king. Initially, Saul was humble, but he didn't stay that way. Starting out, he was a strong leader and dominated in battle. Eventually, Saul disobeyed Samuel's instructions from God. Saul acted out of his own will instead of God's, and as a result, Samuel delivered a difficult message to Saul, also known as a prophecy.

1 Samuel tells how God gave the Israelites a king.

Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14. What does Samuel tell Saul will happen as a result of his disobedience.

How does Samuel describe the next king who will take Saul's place?

Read 1 Samuel 15:24-25. How does Saul respond to Samuel?

Have you ever let other people's opinions influence your actions? What has been the outcome?

It was common during Saul's time, and in some nations today, that kings ruled until their death and were replaced by a son. Because of Saul's disobedience, God removed kingship from Saul's family. Therefore, Saul's son Jonathan was not crowned king. Instead God told Samuel that the next king would come from the house of Jesse.

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7. What is Samuel's reaction when he meets Jesse's son Eliab?

What does the Lord tell Samuel in response?

Samuel met all of Jesse's sons that he was introduced to. There was one son Jesse did not introduce— David. David was not considered much of a warrior and was a shepherd boy who tended sheep in the fields.

Read 1 Samuel 16:12-13. What happened when Samuel met David?

In the meantime, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and he began to be tormented (1 Samuel 16:14).

Read 1 Samuel 16:19-20. Who does Saul send for to care for him?

A pivotal moment happens when Saul is leading the Israelites in battle against the Philistines, especially in the face of Goliath.

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-51. Describe what happens.

Following this, David and Saul's son, Jonathan become best friends. Saul grows increasingly jealous of David and plots to kill him. David flees for his life and spends more than a decade running from Saul.

Psalms are songs of worship expressing many types of emotions. Many of these were written by David, especially during the time when he was running for his life from Saul.

Read Psalm 59. This was written by David during this time. What stands out to you?

During a battle, soon after, Saul heard that his three eldest sons were killed and that the Philistines were coming close.

Read 1 Samuel 31. How does Saul's life end?

Saul was king from about 1050 to 1010 B.C.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 2: King David

2 Samuel tells of the kingdom of David.

David began as a shepherd boy and harpist, but he was also hand-picked by God to be king. We see that David is a pivotal person in God's story. He was an underdog, but God knew his heart. David was from the tribe of Judah, therefore Judah's tribe was excited for David to become king. The Northern tribes did not support it; they chose one of Saul's sons to be king, but eventually decided to get on board with David as their king. David was a great force to unite the tribes into a united nation. He captured Jerusalem and made it the capital.

Read 2 Samuel 7:2. What do you think David meant by this?

To whom was David speaking?

The tabernacle was built during the Exodus when the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness. They saw the tabernacle as God living with them. David desired to build something permanent for the ark of the covenant and God confirmed it.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17. What did God promise regarding David and his family?

Read 2 Samuel 7:18. What was David's response? How would you describe his posture toward God?

2 Samuel chapters 1-10 describe David's humility toward God, his righteousness, and his success as a leader. In chapter 11, we see a shift that defines the rest of his life.

Read 2 Samuel 11. What are the main events in this chapter?

How did God respond to David's actions?

Read 2 Samuel 12:13-14. What did Nathan, the prophet at this time, tell David would happen as a result of his sin?

Often, when tragedies happen in our lives, we blame ourselves. The truth is that "karma" is not of the Lord. At times, we will experience natural consequences and more often we receive mercy and grace. In this instance, the Word is clear about why David's son dies. The truth is that we are not God, therefore we will not understand why certain things happen and other things don't.

Read Psalm 103, written by King David. What stands out to you in this psalm?

Read John 9:1-3. For what reason does Jesus state that the man was blind?

Read Romans 8:18-28. What do these verses say about:

Our present sufferings?

Creation?

Our lives?

The Holy Spirit?

God's actions?

Psalm 51 was written by David after Nathan delivered this terrible news.

Read Psalm 51.

David was considered a man after God's own heart, but not because he didn't sin.

David was known as someone who loved God because he kept coming back to Him.

May our hearts be united with His in this way.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 3: The Temple

The Old Testament has six history books:

- 1 & 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings (King Solomon)
- 2 Kings (various kings of Israel & Judah)
- 1 and 2 Kings are one ongoing narrative that discusses the political history of this time period.

- 1 Chronicles

- 2 Chronicles

Covers the same time period, but “chronicles” the religious history of this time period.

The books of the prophets also fit into this time period.

One of David’s sons, Absalom, attempted to steal the throne from David. In response, David fled for his life from his own son. A battle followed, and Absalom died. Even though Absalom turned against his father, David was still devastated by his death.

2 Samuel 12:24 tells us that David and Bathsheba have another son, Solomon. Before David passed away, he left some instructions for Solomon.

Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. What did David tell Solomon?

When Solomon became king, he made a special request to God.

Read 1 Kings 3:7-9. What was Solomon’s request?

God granted Solomon his request of wisdom. Solomon went on to build the temple for God that David, his father, dreamed of. Solomon became known for his wisdom. The first 10 chapters of 1 Kings tell of Solomon’s success as a leader. The second half tells of his downfall.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-6. What was the root of Solomon's downfall?

Because of Solomon's sin, God allowed a split in the kingdom after Solomon died. The Northern Kingdom (10 tribes, called Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (tribes of Judah and Benjamin, called Judah). Each had a series of kings and caused chaos and apostasy (abandoning of their faith) for hundreds of years.

In 722 B.C., the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom, and 125 years later, the Babylonians conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah. After 70 years of exile, God brought the tribe of Judah back to reestablish their nation.

Read 2 Chronicles 36:15-23. What did the King of Chaldeans do to Jerusalem, including the temple?

According to 2 Chronicles 36:21, how long were the Jews exiled?

If you were living during this time, what do you think your reaction would be?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 4: The Prophets - Part 1

Let's do a quick overview.

Joshua led God's people to take over the land God promised them. The Israelites rebelled against God repeatedly, and God allowed them to be defeated and taken as slaves into foreign lands.

Your turn:

- King David's son, _____ built the temple that housed the ark of the covenant.

- Solomon sinned against God by taking _____ wives and worshiping their gods.

- Because of this sin, the 12 tribes split into 2 nations. The 10 northern tribes were called _____. The 2 southern tribes were called _____.

- The northern tribes were defeated by the _____, and the southern tribes were defeated by the _____.

- As a result, God's people were dispersed for _____ years.

Answer Key: Solomon, many, Israel, Judah, Assyrians, Babylonians, 70

Here is an overview of the history we have covered thus far:

- 1 Samuel: the birth of Samuel to the death of Saul
- 2 Samuel: King David's life
- 1 Kings (ch. 1-11): King Solomon's life
- 1 Kings (ch. 12-22) - 2 Kings (ch. 1-16): history of the 20 kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom), 20 kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom), & the destruction of Israel by Assyria
- 2 Kings (ch. 17-25): Babylon takes Judah captive

Reflect on what stands out to you about each of the following kings:

- Saul

- David

- Solomon

Here's a brief overview of the history we've been discussing to the end of the Old Testament (800 years of history!)

1. The kingdom was united (all 12 tribes under one kingdom).
2. The kingdom divided: Northern (Israel) & Southern (Judah) Kingdoms.
3. The Assyrians conquered Israel.
4. The Babylonians conquered Judah.
5. Judah was exiled for 70 years.
6. Some of the exiles came back to rebuild the temple (post-exilic period).
7. End of Old Testament.

During the time that the kingdom divided through the end of the Old Testament, God sent prophets to give messages to his people. The Bible records 17 of these prophets.

The prophets of the divided kingdom spoke to Israel before they were defeated by the Assyrians. They were:

- Jonah - the only foreign missionary who was sent to preach to the Assyrians
- Amos - urged the Northern Tribes to turn back to God
- Hosea - illustrated God's love for His people

JONAH: God showed his love for our enemies through Jonah. Jonah was a rebellious prophet. He did NOT want to deliver God's message to the Ninevites in Assyria. Key verses: Jonah 2:10, Jonah 4:11

Read Jonah 3:3-10. What happened as a result of Jonah bringing God's message to the Ninevites?

AMOS: God used Amos to tell the Israelites that TRUE WORSHIP of God always leads to justice and righteousness. Key verses: Amos 3:7, Amos 5:21

Read Amos 3:2. What does God say through Amos?

Read Amos 5:4-15. What stands out to you? How would you describe the tone of God's message through Amos to the Israelites?

HOSEA: God showed that His love is more powerful than Israel's sin and rebelliousness. Key verses: Hosea 11:1, Hosea 4:6

Read Hosea 11:4. How does God describe His love for Israel?

Read Hosea 14. What stands out to you from God's message through Hosea?

The prophets who preached in Judah before and during its destruction (and a summary of their messages) were:

- **Isaiah:** Foreshadows the fulfillment of God's covenant through Jesus.
Key verses: Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 9:7
- **Micah:** God's covenant love is more powerful than the consequences of rebellion & sin. Key verses: Micah 5:2, Micah 6:8
- **Nahum:** God will not allow evil empires to endure.
- **Jeremiah:** Warned Israel that they would be conquered by the Babylonians, but His hope would conquer all. Key verses: Jeremiah 29:11, Jeremiah 33:3
- **Lamentations:** Written by Jeremiah after the devastating destruction of Jerusalem. Key verses: Lamentations 1:4, Lamentations 4:5
- **Habakkuk:** The righteous in God's eyes live by their faith.
Key verses: Habakkuk 2:2-3
- **Zephaniah:** God is passionate about rescuing the world from sin.
Key verses: Zephaniah 1:2, Zephaniah 2:3

Read Isaiah 53. What sounds descriptive of Jesus?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 5: The Prophets - Part 2

Here's a list of who has been conquered so far:

1. The Assyrians conquered Israel.
2. The Babylonians conquered Assyria.
3. The Babylonians conquered Judah.
4. The Persians conquered Babylon.
5. The Persians let the Jews come home.

Not every prophet spoke to Israel and Judah.

- Obadiah: spoke to the people of Edom and how their pride in themselves is an example of human's sin condition
- Nahum: preached to Nineveh (the capital of Assyria)

Jeremiah preached just before the Babylonians conquered Judah.

Read Jeremiah 25:11-12. How long did Jeremiah say Judah would be in captivity?

While the Jews were in Babylon, two major prophets spoke to them: Ezekiel and Daniel.

- Ezekiel preached of their judgment and forgiveness following their repentance.
- Daniel preached and exemplified faithfulness to God during the Babylonian exile.

Read Daniel 2:46-49. What happened to Daniel?

In v. 49, who were the friends that led with him? Do those names sound familiar? If so, how?

What stands out to you about Daniel's life? What can you learn from this?

What stands out to you about Daniel's life? What can you learn from this?

Joel is a prophet that preached during a locust plague. Nobody knows for sure when this happened. His message reflects the consequences of Israel's sin and rebellion but then points to God's mercy and hope restored.

Read Joel 2:25. How does this speak to you today?

Following the Jews return to the promised land, two prophets spoke: Haggai and Zechariah. They both urged the rebuilding of the temple.

Read Zechariah 12:10. How does this point to the death of Jesus?

The Jews' return to the promised land happened in approximately three stages:

- Zerubbabel led the first group back (539-529 B.C.). They rebuilt the temple, although the city was still destroyed.
- Ezra led the second group (~458 B.C.). This group began worship in the temple again. Ezra was not a prophet.
- Nehemiah led the third group (~445 B.C) and rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah was not a prophet.

The last prophet of the Old Testament was Malachi. Malachi told the Jews that they would be rescued one day. The Jews had been back for approximately 100 years—experiencing revival and in some ways, old habits of rebelliousness and faithlessness.

Read Malachi 3:1. Who is Malachi speaking of?

400 years later, Christ was born. Through this thread, Jesus was pointed to and prophesied about. Amen. Reflect on all the ways you remember Jesus being pointed to throughout the Old Testament.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



WEEK 5

Group Discussion

- What new information about the Old Testament did you learn this week? How was this impactful to you?

- Reflecting back on Israel's rebellious nature, how would you contrast true repentance and saying "I'm sorry?" Why do you think this matters in your own life and relationship with God?

- Reflecting on Saul's life, have you ever let other people's opinions influence your attitudes and actions? How has that worked out for you?

- Have you ever felt like God was disciplining you? How have you responded to this? How has your response affected your relationship with God?

- Read Isaiah 53 again. Reflect on what you see that points to Jesus in this passage.

- The Prophets spoke of Israel's failure and of the hope in God's mercy and love expressed in the covenant He made with them. How does this shape your relationship with God?

NOTES



WEEK 5

On Your Own

Introduction:

We've made it to the New Testament– the fulfillment of God's covenant is here in Jesus. Everything, so far, led to this– the birth of our Messiah and Redeemer. Here is where this week will take us:

- Jesus's birth
- The disciples
- Jesus's ministry
- Jesus's death and resurrection
- The Church

DAY 1: Matthew & Luke

The time frame between the Old and New Testaments was about 400 years– from Malachi to the birth of Jesus. During this 400 years, the Romans conquered the entire Mediterranean region of the world, including the Promised Land. At the opening of the New Testament, Caesar Augustus was the ruler of the Roman Empire; he appointed different officials to rule over different parts of Israel.

The New Testament begins with four books called the Gospels. The Gospels give four different accounts of the life of Jesus through the lens of four different men. The Gospels are unified in that they tell the same account, and they are diverse because they each have a unique point of view.

The first three Gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels (synopsis (Greek) meaning viewed together) because they have a similar perspective, follow a similar outline, and cover similar events. The Gospel of John presents unique perspectives and events from Jesus' life.



Here are some unique aspects of Matthew's Gospel:

- Strong focus of Jesus as the Messiah– the one who has fulfilled the Jewish history and saved his people from their sins
- Emphasis on Jewish history
- Jesus shown as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies
- Titles for Jesus commonly used: Son of God, Christ, and Son of David
- Jesus is the presence of God– “God with us”
- Jesus portrayed as the new Israel and the new Moses.
- Portrayed as Wisdom incarnate (in the flesh)
- Connects the Old Testament law and its relationship to Christ followers
- Written for Jewish people

Here are some unique aspects of Mark's Gospel:

- Most dramatic of the four Gospels
- Depicts Jesus as the suffering Son of God– a model of sacrifice for Jesus's followers
- Shortest of the four Gospels
- Fast moving; often using the word “immediately”
- Emphasizes Jesus's authority in teaching and power
- Shows Jesus facing the challenges of Satan and defeating them
- Portrays negative aspects of Jesus's disciples as a model of what not to do

Here are some unique aspects of Luke's Gospel:

- Known as the Gospel for all people (Gentiles included!)
- Luke was a Gentile, not Jewish (only one of the Gospel writers)
- Most thematic of all the Gospels
- References secular and religious leaders
- Refers to Old Testament prophecies from Isaiah and the promise for salvation for all people
- Highlights Jesus's special concern for outsiders (poor, sinners, Gentiles)
- Themes of an upside down kingdom
- Highlights women Jesus encountered and their plights and concerns
- References Jesus's prayer life
- Highlights Jesus's reign after the ascension
- The Book of Acts is a second part of Luke. They were written by the same author as one work

Here are some unique perspectives of John's Gospel:

- Most theological of the four Gospels
- Emphasizes Jesus as the divine Son who reveals God, the Father
- Presents people either "of God" or "of the world"
- Miracles are presented as signs revealing Jesus's identity
- Symbols and metaphors used: water, light, bread, shepherd, gate
- Motif of people misunderstanding who Jesus is
- Includes Jesus's "I am" statements
- Depicts dialogues and debates with Pharisees
- Order of events based on Jewish festivals
- Includes teachings of the Holy Spirit as an advocate (paraclete)

Looking at the bulleted list above, reflect on what is new information to you. How could the perspective of each Gospel help you understand Jesus more fully?

We will begin by looking at Jesus's life chronologically. Because the Gospel of Matthew intentionally connects Jesus to the Old Testament, we'll primarily examine Matthew's account.

Read Matthew 1:1-17. What does Matthew describe? Why do you think this would be important for Matthew to document?

Matthew wrote his Gospel a few decades after Jesus's death. He was reaching out to his fellow Jews to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah promised by God to save them—the one they had been waiting for. Ancestry is extremely important in Jewish culture, which explains why Matthew begins with Jesus's lineage.

Read Matthew 1:1. What two names does Matthew mention first?

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and 2 Samuel 7:8-13. How do these verses explain why Matthew begins with these two names to begin with?

Fill in the blanks from Matthew 1:18-22:

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to _____,
but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the
_____. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law,
and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her
quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
dream and said, "Joseph son of _____, do not be afraid
to take Mary home as your _____, because what is
conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to
give him the name _____, because he will _____
_____. All this took place to _____ what the Lord had
said through the prophet.

Read Isaiah 7:14 and 9:2-7. What did Isaiah prophesy?

According to Matthew 2:5 and the prophecy of Micah 5:2, the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. This part of Jesus' story is documented in the Book of Luke.

Read Luke 2:1-7. What happened that led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem?

Flip back to Matthew 2:1-2. Why do you think Matthew would include these details in his Gospel?

King Herod was the appointed leader of Judea at this time. He was warned that the Messiah would be born and feared he would threaten his leadership.

Read Matthew 2:16. What did Herod do?

God told Joseph this was going to happen in a dream, so he moved his family to Egypt to shelter them.

Read Hosea 11:1. What prophecy is described that lines up with Joseph's decision to move the family to Egypt?

What do you see Matthew doing in his account to show the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 2: John the Baptist & The Disciples

Today we will look at how God “prepared the way” for people to see His son.

Read Isaiah 40:3 and Matthew 3:1-6. Who is doing the baptizing?

Read Luke 1:36. Mary and Elizabeth were cousins. Therefore, how are Jesus and John the Baptist related?

Read Matthew 3:11-12. John is clear that he is not the Messiah- the one everyone has been waiting for. Fill in John’s words:

“I baptize you with _____ for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will _____ you with the _____ and _____.”

Read Matthew 3:14. How did John respond to Jesus?

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness for 40 days where Satan tempted Him. During this time, Jesus uses Scripture and rebukes Satan over and over again. At the end of this testing, He begins His public ministry.

Jesus calls 12 men to follow Him, known as the disciples:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Simon (Peter) | 7. Thomas |
| 2. Andrew | 8. Matthew |
| 3. James, son of Zebedee | 9. James, son of Alphaeus |
| 4. John (note: not John the Baptist) | 10. Thaddaeus |
| 5. Philip | 11. Simon, the Zealot |
| 6. Bartholomew | 12. Judas Iscariot |

With the disciples by Jesus's side, Jesus exhibited that He is the Son of God—performing miracles, teaching, healing, and exorcising demons.

Read Matthew 10:1. What authority does Jesus give the disciples?

Why do you think Jesus would give them this power?

Jesus also warned His disciples that following Him will not be easy.

Find Matthew 10:22. Write down what Jesus told them.

How could Matthew 10:22 look in your life?

Not everyone who encountered Jesus was willing to receive Him. He often taught about the Kingdom of God using parables (simple, relatable stories that illustrated truth).

Read Matthew 13:18-23. What do you think Jesus was saying in this parable?

Because Jesus was not accepted and often despised and threatened by those in powerful positions, He knew what would happen to Him.

Read Matthew 16:21-28. What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen?

How did Peter react? How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Why do you think Jesus had such a strong reaction to Peter?

Read Zechariah 9:9. What was prophesied about the coming Messiah?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 3: Garden of Gethsemane

In Jesus's day, there were three groups that comprised the leadership of the Jewish community:

1. Sadducees: Jews who adopted Greek culture and thought (also known as Hellenized Jews). Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection. They gathered and maintained power at the temple and Jerusalem.
2. Scribes: The authorities on the Jewish law. They were the lawyers.
3. Pharisees: They were seen as Jewish conservatives; they sought to follow the Jewish law and condemned Greek culture and thought. They exercised their power outside of Jerusalem.

The Pharisees and Sadducees opposed one another in power and thought.

As Jesus garnered more attention, he also made enemies. The Pharisees viewed Jesus as the ultimate law breaker; He healed people on the Sabbath and criticized the Pharisees' nearsightedness in regard to who He was and what He was doing. All three leadership groups (Sadducees, Scribes, and Pharisees) felt Jesus was a threat for different reasons. Therefore, they banded together to get rid of Him.

Read Matthew 26:1-5. What did Jesus tell the disciples was going to happen?

Why did they wait until after Passover to arrest Jesus?

How do we sometimes become so nearsighted and self-focused that we miss Jesus, the Messiah, right in front of us? Has there ever been a time when you chose your own self-interest over obedience to God? How does this relate to the Pharisees' actions?

Ultimately, it was one of Jesus's own disciples who betrayed him. Judas Iscariot handed Jesus over to the Pharisees for 30 pieces of silver. After betraying Jesus, Judas deeply regretted it. He attempted to give the silver back (Matthew 27:3). In his shame and regret, he hung himself on a tree in the Hinnom Valley south of Jerusalem (Matthew 27:1-10).

Read Zechariah 11:12-13. What does this prophecy say happened to the 30 pieces of silver?

Read Matthew 27:3-10. What happened to the 30 pieces of silver Judas returned to the temple?

The night before Judas's betrayal, Jesus gathered His disciples for the Passover meal.

Read Matthew 26:17-20. What did Jesus predict would happen?

At this last supper, Jesus predicts betrayal and also gives the disciples a way to remember Him that we still celebrate in church today: the sacrament of Communion.

Read Matthew 26:26-29.. Fill in the following:

While they were eating, Jesus took _____, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my _____."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my _____ of the _____, which is poured out for many for the _____ of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's _____."

The broken bread is eaten in remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross. The wine representing His blood confirms the fulfillment of the covenant—that through the death of His Son, we are forgiven. This means that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, our sin no longer has any power to come between us and God. Jesus became the atonement for all sin for all people who accept this. Jesus’s whole earthly life-- His perfect and holy nature lived out, His teaching, His healing, His miracles, His discipling-- led to this truth, for once and for all.

How does this help you see Communion differently?

Following their supper, Jesus took Peter, James, and John into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray as He was about to head into the final hours of His life.

Read Matthew 26:36-46. What does Jesus ask of His Father? How many times does He ask this?

Do you think Peter, James, and John really grasped Jesus’s anguish in the garden that night? How do you think you would have responded? Why?

Jesus is then found by Judas, Caiaphas (the high priest), and soldiers. He is arrested at the bribing of false witnesses. In the face of the false accusations, Jesus remains silent.

Read Isaiah 53:7. What did the prophet Isaiah say about Jesus’s behavior during the moments leading up to His death?

When pressed by the Jewish court system (the Sanhedrin), they finally said, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God,” (Matthew 26:63).

Read Matthew 26:64-65. How does Jesus respond to them? What does His response lead them to accuse Him of?

Read Leviticus 24:16. What is the punishment for this crime?

Because they wanted to avoid blame for Jesus’s death, the religious leaders brought Him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate would not hear of their claim of religious crime of blasphemy, so they changed the angle of the charges to make them more political which forced Pilate to address a punishment for Jesus.

Read Luke 23:1-2. What are the “additional” charges the religious leaders accused Jesus of before Pilate?

Pilate attempted to avoid having Jesus put to death. He sent Him to Herod where He still was not found guilty, who then sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate was caught between his conscience and appeasing the Jewish leaders. Every Passover, it was customary to release one prisoner from jail. Pilate offered to either release Jesus or a notorious murderer named Barabbas; the crowd (swayed by the Jewish leaders) chose to release Barabbas and have Jesus put to death by crucifixion.

Do you find yourself easily swayed by those around you? How does this demonstrate our sinful nature? What did Jesus do in the face of our sinful nature?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 4: The Crucifixion & Resurrection

Jesus was taken to be crucified– a criminal’s death sentence. This was not a surprise to Him. Jesus referenced how He would die before these events happened.

Read Matthew 20:17-19. What did Jesus tell the disciples about His death?

Read John 19:1-5. How was Jesus treated before the crucifixion?

In Roman culture, crucifixion was the most tormenting, shameful, and vile way to die. Crucifixion was reserved for murderers. He carried His own cross uphill to a place called Golgotha, and they nailed His hands and feet to that very cross. While Jesus hung from the cross with two criminals on either side of Him, He cried out to His Father.

Record what Jesus cries out in Luke 23:34.

Does this surprise you? What do you think He meant by this?

Compare John 19:23-24 and Psalm 22:18. How was the tunic different from Jesus’ other garments of clothing? What prophecy did this fulfill?

As Jesus hung on the cross for hours with the weight of the world's sin, He finally took His final breath.

Read Matthew 27:51. What happened the moment Jesus died?

What was the purpose of the curtain in the temple? What would the tearing of the curtain mean?

How is the curtain being torn important to us today?

Jesus' body was placed in a tomb with a heavy stone rolled over the entrance. Guards watched over the tomb in case anyone came to vandalize it.

Read Matthew 28:1-10. What happened?

What did the angel say to them?

How do you think you would have reacted if you were at the tomb that day?

In what ways do you wrestle with believing Jesus rose from the dead? What evidence makes you believe that this could/couldn't have happened?

Read Mark 16:9-14. What does Jesus do after His resurrection? How did they react? Why did Jesus rebuke them?

Read John 20:19-29. Summarize what happened in your own words.

Read John 20:30-31 and fill in the blanks of the conclusion of John's Gospel:

Jesus performed _____ other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are _____ that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of God, and that by _____ you may have _____ in his name.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



DAY 5: The Church

This week we've been looking at the life and death of Jesus. Today we'll look at Jesus's final words before He ascended into heaven.

Read Matthew 28:19-20. This is known as The Great Commission. Write down what Jesus commanded.

Matthew, who wrote this Gospel for the Jews, ends his account with Jesus's last words: ALL NATIONS; not just the Jews. The Jews are God's chosen people in which He revealed Himself, but Jesus's words state that we are to share His good news with everyone, baptize them, and disciple them.

Before Jesus's ascension, He appeared to the disciples. Because they were associated with Jesus, they were not safe in Jerusalem. Jesus gave them instructions.

Read Luke 24:49. What did Jesus tell them to do?

The Book of Acts tells of the beginning of the Church.

Ten days after Jesus's ascension is called Pentecost. Pentecost is the Jewish festival 50 days after Passover to celebrate the Feast of Harvest. Christ followers observe Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit came upon the Church.

Read Acts 2:1-4. What happened on the day of Pentecost?

John 14:15-17 promised His followers an advocate. How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit in these verses?

Peter delivers a powerful message to everyone following Pentecost. The crowd asks an important question.

Read Acts 2:37-39. What did the crowd ask the apostles? What did Peter tell them?

Peter pointed right to Christ, and they were “cut to the heart”. The law was no longer the standard. Jesus became the final atonement, and they wanted to know how to receive this forgiveness. Peter tells them to repent and be baptized. Before Christ, circumcision was the sign of faith in God. Now, baptism is the sign of faith through Jesus Christ.

What does repentance mean to you?

What does baptism mean to you?

Once the Holy Spirit came, Jesus’s ministry traveled throughout the world. Although it was extremely exciting, it was also not always welcomed. Where it wasn’t welcomed, the church was often met with persecution. Stephen was the first known martyr for the faith.

Read Acts 7:54-8:3. What was the name of the man who approved Stephen’s death and the persecution of many others who believed?

Saul was a devoted Jew who was a prize student among the rabbis. He, along with many others, saw the followers of Christ as a threat to the faith and Law of Moses. Soon after, Saul had a radical encounter that changed his life.

Read Acts 9:1-22. What happened to Saul?

Saul began to be referred to as Paul. Paul is the Roman version of the name Saul. His father was a Roman citizen, and therefore inherited this citizenship as well. Jesus used Paul to preach to the Gentiles, which made the Roman version of his name useful.

Paul is the main character of Acts and writer of the majority of the epistles (letters). This is where we are headed next.

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



WEEK 6

Group Discussion



- What clues from Matthew tell that his primary audience was Jewish readers? How did Matthew present Jesus?
 - What unique authority did Jesus give to the 12 apostles? What kind of authority do you think Jesus gives believers today?
 - Who banded together in a plot to arrest Jesus? What do you think motivated them?
 - What happened when Jesus died? Why is this significant?
-
- How do the different Gospel writers communicate the Gospel? Why is this significant?
 - What new truths did you learn? How is this significant?

NOTES



WEEK 6

On Your Own

Introduction:

The rest of the New Testament documents the growth and challenges of the Church beyond the Jews. Most of this is documented by letters written by Paul and other apostles to the many regions the Gospel was brought following Christ's ascension.

The New Testament concludes with Revelation – a picture of the new heaven and earth.

This week we'll look at:

- Persecution
- Gentiles
- The Spread of the Gospel
- Letters
- Revelation

DAY 1: Paul's Journey

Last week we took a look at Paul's life changing encounter with Christ, which moved him to bring the Gospel to all, especially the Gentiles. Remember, the Bible is not set up chronologically, but topically. The Book of Acts gives us the chronological order while the letters (also known as Epistles) goes into more detail. We will look at things chronologically to understand how things piece together.

Here are some points of reference:

- Paul was born in Tarsus Of Cilicia, A.D. 10 (Acts 22:3)
- Jesus' death and resurrection occurred around A.D. 30.
- Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus between A.D. 34-37.



This means Paul would have been around the age of a modern college student at the time of Jesus' public ministry, death, and resurrection. Our first glimpse of Paul was his overseeing and cheerleading the death of Stephen. The letter to the Galatians gives us a description of what happened after Paul encountered Christ on the way to Damascus.

Here's a brief chronology of Paul's life:

Paul's Age	Event & Biblical Reference
0	Born in Tarsus- A.D. 10 (Acts 22:3)
20	Jesus' crucifixion- A.D. 33
24	Stephen martyred/ Paul encounters Jesus on the Road to Damascus
36	1st Missionary Journey to Roman Asia & Galatia (modern day Turkey) - A.D. 46-47 (Acts 13 & 14, Galatians)
38	Jerusalem Council- A.D. 48-49 (Acts 15)
40	2nd Missionary Journey- A.D. 50-52 to Thessalonica & Greece with Timothy & Silas (Acts 15-17, 1 & 2 Thessalonians)
43	3rd Missionary Journey- A.D. 53-57 (1 Corinthians & Galatians)
47	Travel to Jerusalem with offering (2 Corinthians & Romans)
47	Arrest & Imprisonment- A.D. 57-59
	Imprisonment moved to Rome
50	1st Roman Imprisonment- A.D. 60-62 (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
54	Released from prison- A.D. 63-65 (1 Timothy, Titus)
57	Final imprisonment (2 Timothy) & martyred- A.D. 66-67

Let's look at some highlights from Paul's first missionary journey:

Read Acts 13:1-5. Who did God anoint with Paul? Where did they begin proclaiming the Gospel?

In Paphos, Paul rebuked a false prophet and magician and warned him to “stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord” (Acts 13:10).

Read Acts 13:11-12. What happened to the false prophet? How did this reflect Paul's encounter with Jesus? What happened as a result?

At Antioch in Pisidia, Paul told the Jews that Jesus alone offers salvation and redemption, not the Law of Moses. Because the Jews did not listen, Paul gave his message to the Gentiles.

Read Acts 13:48. How did they respond?

In Acts 15, we see leaders of the early church meeting to make an important decision: Should Gentile believers be circumcised?

Read Acts 15:6-11. What was Peter's response to this question?

Highlights from Paul's second missionary journey:

This time, Paul returns to a few cities he visited before to see how they are doing (Acts 15:36). Timothy joined him.

Read Acts 16:4. What did Paul and Timothy share along the way? How did this affect the churches?

As Paul travels to Macedonia, we begin to see Paul's approach to sharing the Gospel.

Read Acts 16:11-15. Where did Paul go first when he got to Philippi? Who did he meet there? What happened?

Read Acts 17:16-34. How does Paul appeal to the people in Athens?

We see two important aspects of Paul's approach:

He met people where they were.

He invited others to Christ rather than ostracizing them.

Highlights from Paul's third missionary journey:

Read Acts 19:1-7. Where did Paul go? What did he do while he was there?

Read Acts 20:21. What did Paul tell the leaders in Ephesus was the way to God?

Read Acts 20:24. What does Paul say is the goal of his life?

In reflection, what is your life's goal?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 2: Paul's Letters to the Churches

We'll start in Romans. This is the only church Paul wrote to that he hadn't actually been to. Paul was a Roman citizen, and therefore felt a tug on his heart to tell them about Jesus and explain what it meant to follow Him.

Read Romans 1:1-7. How did Paul identify himself to the Romans?

Open up to Romans 1:16-17. Handwrite these verses below:

Paul REALLY wanted to go to Rome. At the end of Romans, he asked for prayer in getting there. Before he arrived, he was arrested in Jerusalem for his teaching. Paul appealed to Caesar in Rome since he was a Roman citizen and asked to be tried there.

In Acts 27, you'll see that Paul sailed to Rome. On the way, there was a huge storm, they were shipwrecked in Malta for some time, and eventually made it to Rome.

While he was in jail in Rome, Paul wrote to the churches in Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, and an individual named Philemon.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul shared wisdom and practical advice for Christ followers living in this world.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What did Paul specifically pray for?

In Philippians, he encouraged the church to rejoice, no matter what circumstances came their way.

Read Philippians 1:12-26. What did Paul remind them about his situation? For what reason did he say that he was in this situation?

The letter to the Colossians shares how Christ freed us from the law.

Read Colossians 3:11 and fill in the blanks from the verse:

Here there is no _____ or _____,
circumcised or _____ barbarian, Scythian,
_____ or _____, but Christ is all, and is in all.

What does this verse mean to you, personally?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 3: Paul's Letters to People

Paul wrote specific letters for individuals as well.

Philemon was a plea on behalf of a brother in Christ to another brother in Christ..

Philemon is a small letter- only 25 verses. Paul is writing with a specific request to his friend Philemon. Philemon had a slave named Onesimus, who had run away, ended up in Rome, and met Paul there. Onesimus and Paul became friends and brothers in Christ. Paul reached out to Philemon to ask him to embrace Onesimus' return. Slavery, at this point in history, was common, but it doesn't make it easy to think that this was commonly accepted. What we see in Paul's letter is Paul redefining their relationship, to welcome Onesimus home as a brother.

Read Philemon v.15-21. What stands out to you in Paul's plea to Philemon?

1 Timothy gave directions on how to minister in the church. Paul's humble heart came through in his letters, especially in 1 Timothy.

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. How does Paul present himself? Why does Paul say that Jesus exhibits great patience and grace?

Titus was a letter of advice on leadership. Titus was in Crete, where the church was experiencing many troubles. In Paul's letter to Titus, he shares advice on how to choose good leaders and sound qualifications to look for.

Read Titus 3:1-11. What stands out to you about Paul's words to Titus? What does Paul tell Titus to look for in the heart of people who consider leadership?

2 Timothy was the last letter of Paul. It reads almost like a last will and testament to his beloved friend. It is believed that Paul was killed by Nero shortly after this. He wrote this letter from his jail cell.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Fill in the blanks below:

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his _____, I give you this charge: _____ the word; be _____ in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and _____—with great _____ and _____ instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their _____, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears _____ to hear. They will turn their ears _____ from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, _____ your head in _____ situations, _____ hardship, do the work of an _____, discharge all the duties of _____ ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a drink _____, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the _____ fight, I have _____ the race, I have kept the _____. Now there is in store for me the crown of _____, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to _____ who have longed for _____ appearing.

How do these verses encourage you in your faith today?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 4: General Letters

Some letters were written by people other than Paul. These are referred to as the General Letters.

The Book of James was written by Jesus's half brother. It gives practical instructions to live as a follower of Christ. Interestingly, James was not a follower of Christ while He was on earth. He became a believer after Christ's resurrection, when Jesus appeared to the disciples. It's believed to have been written around A.D. 47-48, which is one of the earliest written works of the New Testament. In Acts 15, James called together the Jerusalem conference with all the church leaders—he was a leader of leaders, especially in Jerusalem.

James wrote to Jewish Christians living outside of Jerusalem. James gives instruction on how to live an obedient life to Christ while warning of the pitfalls of living a lukewarm faith.

Read James chapter 1. Write down 3 things that stand out to you.

Read James 2:14-26. What are deeds evidence of in our faith? Why do you think James made this point?

Read James 5:13-16. How does this encourage you in your prayer life?

Hebrews was written around A.D. 63, but the identity of the author is unknown. Hebrews encourages this group of people to remain faithful to Jesus, especially during a time of persecution. This book emphasizes the power of Jesus over all things—angels, the law, the temple, and the priesthood. Hebrews helps us appreciate

Christianity's roots in Judaism and uses many Old Testament examples followed by explanations of how they are fulfilled by Christ.

Read Hebrews chapter 11. Choose 2-3 people mentioned and highlight what the author tells us about them. How are they all connected?

The disciple Peter may have denied Jesus three times, but he played a major part in the establishment of the Church (as seen in the first 12 chapters of Acts). He also wrote two letters to Jewish Christians: 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

1 & 2 Peter encourages us to persevere in the truth of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. What is the tone of Peter's words? What stands out to you?

Read 2 Peter 3. Peter gives a warning and an encouragement. Document some of the juxtapositions of warning and encouragement.

Jude was another of Jesus's half brothers. Like James, he doesn't appear to have put his faith in Christ until after His death and resurrection. Jude's epistle warns about the dangers of false teachers.

Read Jude: 17-23. What is Jude's warning?

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

DAY 5: John's Letters

The final author of the New Testament is John. John dubbed himself, “the disciple Jesus loved.” He wrote the Gospel of John, 1, 2, & 3 John, as well as Revelation.

1 John was written around A.D. 90 and shares how to live like Jesus. Let's look at some encouragement from 1 John.

Read the following verses and summarize what you read:

1 John 1:6-7

1 John 1:8-9

1 John 2:4

1 John 2:6

1 John 2:9-10

1 John 2:15

1 John 2:22

2 John further teaches us to walk in truth and love.

Read 2 John 1-4. Who does John address this letter to?

Read 2 John 5-6. How does John implore us to live out God's commands?

3 John was written to his friend, Gaius. John offers him encouragement and news.

Revelation was written around A.D. 95 and is the only prophetic book in the New Testament. It tells about the end of the world and the new earth. When John wrote the book, he was elderly and the last living disciple. He was banished to Patmos for sharing the Gospel. Through a series of visions, Jesus showed John glimpses of the future. In the end, Jesus defeats Satan, and our Lord takes His place on the throne forever. A New Jerusalem is established—there is no sadness, sin, or death, and all believers will spend eternity with Him.

Look up the following verses from Revelation and reflect on their importance to us as Christ followers:

Revelation 1:1-2

Revelation 1:8

Revelation 3:20

Revelation 7:9

Revelation 21:1-4

And finally...

Revelation 22:7

- What is God saying to you today?
- What are you going to do about it?

NOTES



WEEK 7

Group Discussion

- How does Paul’s story bring you hope and/or challenge you?
- Do you think our lives should reflect the love and sacrifice of Christ?
In what ways are you compelled to be more faithful to this calling?
- What is something new that you learned about the apostle John this week?
- How have these six weeks inspired you in your faith?

- How can difficult times bring us closer to Christ? When have you seen that happen in your own life?
- What questions do you currently have for God and about following Christ?

Let’s revisit our self assessment from week 1.

Respond to where you are now:

I understand the general story from Genesis to Revelation.

YES Kind Of NO

I feel intimidated talking about the Bible.

YES Kind Of NO

I’m not sure if I’ll understand the Bible like most “church people” do.

YES Kind Of NO

I’ve never looked at the Bible as one connected story.

YES Kind Of NO

I would like to have more confidence in my Biblical knowledge.

YES Kind Of NO

It seems like it’s just too much for me—too many facts and details to make sense of.

YES Kind Of NO

I don’t have enough time to read the Bible and try to make sense of it.

YES Kind Of NO

How have you grown in your knowledge and experience of the Bible?

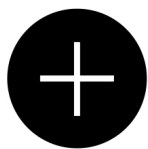
Why do you think the Bible is important for Christ followers?

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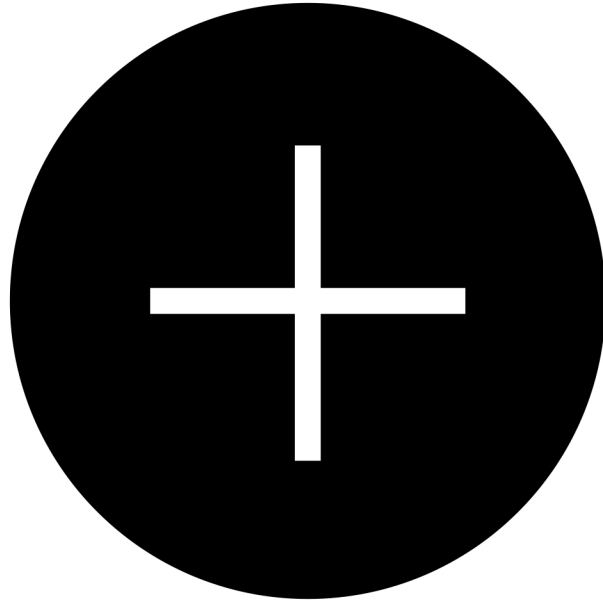


INTERVAL #2

Invitation & Challenge



Invitation & Challenge



Overview

Jesus was both invitational & challenging. He knew how to draw people in and challenge them towards growth. For example, He often used parables (Luke 15 and elsewhere) instead of teaching plainly. These stories drew people in using subject matter they were familiar with (such as farming) yet challenged them to seek to understand the underlying meaning contained in the parables. Another example of this is when Jesus publicly gave both “promotion” to (encouragingly commissioned) His disciple Peter and also rebuked Him in the very same breath (**Matthew 16:13-28**).

Jesus made disciples through invitation and challenge by calibrating grace and truth with everyone he encountered. **John 1:1-18** explains that grace and truth came through Jesus. By holding grace and truth together and utilizing invitation and challenge, we can disciple others into a dynamic and ever-growing relationship with Jesus.

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through Overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

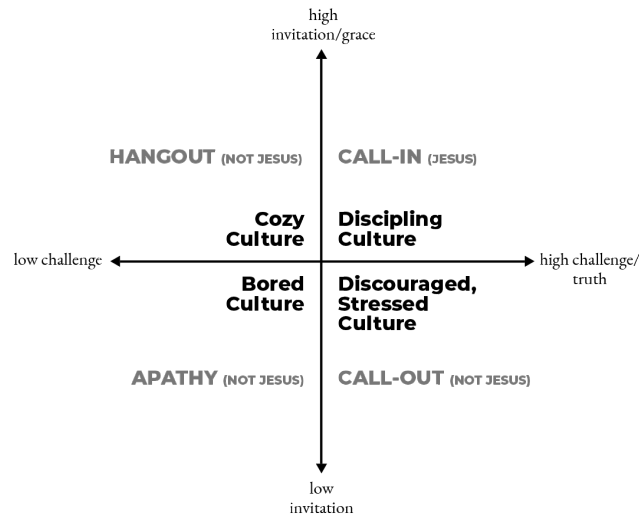
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **John 1:1-18**
- **John 13:1-17**
- **Matthew 16:13-28**

Shape:



Description

The apostle John stated that, “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (**John 1:17**). In John 1:1-18, John makes the connection that the Word was with God and was God (**v.1**) and through Him all things were made (**v. 3-4**). Jesus is the Word; Jesus is God. In his incarnation (God became human), he was the fullness of God, and He brought grace and truth. Grace and truth was how Jesus called people into a deeper relationship with Him. He used both invitation (grace) and challenge (truth).

In **John 13:1-17**, we see Jesus showing Peter God’s love through serving others and then challenging him to do likewise. In **Matthew 16: 13-28**, Jesus calls Peter to be the rock that the church is built upon and soon after rebukes him for not trusting Him.

Even though the disciples did not fully understand who they were following (the Son of God) or what Jesus was calling them into, He still invited them into life with Him and challenged them to carry on His work. He balanced both invitation and challenge,

which shaped and empowered the disciples to carry on God's mission.

Often, without full awareness, we can lead either in a place of high or low invitation and high or low challenge. See the descriptions below to see how too much or too little emphasis can distort how God intends for us to live as His disciples.

High Invitation + Low Challenge:

Hangout/Cozy Culture

Here, we get comfortable, forget mission, & lose the sense that God is doing something in us & through us. We aren't meant to be cozy. Being sharpened to look more like Jesus is a vital part of growth.

- What would it look like to add challenge here?

Low Invitation + Low Challenge:

Apathetic/Bored Culture

Most people do not stay in this culture for very long. Those who do slowly deteriorate & dry out.

- What would it look like to increase invitation & challenge here?

High Challenge + Low Invitation:

Call out/Discouraged & Stressed Culture

There's plenty to do or grow in, but the environment lacks encouragement. Here, the culture cannot be sustained & will burn out.

- What does it look like to increase invitation here?

High Invitation + High Challenge:

Call IN/Disciplining Culture

This is where Jesus lived & the culture we want to create in making disciples.

Application

- Where do you lean & why?
- Ask someone in your life their opinion about where you tend to lean.
- What would it look like to either add more invitation or challenge to your relationships?
- How does this make you uncomfortable?
- How does this challenge you?
- What is one practical action you can take to balance your invitation and challenge in your life and relationships?

Deeper Dive

1. Read Building a Discipleship Culture chapters 1-4. Discuss key takeaways from the chapters.
2. Reflect on the following quotes from Building a Discipleship Culture:

“Here’s the thing that can be difficult to wrap our minds around: If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples. Most of us have become quite good at the church thing. And yet, disciples are the only thing Jesus cares about, and it’s the only number Jesus is counting. Not our attendance or budget or buildings. He wants to know if we are making disciples. Effective discipleship builds the church, not the other way around. We need to understand the church as the effect of discipleship and not the cause (Breen, 5).”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain why.

“As G.K. Chesterton once said, If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly. No one was born great at discipling people. It takes time and practice. You are, right from the start, going to be better at either invitation or challenge and will need to learn how to do the other well. But because discipleship is always worth it, it’s worth not being great at it from the start so we can learn to do it well over the long haul (Breen, 17).”

What excites you or intimidates you about making disciples?

“There seemed to be an obvious course of action. Peter had a plan for reaching the Jews, and Paul had a carefully constructed plan for his journey. And yet, because Peter had learned from Jesus and Paul from the early disciples how to listen to and obey the voice of the Father, because they had learned that the Kingdom of God operates differently from what we are used to, they were able to respond (Breen, 38).”

How have you seen or experienced the Kingdom of God operating differently than what we’re used to?

“Jesus’ model of discipleship was life on life but not everyone got equal access to him. He chose a team of twelve men, but even within that team he offered a deeper level of intimacy to Peter, James, and John. Beyond the twelve were the seventy-two, then the one hundred and twenty, and then there were the crowds. How did Jesus manage to

balance his time and share his life with so many people looking to him for guidance?
How can we possibly do the same? (Breen, 54)”

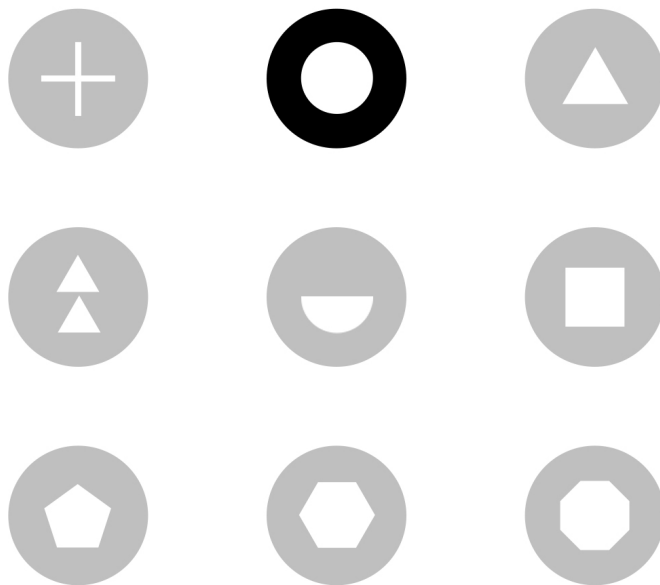
How would you respond to this last question in the excerpt above?

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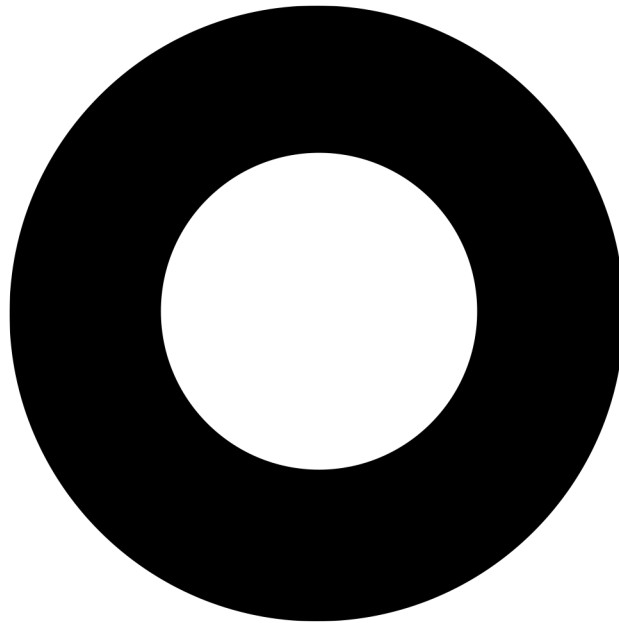


INTERVAL #3

Kairos Moments



Learning Circle



Overview

Hearing God’s voice in our lives and responding in obedience to His voice is critical in our spiritual transformation. When we become aware of this fact, we recognize that God is breaking through space and time in our daily lives to make Himself known to us. It could happen in a conversation, a situation, listening to a song, hearing a sermon, reading Scripture, and beyond.

In **Mark 9:15**, Jesus said, “The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” As Jesus is breaking through time and space to speak to us, he also invites us to turn toward him (repent) and believe the good news (believe) by taking action toward faithfulness in our relationship with him.

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through Overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

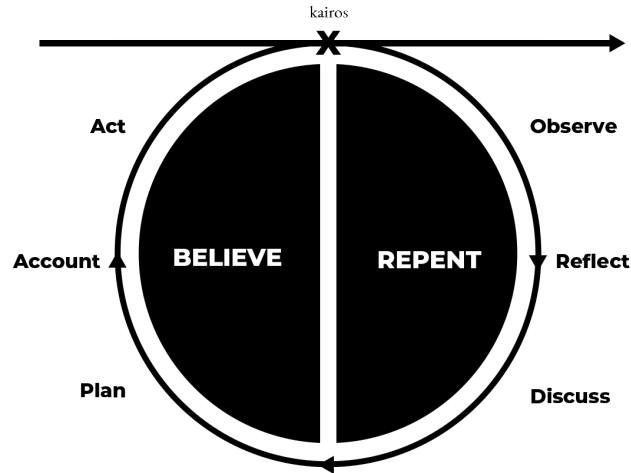
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Mark 1:9-15**

Shape:



Description

- Chronos - the Greek word the Bible uses for time as we experience it chronologically.
- Kairos - significant events in time (for example: birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays).

For believers pursuing God, it is a God-empowered MOMENT when He teaches us. When Jesus started His ministry in **Mark 1:15**, He said, “The TIME is now. The KINGDOM of God is near. REPENT and BELIEVE the good news.” (Emphasis in all caps added.) The word for TIME in this passage in the original language was KAIROS. The timeline of your life, your Chronos, has brought you to a moment when you can meet with God. To make the most of that Kairos moment, He tells you to REPENT (metanoia – internal change), and to BELIEVE (pistis – external change).

God wants His followers to experience continuous spiritual breakthrough by experiencing His presence and responding to it in our daily lives. This happens as we

listen when He speaks, deeply consider what He says, and trust Him by doing what He says. When we do those three things, we practice the presence of God and experience spiritual breakthrough.

The beginning of Kairos is hearing from God. This is often a struggle. Where is a place you're stuck in your life? Where is a place of growth in your life? Is there a point or message that keeps coming up in sermons, in the Word, in your conversations, or situations? These could all be God speaking to you.

The next part of Kairos is to respond in obedience. To do this, proceed through these steps:

- The first side of the Kairos circle is REPENT. Repent = internal change, which is a process. Here we ask ourselves the question, "What is God saying to me?"
 1. **OBSERVE** means that you stop and acknowledge your Kairos by either saying it out loud or writing it down. Here, we acknowledge what is happening.
 2. **REFLECT** means to deeply consider and meditate on what God is calling you to be, think, or do. Genuine reflection calls us to look at our life through God's eyes.
 3. **DISCUSS** is the process of creating your own accountability by talking with trusted friends who are following Jesus with you. Discussion is the fulcrum between REPENTANCE & BELIEF, and the pivotal part that moves us from internal transformation to external obedience.

- The second side of the Kairos circle is BELIEVE. BELIEF (FAITH) leads to EXTERNAL CHANGE, which is a process. At this point, we ask ourselves, "How do I respond to what God said to me?"
 4. **PLAN: MAKE A PLAN** of action. Your plan should be specific, practical, and detailed. Share your plan with your huddle.
 5. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Create a question your huddle will follow up and ask you that will remind you what God said to you and what you agreed to do about it. Accountability is like a mirror. When your group asks you the accountability question, they are demonstrating that they love you enough to remind you to conform your life to the picture God showed you in your Kairos moment. The accountability questions should get to the spirit/heart of your plan, not just the execution of the details. The goal of accountability is to demonstrate your growing faith through action in your life.

6. **ACT:** The final part of Kairos is the change in trajectory of your life. Kairos moments shouldn't just be something you discuss in huddle; you act on the plan made. As a result, life will look different. These intentional actions affect the way you interact with God, with fellow believers, and with the world.

Application

- What are your kairos moments this week?
- What has God been saying to you?
- How can we help you respond in obedience?
- Alternatively, your huddle could be discussing something else or going through another shape, and in that conversation, God speaks to someone in your huddle. Proceed through the Kairos circle, helping them process what God is saying to them and helping them act in obedience. Focusing on one person's kairos per week is suggested.

Deeper Dive

- Read Building a Discipleship Culture
- Pain To Purpose with Davey Blackburn



FEEL STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF A PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCE?

Without a clearly marked path and carefully devised plan this valley you're facing will only seem to grow darker, more depressing, and more difficult to navigate.

The more you try to go at it alone,
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Learn valuable tools to help you heal and lay a new and solid foundation

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CONTACT: [KATHY@MERCYROAD.CC](mailto:kathy@mercyroad.cc)
for links to the 11 week course.

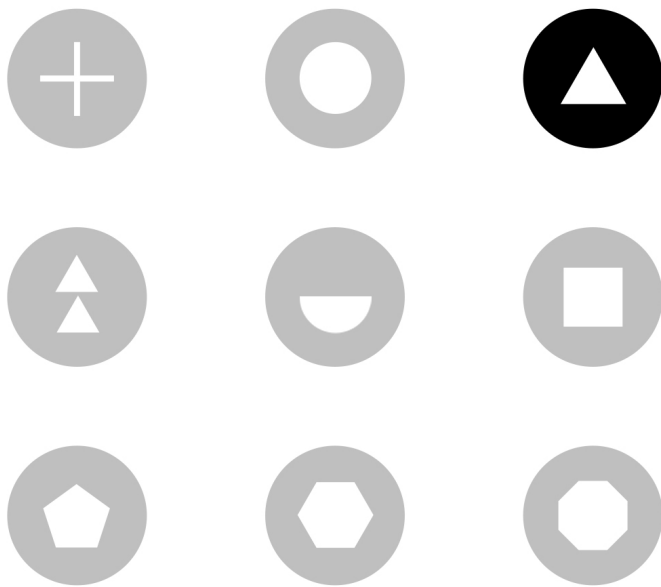
Visit mypaintopurposeplan.com for more information.

NOTES

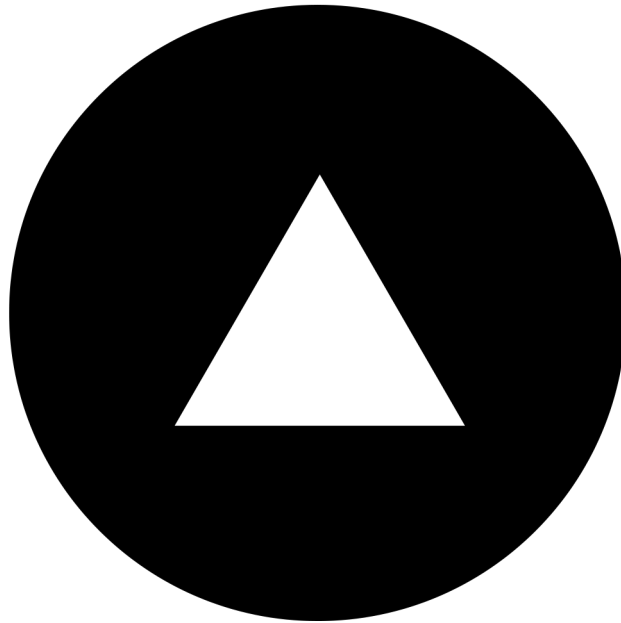


INTERVAL #4

Up In Out



Up In Out



Overview

It's important for disciples of Jesus to understand what a missional life looks like and be able to self diagnose where they can grow in order to foster a growing relationship with Him and be on mission in the world.

Jesus modeled this in **Luke 6:12-19**. Jesus spent UP time with the Father in prayer. He invited others IN (**Luke 6:13-16**) to relationship with him (like a huddle). Jesus reached out to others (**Luke 6:17-19**). All three of these relationships helps us to walk humbly with God, love mercy, and act justly (**Micah 6:6-8**).

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

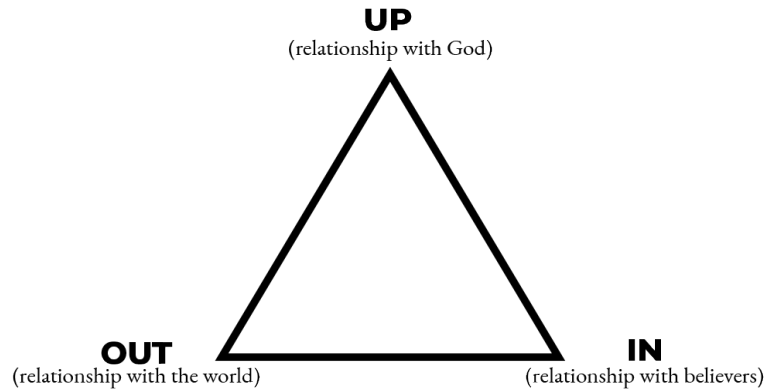
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Luke 6:12-19**
- **Micah 6:6-8**
- **Matthew 6:30-32**
- **Luke 5:16**

Shape:



Description

UP – Connection with God

IN – Connection with Christian Community

OUT – Connection with non-Christians and the Mission of God

Following Jesus entails three relationships. Just relating to God is not enough to fully experience life as you were intended to experience it. Friendships with other Christians are not the only relationships you were made for. Our lives with Christ are missional and also meant to be shared with non-Christians.

As followers of Jesus, we look to His life lived on earth to learn what the fullness of relationship with God looks like. Jesus had a variety of relationships in His daily life. When we examine His relationships, we see that they fall into three categories: Up, In, and Out:

- **UP** - Jesus prioritized His relationship with God the Father and had intentional time alone with Him. He also showed His disciples how to do it by talking to His Father in front of them. Health in all other relationships flows out of our relationship with God. (Mark 6:30-32, Luke 6:12-13, Luke 5:16)

- **IN** - Jesus did not live life by Himself; He chose to do it with others. Jesus gave His closest friends inside access to His life so they saw how He lived out every area of His personal life. He knew them well enough to know how to care for and speak to them in just the way they needed. Through Jesus's relationships with His closest friends, they embraced the things most important to Jesus. (Luke 6:13-16)
- **OUT** - Jesus developed relationships with those who were not yet connected with Him and those who were outcasts in their society. He did this by connecting to the hearts of people at His teachings where large crowds gathered to hear, as well as serving individuals through His actions. Jesus wasn't afraid to relate to outsiders, even when others criticized Him. (Luke 6:17-19)

We were created to be three-dimensional people. When there is imbalance in these areas, we do not experience life as we were created to experience it. Additionally, when one area is missing or ignored, the other two do not work properly. When you recognize a deficiency, you can then choose how to join God in your growing relationship with Him.

- If you are low in UP, then you need more connection with God through reading the Bible, prayer, and quiet time with Him. Learning some new ways to engage in Bible reading and prayer could be the action step you need to grow stronger in your UP. The large group worship service is another way to corporately participate in the UP of your relationship with God, and can furthermore be the encouragement you need to lean into the UP in your individual daily habits with God.

- If you are deficient with IN, it would be helpful to engage in intentional time with other believers by serving them in ways that meet their needs and opening the door to deeper friendship. Actions you could take is to get involved in an outpost. You are already taking a very important step by being a part of a discipleship huddle, doing life-on-life with a small group of people, growing in your relationship with God together.

- If you need to grow in OUT, it is important to learn simple tools for sharing your faith and your story (see Deeper Dive), and take note of the people God has sovereignly placed in your life for you to love well and share the gospel with. You need to find places where you can serve others outside of the church walls and define the specifics of what it means for you to be a light in the dark places that are available to you.

Application

- How does one dimension of the triangle being out of balance affect the other two?
- What does your triangle look like? (rank UP, IN, & OUT in your own life)
- Take a few minutes and select the question from the Deeper Dive List below that reflects the weakest side of your triangle. Walk through the Kairos Circle with what you are learning about yourself, your question, and your triangle. What are you going to do this week to move towards balance in your life?

Deeper Dive

Option 1

- UP Questions: Do I make enough space for prayer? What situation or what person is weighing on my heart? Am I noticing God's strength and power more and more in my life? Do I still feel pleasure? Am I living in a state of peace? Am I afraid or nervous? Am I obedient to God's prompting?

- IN Questions: Do I love the people in my community? Am I resting enough? How are my relationships with my friends? Am I appropriately vulnerable in my friendships? Do I keep my promises? How easy is it for me to trust people? Am I discipling others? Is my family happy? Am I sleeping/eating well?

- OUT Questions: Do I have a heart for people not living in the story of Jesus? How often do I share my faith? Do I leave time for relationships with non-Christians? Do I have a vision? Am I chasing after success? Am I proud of the gospel or ashamed? Am I a servant? Do I intentionally spend time with the poor and/or marginalized? Do I find it easy to recognize people who are open to hearing the gospel? Can I take a risk? Am I generous with my finances to those who don't have enough?

Option 2

- Tips on sharing your story: <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/10-tips-for-sharing-your-testimony-with-others.html>

- Write your testimony in three easy steps: 1. Life before God. 2. Your encounter with God. 3. Walking with God. Share with your huddle. Try to keep it under five minutes.

Option 3

- Read *One Blood* by John M. Perkins. Use Study Guide on pp. 181-187 for discussion.

Option 4

- Visit centerforfaith.com and choose a resource for discussion.

THE CENTER FOR FAITH, SEXUALITY & GENDER

About

The Center for Faith, Sexuality & Gender is a collaboration of Christian pastors, leaders and theologians who aspire to be the Church's most trusted source of theologically sound teaching and practical guidance on questions related to sexuality and gender.

We seek to address two primary needs in the church. One, to help leaders cultivate a more robust biblical ethic of marriage, sexuality and gender. Two, to help churches and organizations create a safe and compassionate environment for LGBT+ people, their families, and anyone wrestling with their sexuality or gender identity.

To meet these two needs, we seek to educate not only pastors and leaders, but to help these leaders educate the people they lead by providing small group material, educational videos, podcasts, blogs, youth curriculum, and other resources.

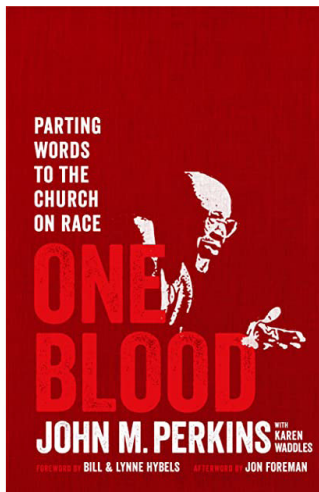


Equipping Christian leaders, churches and organizations to engage questions about faith, sexuality & gender with theological faithfulness and courageous love.

**We have found this to be a helpful resource on issues of sexuality and gender from a Christian perspective. This is not an endorsement of all theological views found there.*

NOTES





DR. PERKINS' FINAL MANIFESTO ON RACE, FAITH, AND RECONCILIATION

We are living in historic times. Not since the civil rights movement of the 60s has our country been this vigorously engaged in the reconciliation conversation. There is a great opportunity right now for culture to change, to be a more perfect union. However, it cannot be done without the church, because the faith of the people is more powerful than any law government can enact.

The church is the heart and moral compass of a nation. To turn a country away from God, you must sideline the church. To turn a nation to God, the church must turn first. Racism won't end in America until the church is reconciled first. Then—and only then—can it spiritually and morally lead the way.

Dr. John M. Perkins is a leading civil rights activist today. He grew up in a Mississippi sharecropping family, was an early pioneer of the civil rights movement, and has dedicated his life to the cause of racial equality. In this, his crowning work, Dr. Perkins speaks honestly to the church about reconciliation, discipleship, and justice... and what it really takes to live out biblical reconciliation.

He offers a call to repentance to both the white church and the black church. He explains how band-aid approaches of the past won't do. And while applauding these starter efforts, he holds that true reconciliation won't happen until we get more intentional and relational. True friendships must happen, and on every level. This will take the whole church, not just the pastors and staff.

The racial reconciliation of our churches and nation won't be done with big campaigns or through mass media. It will come one loving, sacrificial relationship at a time. The gospel and all that it encompasses has always traveled best relationally. We have much to learn from each other and each have unique poverties that can only be filled by one another. The way forward is to become "wounded healers" who bandage each other up as we discover what the family of God really looks like. Real relationships, sacrificial love between actual people, is the way forward. Nothing less will do.

Racial Reconciliation



Racial Reconciliation

Overview

In an effort to embrace reconciliation among our brothers and sisters in the church and fellow image bearers in the world, we are taking the posture of listening and surrender. During this interval, we will ground ourselves in Scripture and engage in the book *One Blood* by John Perkins. Over these next four weeks, we hope to grow closer to the heart of God and allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives toward unity and love with one another.

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Awareness & Acknowledgement**
- **Week 2: Confession**
- **Week 3: Forgiveness**
- **Week 4: Reconciliation**
- **Week 5: Deeper Dive with leader's discretion.**

Scripture

- **John 17:1-26**
- **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**
- **Ephesians 2:16**
- **1 John 1:9**
- **Isaiah 1:18**
- **Ephesians 1:7**
- **James 5:16**
- **Proverbs 28:13**
- **Isaiah 43:25-26**
- **Matthew 6:14-15**
- **Acts 3:9**
- **Romans 3:23-26**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **Luke 13:1-5**
- **2 Corinthians 7:10**
- **2 Peter 3:9**
- **Matthew 5:14-16**
- **Colossians 3:12**

Week 1: Awareness & Acknowledgement

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 aloud.

2. Pray.

3. The Duke Center for Reconciliation defines reconciliation like this:

“God’s initiative, restoring a broken world to his intentions by reconciling to himself all things through Christ: the relationship between people and God, between people themselves, and with God’s created earth. Christians participate with God by being transformed into ambassadors of reconciliation.” -Alvin Sanders

4. Discuss (pick 1-2 questions):

- Share something you love about your own culture and something you wish was different.

- Why does building deep friendships with people of different races, ethnicities, and cultures matter?

- What are some ways we can celebrate our differences to communicate an attitude of acceptance?

5. Read Ephesians 2:16. What does this verse acknowledge about the brokenness in the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles? What is Paul making clear in this passage to the Ephesians?

6. Acknowledgement is an important part of the reconciliation process.

Acknowledgement of our personal wrongs as well as the effect of systemic racism on a macro level is important. This is difficult because it’s painful and can feel overwhelming. Acknowledgement leads to lamenting.

- Lamenting is the act of expressing disappointment or regret over something unsatisfactory, unreasonable, or unfair.

- Lamenting is an important spiritual practice for followers of Christ. When we acknowledge the attitudes and actions we have done and have had done to us, our

own brokenness, the brokenness of others, and the injustices this has all caused, we experience humility. Humility leads us to look up to God for healing and His better way.

7. Discuss one or two of the following:

- Share about a time when you assumed something about someone and were wrong. OR Discuss a time when someone assumed something about you and was wrong.

- What are the key deceptions (in ourselves, our churches, and communities) that must be acknowledged and lamented over in order for us to embrace and celebrate racial differences?

- How can you uniquely foster racial diversity in your personal life?

8. Explain this week's homework.

9. Pray.

Homework:

- **Read chapters 1 & 2: One Blood by John Perkins**

- **Pick out one passage from the reading that stood out to you.**

Week 2: Confession

1. Read the following passages aloud:

- 1 John 1:9
- Isaiah 1:18
- Ephesians 1:7

2. Invite participants to share a quote from this week's reading that stood out to them and why.

3. The process of reconciliation can include a season of feeling guilt- for your actions or the actions of others. This feeling of guilt can arise from the realization that racism is a sin and requires confession and repentance. We are not called to have guilt guide our actions. We are called to surrender and invite the Holy Spirit to help us transform our hearts and lives.

4. Discuss 1-2 of the following questions:

- How do you address prejudiced comments or rationalization by friends and family?
- Is it more difficult to address issues of racism in your family? Explain.
- What shame or guilt are you carrying?

5. Read the following passages aloud:

- James 5:16
- Proverbs 28:13
- Ephesians 1:7

6. Confession is an important part of repentance and humility. Our sins get in the way of our fellowship with God. Confessing our sins mends our relationship with God and helps us take steps to a transformed life- allowing His image to shine through us more clearly. John W. Stott said, "We reveal not the depth of our love, but its shallowness, for we are doing what is not for his highest good."

Forgiveness which by-passes the need for repentance issues not from love but from sentimentality.”

7. Discuss 1-2 of the following:

- How has your family’s history or community influenced your belief system on race?
- What have you learned about racial reconciliation from this discussion so far?
- What do you find most difficult in confessing your sins on racial relationships?
- Read Proverbs 28:13 and discuss what stands out to you.

8. Explain this week’s homework:

9. Pray.

Homework:

- **Read chapters 3 & 4: One Blood by John Perkins**
- **Pick out one passage from the reading that stood out to you.**

Week 3: Forgiveness

1. Read the following passages aloud:

- Isaiah 43:25-26
- Matthew 6:14-15
- Acts 3:9

2. Pray.

3. To forgive is divine, and yet it doesn't mean that we ignore or magically "forget" the evil or injustice we experienced or committed. Because Jesus went to the cross to pay the price for our sins, we can be reconciled to God; in other words, we are forgiven. Romans 3:23-26 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." In other words, we all need forgiveness. We forgive because we all need forgiveness. When we choose to enter into the process of forgiveness, we are allowing Jesus to transform us through his grace and compassion.

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S. Lewis

"Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude." -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

4. Discuss 1-2 of the following:

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this verse describe forgiveness as a process?
- What characteristics in your life might indicate that you haven't fully forgiven a past hurt?

5. Read the following passages aloud:

- Luke 13:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 7:10
- 2 Peter 3:9

6. Repentance requires turning away from sin and toward God. When we do this, we allow ourselves to see things through God's point of view and not our own. This is transformative. Although repentance is difficult, it is a gift from God. A.W. Tozer said, "Let us beware of vain and over-hasty repentance, and particularly let us beware of no repentance at all. We are a sinful race...and until the knowledge has hit hard, until it has wounded us...it has done us no good. A man can believe in total depravity and never have any sense of it for himself at all. Lots of us believe in total depravity who have never been wounded with the knowledge that we've sinned. Repentance is a wound I pray we may all feel."

7. Discuss 1-2 of the following:

- Why are we blind to our own sins but are readily easy to see the sin of others?
- What do you think Tozer means by being, "wounded with the knowledge that we've sinned?"
- What are ideologies from your childhood about race of which you need to let go?
- Why is true repentance so difficult?

8. Explain this week's homework.

9. Pray.

Homework:

- **Read chapters 5 & 6: One Blood by John Perkins**
- **Pick out one passage from the reading that stood out to you.**
- **Pray and write a note to someone you need to forgive.**

Week 4: Reconciliation

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 aloud.

2. Pray.

3. Reconciliation focuses on restoring broken relationships. In order for reconciliation to occur, both the offender and the hurt party has to be willing; it cannot be one-sided. It takes genuine confession and repentance for the path of reconciliation to begin.

4. Discuss 1-3 of the following:

- As you read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, what stood out to you?
- How can we use the ministry of reconciliation in our racial divisions?
- How can we move from forgiveness to reconciliation?
- How are we reconciled to Christ? How can we be used in reconciling people to Christ?
- How is God leading you to become more engaged in reconciliation?

5. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

6. Discuss: Over the past four weeks, how has God called you to engage in the ministry of reconciliation.

7. Explain this week's homework.

8. Pray.

Homework:

- **Read chapters 7-9: One Blood by John Perkins**
- **Pick out one passage from the reading that stood out to you.**

Week 5: Follow Up

1. Read Colossians 3:12 aloud.
2. Pray.
3. Refer to Study Guide Questions on pp. 185-187 in One Blood by John Perkins.

Deeper Dive:

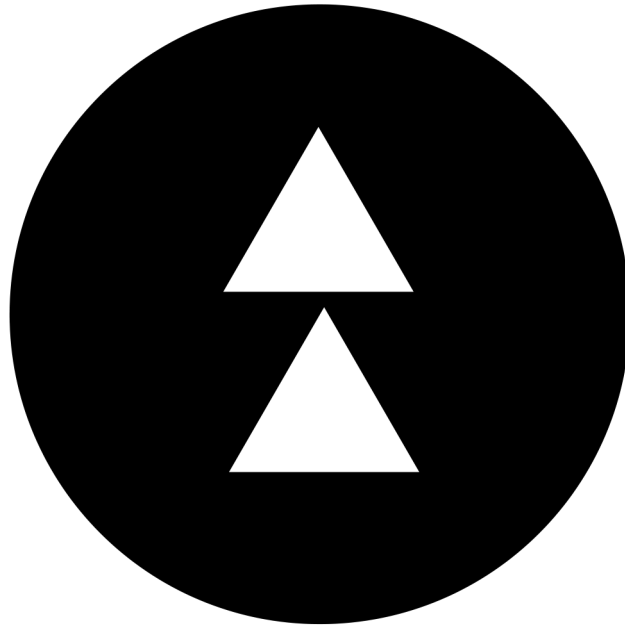
- **Be the Bridge -Latasha Morrison**
- **United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity- Trillia Newell**
- **Bridging the Diversity Gap -Alvin Sanders**
- **The Post-Black and Post-White Church- Becoming the Beloved Community in a Multi-Ethnic World- Efrem Smith**

INTERVAL #5

Covenant & Kingdom



Covenant & Kingdom



Overview

God as Father established His covenant with us, which identifies us as His children. Out of this identity flows our obedience to Him. God as King gives us authority as His children. Out of this authority flows our power to do His mission.

Just as God told Jesus that he is His Son, so are we his sons and daughters when we surrender our lives to Him as our abba, father (**Matthew 3:16-17, John 1:12**). In the covenant relationship, we partner with God to bring the good news of his kingdom to all (**Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:20**).

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

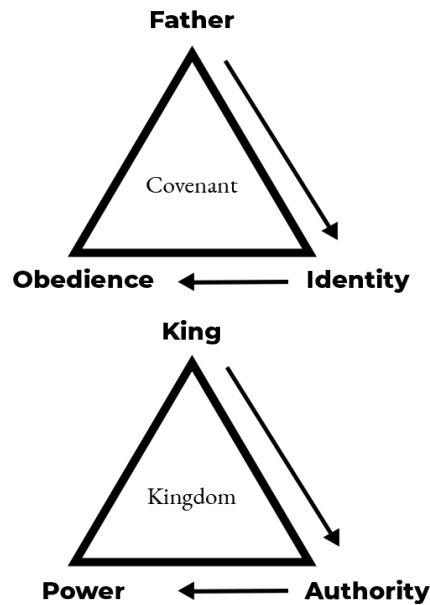
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- **Matthew 3:16-17, 4:1-25**
- **John 1:12**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Shape:



Description

This shape is an extension on the Up-In-Out Triangle. We know that we must have relationship with God, other believers, and non-believers in balance. The Covenant-Kingdom Triangles illustrate how our relationship with God gives us an identity in His family, which enables us to be ambassadors of His kingdom to those who aren't yet a part of His family.

Covenants are agreements that take two things and make them one. For example, when a man and woman enter into marriage, the two become one. When we surrender our lives to Christ, we become one with God, and our identity is now found in being sons and daughters of God our Father (**Matthew 3:16-17, John 1:12**).

- Our response to this new identity that God gives us is obedience. When we accept Christ, we accept him as Savior AND Lord. We cannot simply have Jesus as our Savior if we're not willing to submit to Him as Lord. Out of our obedience, we begin

to root out the sin in our lives, and to live by the Spirit. By the Spirit's strength, we can turn from our selfish desires and seek to love and serve others. In so doing, we unleash God's peace and become vessels of His grace and love.

- In a healthy relationship with God, any response to God's grace flows out of our gratitude for what God has first given us, not from our attempts to prove ourselves to God; response flows from gratitude, not obligation.

The concept of Kingdom unfolds from the beginning of the Bible; when sin came into the Garden of Eden, the first covenant was broken and human beings lost their uninterrupted relationship with God. Human beings also lost their ability to represent God as his royal emissaries.

- God desired to restore humanity's relationship with Him and did this through the relationship and covenant he made through Abraham. This covenant initiated and established God's restoration of us to Him, giving us the capacity to live as His Kingdom builders.

- Kingdom living begins with the recognition that God is the King of His people and King of the universe. As God's representatives, God works through us to do the sorts of things that only God can do to advance His Kingdom. However, we must be aware that our authority and power as members of God's kingdom are not meant for our personal advancement but in service of building God's Kingdom of love and reconciliation.

When our obedience flows from our God-given identity in the Covenant Triangle, we obey humbly and joyfully and accept the identity God has given us. Equally important is that the exercise of spiritual power needs to flow from our humble and joyful acceptance of the authority God has given us. Authority is about placing ourselves in the right place before God. As we rightly and humbly recognize His position in our lives, He gives us authority to exercise power on His behalf. In the Kingdom triangle, we see that God gives us power to do His work and be His representatives. Both covenant and kingdom must be in their proper order and balance in our lives (for example: UP IN OUT and Rhythms of Life). Our kingdom responsibilities must flow out of our covenant identity (**Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:20**).

Application

- Are you tempted to try to do “kingdom” work on your own effort rather than drawing from your “covenant” relationship with God?
- Are you tempted to rest in the comfort of your “covenant” relationship and not walk in the power given you to do your “kingdom” responsibilities?
- Look at the following lists of words. Which list best describes the way you relate to God? What words are difficult for you to relate to?

Covenant Words:

Relationship
Identity
Obedience
Father
Invitation
Being
Abide
Community
Oneness

Kingdom Words:

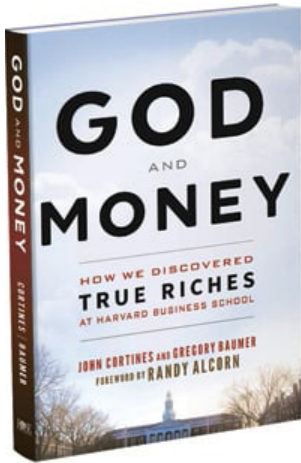
Responsibility
Authority
Power
King
Challenge
Doing
Bear fruit
Mission
Representation
Organization

- Where is God asking you to grow?
- Where am I tempted to find my identity other than in God?
- Where do I struggle to obey God?
- Do I wrongly seek to gain approval and identity in God from obedience and good works?
- Do I use my kingdom authority to advance myself and my leadership position, or do I use my authority to humbly serve others and advance the cause of Christ?

Deeper Dive

Read *Covenant and Kingdom* by Mike Breen

Read *God And Money* by John Cortines and Gregory Baumer



Amazon's #1 New Release in Christian Stewardship - Two young Harvard MBAs on the fast track to wealth and success, tell their story of God's transforming power and how it changed their lives and their relationship to money. They offer an honest look at what the Bible says about radical generosity.

**Visit www.godandmoney.net/resources for a FREE Study Guide*

NOTES

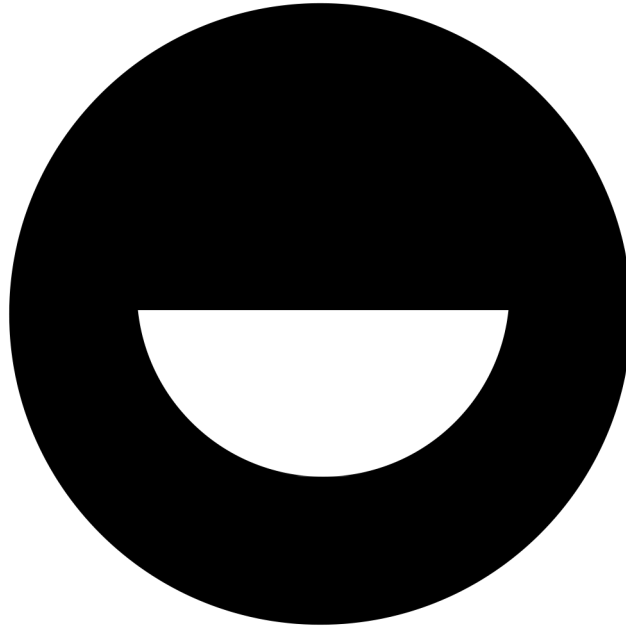


INTERVAL #6

Rhythms of Life



Rhythms of Life



Overview

God made us to work from our rest, not for it. In our busy and full schedules, learning to work and rest helps us abide in our relationship with Christ.

Jesus tells us that He is the true vine and that God cuts off the branches in our lives that no longer bear fruit and prunes all the other branches, so they are even more fruitful (**John 1:1-2**). God does the pruning, and we are called to remain (abide) in Christ (**John 1:5-8**). Therefore, we will have seasons of rest/pruning and seasons of work/fruitfulness. Both are important seasons. The rest/pruning allows for the season of fruitfulness. Throughout, we are to abide in Christ.

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

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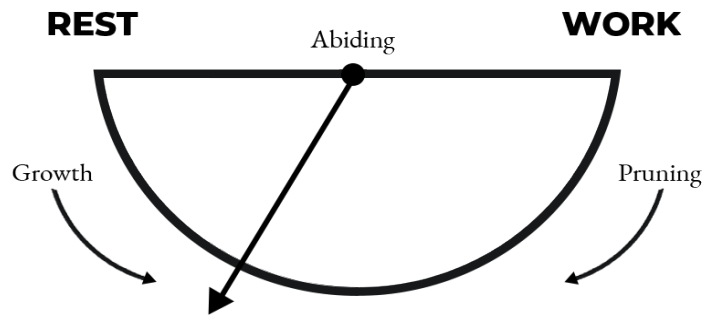
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **John 15:1-8**
- **Genesis 1:26-2:3**
- **Genesis 2:15**
- **Genesis 3:8-9**

Shape:



Description

Imagine a pendulum swinging in rhythm—back and forth, to and fro; the shape created by this swinging pendulum is a Semi-Circle. At one end of the pendulum's arc is fruitfulness and the other end is rest. We can't have one without the other.

We rest in Christ, then go forth to bear fruit.

We bear fruit; then we are pruned back and enter a time of rest.

Rest, work, work, rest.

This shape is important for two reasons:

1. We live in a culture of busy and work. Our culture is over-committed and under-connected. We don't need more commitments; rather, we need to be committed to the right things.

2. God didn't intend for humans to be overworked and stressed; this is evident in the first few chapters of Genesis. God created humans on the sixth day, and God gives humans work to do in the garden. But the seventh day, the first full day the first humans had after they were created, was a day of rest.

Though humans were created to work, God intended rest to receive a priority in our lives. God created humans for work, but we start with a day of rest. We are to work from our rest, not rest from our work. Rest is good, and work is good.

Balancing work and rest and establishing a healthy relationship between them can be found in following Jesus's example:

- He often went off to be alone with the Father or took the disciples away for rest.

- He started His ministry with a time of abiding in the desert (Matthew 4). We often launch straight into work and then rest when we burn out!

- Resting in God, abiding in His presence, is the only way we can successfully grow in the calling God has for us.

A healthy rhythm looks like this (think the swinging of a pendulum):

- Abiding – remaining in the Father's presence, being (not doing), receiving (not producing)

- Growing (work) – not the end in itself, but an essential part of being healthy

- Fruitfulness (work) – productivity, an important aspect of making disciples while on mission

- Pruning (rest) – prayerfully reducing our commitments or stopping things that are harmful, creating new space, cutting back stuff which has had its time, or which we need a break from for a while

First, learn how to abide. Spend time reading, meditating on and memorizing scripture, praying, listening quietly for God's voice, worshipping, and journaling,. Ask for wisdom on what work God wants you to do. Then, allow Him to empower you to bear fruit rather than trying to do it on your own. Rest should be intentional, engaging our mind in relationship with God, not trying to shut down our mind through mindless activities. Rest is not passivity, rest is activity - activity grounded in abiding in God. When we rest through abiding in Him, we actually carry that abiding into our work. That's why the work is fruitful, because our motivation and mindset are in alignment with God, not distorted by our selfishness and self focus. Abiding becomes something we are always doing, both is rest and in work; always attached to the vine, knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing.

Application

- Which side of the semicircle do you tend to more naturally cling to because of personality and environment: resting or working?
- Do you struggle to move along the pendulum to the other side?
- How do you abide in God?
- What needs to be pruned in your life and what needs to be grown?
- What does it look like to do good works from your own power versus doing God's work through His power abiding in you and enabling you to bear fruit?

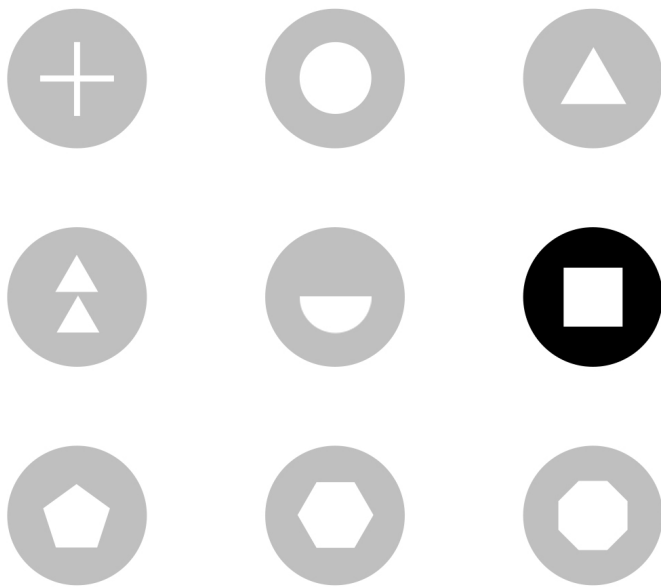
Deeper Dive

- Read *Covenant and Kingdom* by Mike Breen
- Read *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer

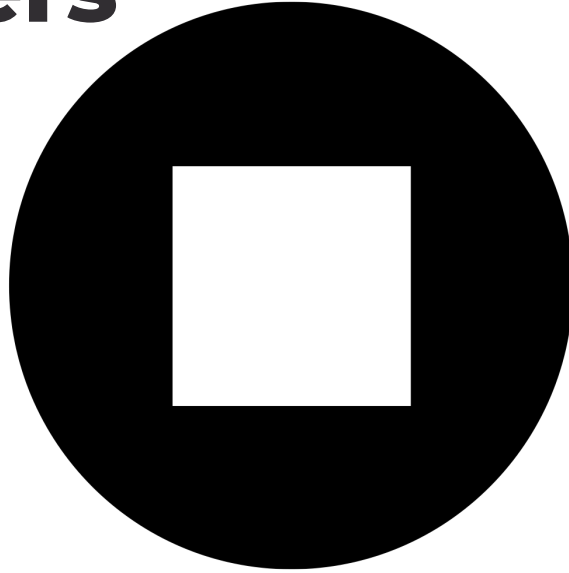
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INTERVAL #7
**Multiplying Missional
Leaders**



Multiplying Missional Leaders



Overview

Growing disciples in maturity and leadership is a process—a very important one in order to fulfill the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**), so they can make disciples of their own. It's a guide for both leaders and disciples.

Making disciples who make disciples is rooted in following the example of Jesus (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). Through inviting, modeling, partnering, and releasing, Jesus empowered his disciples to put inot practice what he taught them and multiply the building of the kingdom of God (**Philippians 4:9**).

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

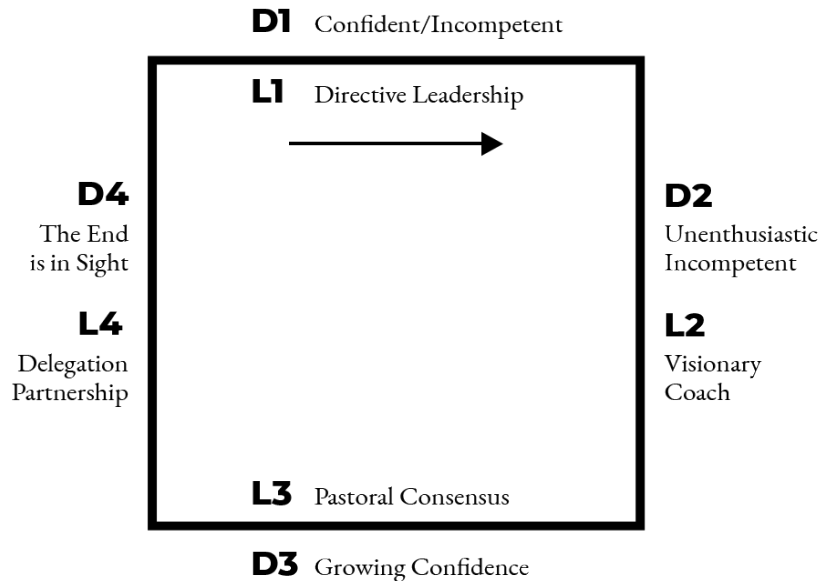
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Matthew 28:16-20**
- **Philippians 4:9**
- **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Shape:



Description

In the Great Commission, Jesus tells His followers to “go and make disciples”. Part of discipleship is learning to help others become disciples.

In **1 Corinthians 11:1**, Paul writes, “Be imitators of me as I am of Christ.” But Paul was not discipled directly by Jesus. Paul was most likely discipled by Barnabas, who was discipled by Peter, who was discipled by Jesus. Paul was a fourth generation disciple.

Paul discipled others like Timothy and Titus, who in turn discipled more. We can watch the way Jesus led and developed his disciples.

- First, He invited them to be with Him while He ministered. He did ministry and they watched.

- Then he took twelve aside and involved them in His ministry. He did ministry and they helped.

- After that, He began to give them their own missional assignments. They were doing ministry and He helped.

- Eventually, we see the disciples doing on their own what Jesus had done, and Jesus celebrated.

We see that Jesus was intentional. Likewise, we can be patient and prayerful and intentional in choosing who to disciple and in the process of discipling them.

The phases of the leadership square:

Event 1: The leader and the disciple start the journey together. The Leader does. The disciple watches. “I do. You watch.”

- Disciple Phase 1 - Unconscious Incompetence: High Enthusiasm. High Confidence. Low experience. Low competence. Disciples are excited about being on the journey, but don’t really understand how difficult it will be.

- Leader Phase 1 - Directive: High Direction. High Example. Low Consensus. Low Explanation. The leader simply invites disciples to follow and watch. “Be here.” “Bring this.” “Try this.” In Luke 5, when Jesus tells the disciples to cast the net on the other side of the boat, He doesn’t offer much explanation. He just invites them to trust Him.

Event 2: The leader recognizes the disciples are ready to begin trying to do things on their own and to move into the difficult (even disillusioning) part of the journey. Without passing through D2, the disciple will not grow.

- Disciple Phase 2: the leader begins to invite the disciples to help in ministry. “I do. You help.” When you go over the first edge of the square you fall into, what we call, the D2 Pit. It’s a hard place to be but is good and necessary.

- Disciple Phase 2 - Conscious Incompetence: Low Enthusiasm. Low Confidence. Low Experience. Low Competence. This is the most disillusioning stage. The disciples are discovering what they don’t know. Their incompetence is exposed at the first attempt. With Jesus, the disciples are learning they are expected to pray, speak, and heal and they can’t get it right. They are also facing opposition and are being asked questions by Jesus’s adversaries. It’s a challenging time.

- Leader Phase 2 - Visionary/Coach: High Direction. High Discussion. High Example. High Accessibility. If the leader is not aware of what is going on at this stage, the disciples will drop out. The leader needs to be very present. It is vital to listen to what the disciples are saying, to pray for them, and to offer encouragement. This is the stage for regular vision reminders and regular explanations about what to do and why. The leader needs to explain things clearly, offer hope, model the skills, celebrate successes, and even rescue (reach into “the pit” to help them out). Peter tried walking on the water at this stage. Jesus was there.

Event 3: The leader recognizes the growing competencies of the disciples. It's time to turn the corner toward letting the disciples do things on their own, toward, "I help. You do."

- Disciple Phase 3 - Conscious Competence: Growing Enthusiasm. Growing Experience. Growing Competence. Intermittent Confidence. This is a rewarding stage for the disciple, but there's still a lot of work to do. The disciples now know what they know. They have new skills but have to think about what they are doing as they do it. They begin to see success and that feeds their growing confidence and motivation. There are still setbacks, but overall, they are growing and getting guardedly excited and hopeful. They have just been through a set of challenges together, so they are usually very close to one another as well.

- Leader Phase 3 - Pastoral: Lower Direction. High Consensus. High Discussion. High Accessibility. It is essential for the leader to change behavior at this stage from giving direction to giving support. The disciples will tend to succeed but will still need coaching, direction, and some redirection. However, the leader needs to include them in the conversation and decision-making and invite them to help and teach one another. Keep casting vision. The fellowship will likely be sweet at this stage. Enjoy it—but remind the disciples they need to think about passing on what they've received. Expect them not to be too confident about that step.

Event 4: The disciples are ready to go on their own. The leader's role shifts to encouragement. "You do. I celebrate."

- Disciple Phase 4 - Unconscious Competence: High Enthusiasm. High Confidence. High Experience. High Competence. The end goal is in sight. They have been trained. They have practiced. They have "been in the game." They have stories. They begin teaching one another and are ready to teach others. They may be a little overconfident, but not likely. At this stage, they don't know what they know. It just flows from them almost without thinking about it.

- Leader Phase 4 - Delegation: Low Direction and Example. High Consensus and Explanation. Celebrate success! Review why you did things the way you did along the journey. Talk things over with the disciples about next steps. The leader does not need to be "doing the ministry" anymore if the disciples are present. For that matter, if the leader does so, they might "get in the way". Guard against jealousy because some of the disciples will be better skilled than the leader. It is also essential for the leader to begin encouraging the disciples to find others to disciple. Skills are often not mastered

until they are passed on. If any are reluctant to take that step just remind them gently Jesus didn't just call us to be disciples, he also called us to make disciples.

Event 5: The disciple becomes a leader. They have been trained and are now ready to make disciples on their own. The cycle repeats itself and continues. A “Kairos moment” (for either the disciple or the leader) may well signify the transition from one phase to another. If a learner does not go around all sides of the square they will stagnate. The square reminds us to serve them by offering the appropriate leadership style at each time.

Application

- Describe the emotional journey for the disciple going around the square.
- D2 is the hardest stage. Why is that?
- What are the dangers for the disciple at each stage?
- Where are you in the D2 Pit?
- What are the temptations the leader faces at each stage that could hamper the disciple's growth?
- What happens if a leader remains too “hands-on” in D3 and D4?
- Who are you imitating? What “D” level are you in this discipleship relationship?
- Who is imitating you? What “L” level are you in this discipleship relationship?

Deeper Dive

- Read Hero Maker by Dave Ferguson & Warren Bird

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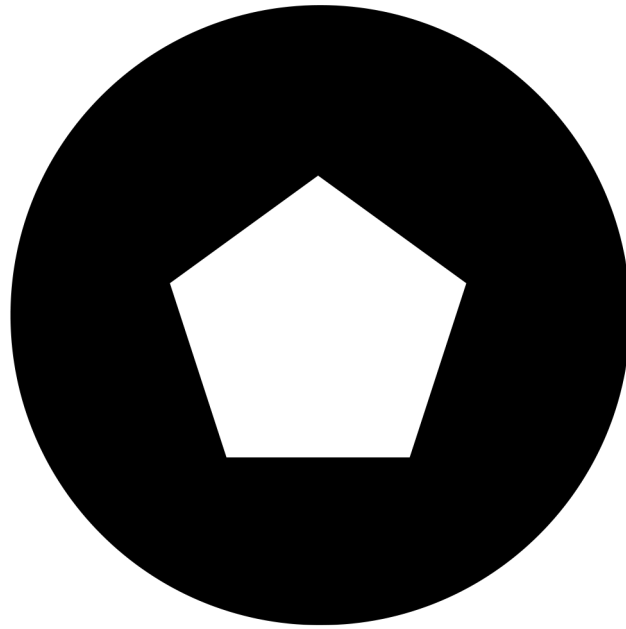


INTERVAL #8

Personal Calling



Personal Calling



Overview

We are each gifted by Jesus to serve in the Church and help strengthen the body of believers. This shape helps us to see where we are gifted and understand how we can work with the Body, not against it, in living out our unique gifting as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, or Teachers (**Ephesians 4:11-16**).

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

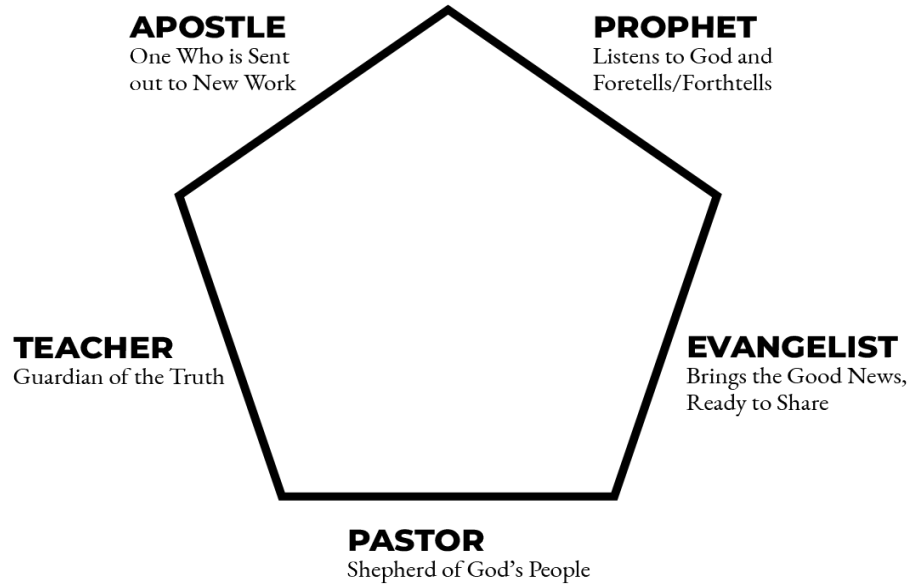
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:11-16**

Shape:



Description

Jesus modeled each of the five-fold giftings of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers during his time in ministry on Earth. The Church now functions as the Body of Christ, and we continue His five-fold work in building His kingdom. Each of us has received specific giftings by the grace of God, and when used together it gives a wonderful picture of who Jesus is to the world.

Aristotle once said, “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts”, which means when individual parts are connected together to form one entity, they are worth more than if the parts were in silos.

Paul shares this idea in his letter to the Ephesians and explains how the Church is designed to function: in oneness. **Ephesians 4:5-6** says we are “all called to one hope in one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all...” To fully know Christ and mature in faith, as well as make Christ known to the world, is to learn from Him in each of these giftings.

EXAMPLES OF JESUS MODELING APEST:

- **Apostles** extend the gospel. As the “sent ones,” they ensure that the faith is transmitted from one context to another and from one generation to the next. They are always thinking about the future, bridging barriers, establishing the church in new contexts, and developing leaders. Focusing solely on initiating new ideas and rapid expansion can leave people and organizations wounded. Shepherding and teaching functions are needed to ensure people are cared for rather than simply used.

- Jesus was the ambassador of heaven, who left his Father and came to Earth to establish a new covenant for a new people

- Jesus says in **Luke 4:43**, “I must preach the gospel to the other towns because that is why I was sent”

- **Hebrews 12:2** describes Jesus as the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith”

- **Prophets** know God’s will. They are particularly attuned to God and His truth for today. They bring correction and challenge assumptions we inherit from the culture. They insist that the community obey what God has commanded. They question the status quo. Without the other types of leaders in place, prophets can become belligerent activists or disengage from the imperfection of reality and become other-worldly.

- Throughout the New Testament, Jesus is constantly calling people to repentance and obedience to the true Word of God

- For instance, in **Matthew 23:27**, Jesus says, “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.” He challenged the status quo of the religious culture.

- **Evangelists** recruit. These infectious communicators of the gospel message recruit others to see God’s heart for others. They call for a personal response to God’s redemption in Christ while also drawing believers to engage the wider mission. Evangelists can be so focused on reaching those outside the church that maturing and strengthening those inside is neglected.

- Jesus doesn’t just share the good news of the gospel, he is the good news. He says in **John 11:25**, “I am the resurrection and the life.”

- When you follow the narrative of the gospels, you see in the life of Jesus a strong faithfulness and frequency of communicating the love of God and the forgiveness of

sins. People are so compelled by Him that often large crowds gather just to hear Him, touch Him, or be healed by Him.

- **Shepherds** nurture and protect. They focus on the protection and spiritual maturity of God's flock, cultivating a loving and spiritually mature network of relationships, making and developing disciples. Shepherds can value stability over the mission of the church. They may also foster an unhealthy dependence between the church and themselves.

- Nobody embodied a life of service or sacrifice quite like Jesus. He loved God's people so deeply He died for them. In **John 10:11** He says, "I am the good shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep."

- Even during Jesus' active and busy ministry, you see him being interruptible, showing compassion to hurting and broken people, listening to the cries of the community, patiently discipling ragtag fishermen, and embracing little kids as they run to Him.

- **Teachers** understand and explain. They help others remain biblically grounded to effectively discern God's will, guiding others toward wisdom, helping the community remain faithful to Christ's Word, and communicating an understandable doctrine. Without the input of the other functions, teachers can fall into dogmatism or intellectualism. They may fail to see the personal or missional aspects of the Church's ministry.

- Jesus is the greatest teacher of all time. The things He said two thousand years ago continue to ring remarkably true in our age. He made the Word of God understandable using parables in order for people to understand and apply the truth.

- Jesus the Rabbi (teacher) was often giving revolutionary teaching:

- "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery...an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth...,love your neighbor, hate your enemy...' (**Matthew 5**)

- "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart...do not resist an evil person...but if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

When a community has all of the giftings of APEST represented and is working together in oneness, it creates dynamic kingdom impact. When certain giftings are absent, it can create an imbalanced and sometimes unhealthy context.

Often what happens in a church or organization is that certain giftings begin to dominate the culture of the whole, often based on who is leading the group. Without careful discernment and wisdom, groups can begin to devalue gifts that aren't their own, placing a higher emphasis on the gifting in which they personally operate. This leads to tension and conflict, most notably between the "pioneer" gifts (apostle, prophet, evangelist) and "developer" gifts (shepherd, teacher). The key is to embrace the tension of both "taking new ground" and "developing the ground that has been taken."

Application

- Take the survey below and find out your gifting.
- Where are you actively using your gifting to build up the Body of Christ?
- Where have you seen your immaturity play out in the community of Christ?
- Of the five giftings, where is the biggest deficit in your life and how can you begin to learn from the example of Christ or others?
- Where have you devalued other giftings?
- What is God saying to you and what will you do about it this week?

Deeper Dive

- Read *Covenant and Kingdom* by Mike Breen
- <http://www.fivefoldsurvey.com/>
- <https://www.spiritualdna.me/> with Daron Earlewine



SPIRITUAL DNA

Are You Struggling to Know Your Purpose?

- ✓ Are you starting to believe your life doesn't matter?
- ✓ Do you desire to experience peace with God?
- ✓ Are you ready to create the future you've dreamed of?



Know Your Worth

It's time to realize that your life matters.



Conquer Fear

Overcome the frustrations on your journey.



Change Your World

Become who you were born to be.

Start becoming who you were born to be today!

Join the thousands of other Spiritual DNA alumni across the nation who have conquered their fears and discovered who they were born to be. Start today by [buying Spiritual DNA](#), discovering who you were born to be, and changing your world.

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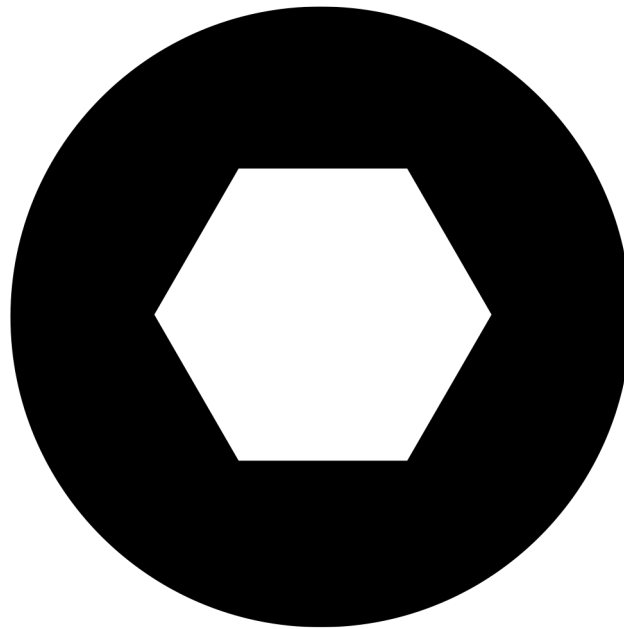


INTERVAL #9

Prayer



Prayer



Overview

Prayer is a powerful way for us to have an intimate relationship with God. This shape provides some of the talking-listening points for your conversations with God based on Jesus's example (**Matthew 6:5-13**).

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

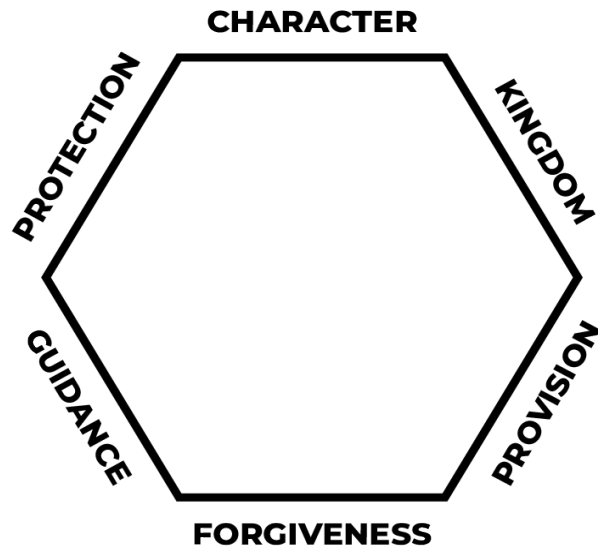
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Matthew 6:5-13**

Shape:



Description

Jesus gave us the example of how to pray, and it was simpler than we sometimes make it. It wasn't a set form of words to use every time. It was a simple, profound framework that guides us beyond our habitual prayers into prayers of adoration, confession, intercession, petition, guidance, and warfare, all declaring our dependence on God and seeing him as Lord.

- The Father's Character - Jesus shows us that we can interact with God in an intimate manner. He is our Father, our "Abba" (Daddy). There is an element of respect as well. He is in heaven and deserved to be hallowed, (honored as holy, respected, worthy of our awe). He is both our Father and our King. How do you need to recognize Him as Abba and your King? (**Matthew 6:9**)

- The Father's Kingdom - When you surrender to God as Savior of your life, you recognize that He is Lord and you want His Kingdom to be built on Earth. How can you be a part of building His Kingdom on Earth? (**Matthew 6:10**)

- The Father's Provision - Jesus shows us that we can admit our need to God and request His provision. We have physical, spiritual, and emotional needs, and we

can trust that He wants us to invite Him into every area of our lives. Where do you need to ask for His provision in your life? (**Matthew 6:11**)

- The Father's Forgiveness - When we trespass (sin) against God, we're basically telling God that He and what He has provided for us is not enough to satisfy us; sin is an act of our distrust of Him. We must confess our sins against God and others, as well as follow God's example by forgiving others. Where do you need to ask for forgiveness? (**Matthew 6:12**)

- The Father's Guidance - God wants us to go into the world to share His kingdom. But we should not be of the world and succumb to its temptations. We should pray for God to guide us in our interactions with the world as we seek to join in His mission. Where do you need to ask for His guidance in your life? (**Matthew 6:13**)

- The Father's Protection - We are in a spiritual battle, and the enemy wants to distract us from God's presence and will in our lives. We can pray that God would protect us from temptation and spiritual warfare as we are doing His mission here on Earth. What do you need His divine protection from? (**Matthew 6:14**)

Application

- Do you commonly communicate with God regarding all of these topics or do you tend to focus on only some of them?
- How do you relate to God as both Abba and King?
- How can you be praying for the Father's guidance and protection for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How do you seek intimacy with God in prayer?
- Take time during huddle to pray through the hexagon.
- Pray through the hexagon as a huddle about a common need at Mercy Road, each person taking a section to pray.
- Take the next week and pray through one side of the hexagon each day, all day, as you go about your routine.

Deeper Dive

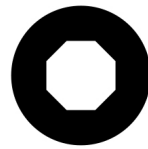
- Read Building a Discipleship Culture by Mike Breen

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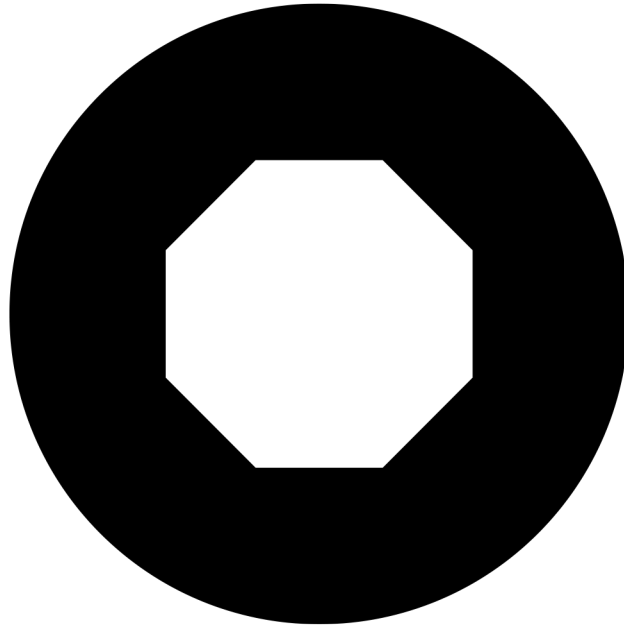


INTERVAL #10

Person of Peace



Person of Peace



Overview

Jesus's way of sharing the good news is filled with grace and love. This interval helps us to embrace Jesus's good news without shame or guilt. As we are being sent out, we continually ask for the Holy Spirit to show us persons of peace. **Luke 10:5-7** tells us that these are people who are in your life, receives you, shows interest in your relationship with Jesus, and is willing to know more about God.

Huddle Meeting Outline

- **Week 1: Content** - Introduce content through overview, Scripture, Shape, and Description. Use Deeper Dive options at the leader's discretion.

- **Week 2: Personal** - Huddle Leader re-teaches information from the previous week (for approx. 5-10 minutes on a whiteboard, iPad, flip chart, etc). Leader and participants discuss Application Questions. At the end of Huddle, each participant identifies what God is saying to them and what they will do about it. Huddle Leader assigns 1-2 participants to reteach information the following week with assistance from the leader.

- **Week 3: Leadership** - A huddle participant (or two) teaches the information to the group with the help of the leader while reflecting on their context. Participants engage with the tool in their personal context and can clearly identify what God is saying to them and what they are going to do about it.

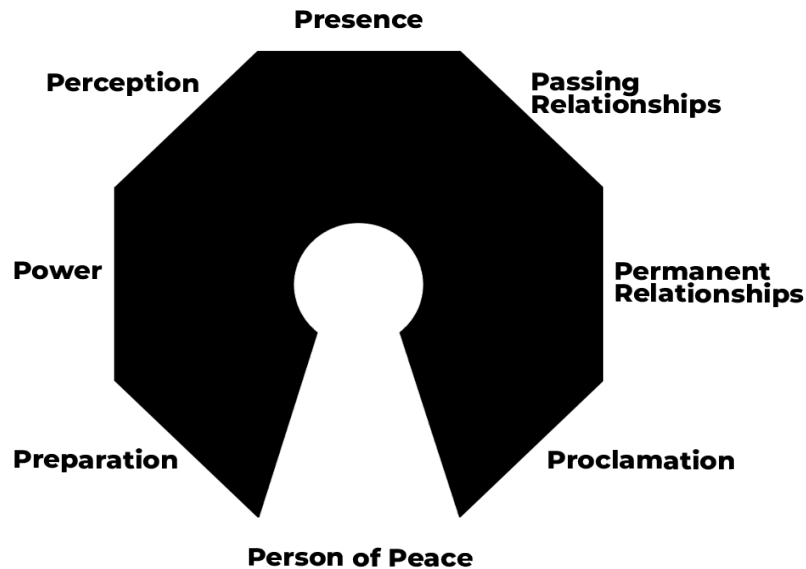
- **Week 4: Mission** - Using the time normally allotted for huddle, the huddle will participate in a serving or fellowship opportunity.

- **Week 5 and Beyond** - Deeper Dive at leader's discretion.

Scripture

- **Luke 10:1-11**
- **Acts 16:11-15**
- **John 4:4-45**

Shape:



Description

When reading **Luke 10:1-11**, we see that the disciples were to find the person of peace in the places they went to. A person of peace is someone who is open and receptive to the good news. That person is the gatekeeper or key to their community. People of peace are those whom God is already working in and sending you to help grow the seeds of curiosity and faith that God has planted.

Here are five things to look for in a person of peace:

1. Time: For whom is the time right? Is God moving in a specific person's life that is opening up their curiosity?
2. Team: Jesus sent disciples out in pairs. With whom are we praying with/working with about sharing the gospel?
3. Target: Jesus was strategic with whom He was reaching. Prayerfully consider who God is calling you to reach with the gospel.
4. Task: The task is to find people of peace in your life and then share "the reason for our hope" with them. Luke 10 says they will welcome us, listen to us, and serve/support us.

5. Trouble: We will experience resistance and/or persecution, but when we do we are told to “knock the dust from our feet” and move on in our search for the person of peace.

The Octagon gives us details of what to look for as we share the good news with people of peace in our lives:

- Presence: Jesus is with you where you are. Be aware of the communities and settings He has you in right now.

- Passing Relationships: Discern/identify the passing relationships where you are sowing seeds that you will likely not be personally present to see grow into fruition.

- Permanent Relationships: Discern/identify the people that may not receive the good news for years to come (not open to receiving the good news at this point in their lives) who also are permanent relationships for you.

- Proclamation: Who are the people who are ready to hear the gospel? Tell them. If they don't respond, stop there and move on. If they respond, they are a person of peace.

- Preparation: Move people one step closer to Jesus. Even if the person is a long way away from hearing the gospel or making a personal decision, they are worth praying for, serving, and encouraging.

- Power: Follow up when you see God moving in someone's life. Join in God's powerful work through encouragement and prayer.

- Perception: Through prayer and listening, cultivate spiritual with-it-ness. Feel the spiritual temperature around others. When in doubt, pray and see where God leads you.

Application

- For whom is the time right to hear the good news of Jesus?
- Who is someone you can pray with weekly or monthly about evangelism?
- Where does God have you strategically to share the Gospel with?
- How can you respond when you encounter trouble along the way?
- Take time to pray through the Octagon. Pray about:
 - Presence
 - Passing Relationships in your life
 - Permanent Relationships in your life

- Proclamation to a person of peace
- Preparing to point people to Jesus
- Partnering with God's Power
- Perceiving the Holy Spirit

Deeper Dive

- Read You Found Me by Rick Richardson
- Read One Blood by John M. Perkins
and use the study guide on pp. 181-187 to discuss
- Read and discuss Culture Making by Andy Crouch
- Read Gaining By Losing by JD Greer
- Read Movements That Change The World by Steve Addison

NOTES



INTERVAL #11

Review

Overview

In order to refresh concepts, take a few weeks for your huddle to review what they've learned. This will help them gain confidence in the wisdom they gained this year and allow them to further reflect.

Huddle Meeting Outline:

- Week 1: Two huddle participants teach Invitation and Challenge and Learning Circle Intervals. Huddle Leader provides feedback and suggestions.
- Week 2: Two huddle participants teach UP IN OUT and Covenant and Kingdom Intervals. Huddle Leader provides feedback and suggestions.
- Week 3: Leadership - Two huddle participants teach Rhythms of Life and Multiplying Missional Leaders Intervals. Huddle Leader provides feedback and suggestions.
- Week 4: Three huddle participants teach Personal Calling, Prayer, and Person of Peace Intervals. Huddle Leader provides feedback and suggestions.

NOTES



INTERVAL #12

Launching Huddles

Overview

In order to release your disciples, help them prayerfully launch their next huddle.

Huddle Meeting Outline:

- Week 1: Huddle leader invites huddle participants to take quiet time to pray about the following: Who is God calling you to invite into a discipleship huddle? When will I launch my huddle? What do I need from my huddle leader to help me take this step?

Huddle discusses what God revealed to them.

- Week 2: Huddle Leader discusses Huddle Launch Guide action steps (SEE BELOW) Huddle Leader prays a blessing over each participant.

NOTES



5 Steps to Launch a Huddle

1. PRAY - Take 2-3 weeks for fasting & prayer

We believe in the power of prayer. Take a time of fasting and prayer. Ask God to reveal WHO He is calling you to invite into your Huddles and for Him to make the way clear for them. Pray for wisdom and peace for this next year.

2. CHOOSE DAY/TIME - Consider your schedule first

In order to lead a Huddle, you need to consider your schedule first. Before you do anything else, choose a day and time of the week you can commit to for the next year.

3. HOLD 1-2 PRE-HUDDLE MEETINGS - Be upfront

This is a big commitment for you and your disciples. Be upfront about the commitment: it's a 1 year disciple-making commitment. It will be challenging, but worth it. The goal is to make disciples in Christ who go on and make disciples. We believe that Huddle is the most important spiritual commitment of a disciple's week.

4. HUDDLE LAUNCH FORM - Don't do it alone

Complete the Huddle Launch Form at mercyroad.cc/huddle so we can come alongside you.

5. COMMUNICATE - Communicate with disciples & staff

Choose a way to communicate with your Huddle as a group. A Huddle Coach will be assigned to you for a weekly coaching call. Have all participants complete the Huddle Confidentiality Form.

Huddle Interest Meeting

1. PRAY - Ask everyone to pray before committing

We believe in the power of prayer. This is a big commitment. Invite potential Huddle participants to pray & discuss with family before committing. Be upfront about 1 year commitment and the vision of making future disciples.

2. GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER - Intro everyone & ask questions

Let everyone briefly introduce themselves. this could help everyone “get a feel” for how this group could be. Allow people to ask questions during and at the conclusion of the meeting.

3. EXPLAIN THE WHY - Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission

The objective of Huddle is to make disciples who then make disciples. Jesus calls all believers to do this and promises to be with us as we step out in faith and obedience. We disciple in groups because that’s how Jesus led; we learn from one another. Discipleship Huddle is a teacher-learner relationship as modeled by Christ.

4. BE UPFRONT - Be real & set expectations

It’s a 1 year commitment. Communicate the day/time Huddle will take place and the importance of regular attendance.

5. FOLLOW UP - Reach out & equip

Follow up within a few days. Let people know start date/time/place, materials needed, huddle confidentiality form, and contact Discipleship Pastor of who will be in your Huddle.

Resources & Sources

- Building a Discipling Culture by Mike Breen
- Seamless by Angie Smith
- Four Portraits, One Jesus by Mark Strauss
- passionfruitblog.wordpress.com
- Culture Making by Andy Crouch
- One Blood by John Perkins
- Hero Maker by Dave Ferguson
- centerforfaith.com
- deeperchristian.com
- conformingtojesus.com
- bethebridge.com
- The Ruthless Climination of Hurry by John Mark Comer

Huddle Next Steps

Fill out this form, tear it out, and give to your Huddle Leader.

Date:

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

My next step could be:
(Circle all that apply)

- Launch my own Huddle
- Lead a Rooted group
- Join an Outpost
- Start an Outpost
- Continue discipleship in another Huddle
- Other:

