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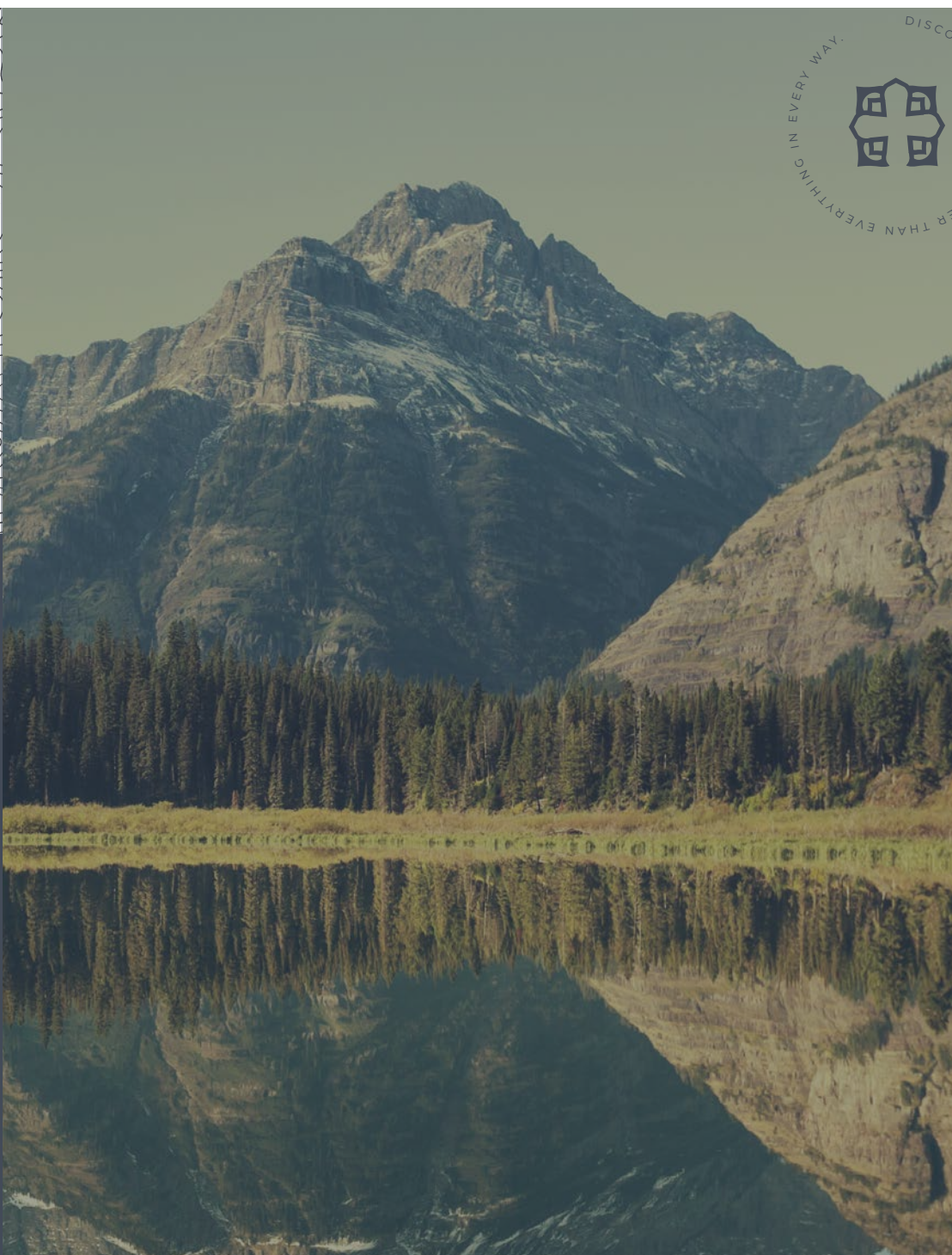
DISCIPLESHIP
TOOLBOX

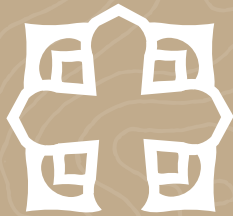
CCC

VOLUME 1



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO FOLLOW JESUS AND
TO HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME.





CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP
THE TOOLBOX CCC
VOLUME 1

Hi there! My name is Rick Haluszka. I love Jesus, my family, the church, and books. I have been a pastor for over 10 years now, and I'm still figuring out what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. By God's grace, however, I have learned a few things along the way that I desire to share with those looking to flourish in life and in their relationship with Jesus.

This booklet is just the tip of the iceberg meant to outline the essentials covered in greater detail of the Men's and Women's Flourish class at Cornerstone Community Church. Would you join me in discovering that Jesus is truly better than everything in every way? Come alongside me and discover what it looks like to follow Jesus and to help others do the same. My prayer is that the Lord would use this to change your life and the lives of those to whom you have been called to be a light.

Pastor Rick Haluszka

DISCIPLESHIP
THE **TOOLBOX** CCC
VOLUME 1

WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

MT 23:23

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DISCIPLESHIP GOLD

DISCIPLESHIP DEFINITIONS

- Flourishing together as we cling to Christ and discover that He is better than everything in every way.
- Pursuing a vibrant walk with God and helping others to do the same.
- By God's grace, trusting in the work of Jesus, following the ways of Jesus, and teaching the words of Jesus so others can know Him and make Him known.

DISCIPLESHIP OVERVIEW

1. **BECOMING DISCIPLES:** Trusting in the Work of Jesus

- The Call of Discipleship: "Follow Me" (Luke 5:1-11, 27-32)
- The Cost of Discipleship: "Everything" (Luke 14:25-33)
- The Choice of Discipleship: "Jesus is Better" (Luke 18:9-30)

2. **BEING DISCIPLES:** Following the Ways of Jesus

- Devotion: A Lifelong Lifestyle of Loyalty to Jesus Christ (Acts 2:42)
- Imitation: Mimicking what is Visibly Christ-like in Others (Phil. 3:17)
- Participation: Serving & Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-16)
- Mission: Sharing the Gospel in All of Life to All the Nations (Matt. 28)

3. **MAKING DISCIPLES:** Teaching the Words of Jesus

- Our Mission Field is All People: "Everyone" (Col. 1:28)
- Our Message is a Person: "Him we proclaim" (Col. 1:28)
- Our Motivation is their Perfection: "Mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28)
- Our Might is God's Power: "Struggling with all His energy" (Col. 1:29)

DISCIPLESHIP "NETS": WHO'S IN YOUR NETS?



PAUL
DISCIPLINING
YOU



BARNABAS
ALONGSIDE
YOU



TIMOTHY
YOU'RE
DISCIPLINING



HELLBOUND
WITNESS
OPPORTUNITY

PLANNING TO FLOURISH

1. "Full Throttle"
2. "Steady Eddy"
3. "Bare Bones"

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE (O.I.A.)¹

OBSERVATION: WHAT DO I SEE?

1. **PASSAGE:** OT/NT? Book, chapter, verse? Genre?
2. **PARTS OF SPEECH:** Notice all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and punctuations.
3. **EMPHASIS:** Is the purpose clearly stated? Is there an arranged order? Does the paragraph or chapter move toward a specific point?
4. **REPEATED:** Are any words, phrases, or concepts stated multiple times? Is there a pattern? Are there any quotations or allusions to other passages?
5. **CONNECTED:** Is there a "therefore"? Is it arranged in Q&A or cause & effect relationship? Is there a truth being explained or an idea being defended?
6. **ALIKE & UNLIKE:** What is the same/similar? What is different/contrasted?
7. **REAL LIFE:** What in the text is earthy, human, relatable, or common to man?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. HAZARDS TO AVOID

- *Assuming:* You think you already know what it means.
- *Misreading:* You make a careless mistake or sincere oversight.
- *Distorting:* You twist the text to fit your agenda.
- *Contradicting:* Your interpretation contradicts clear Biblical truth.
- *Feeling:* You say, "I feel like it's this, so it can't mean that," or "It can't mean this because that would not make me/someone feel good."

2. HABITS TO APPLY

- *Content:* What am I actually working with here in this text?
- *Context:* What are the literary, historical, and theological contexts?
- *Compare:* The Bible & The Church (Analogia Scriptura & Analogia Fide)
- *Culture:* What cultural customs, terms, worldviews, etc. are present?
- *Christ:* How does this apply to Christ? How was it fulfilled by/in Him?
- *Consult:* What do respectable dictionaries and commentators say?

APPLICATION: WHAT MUST I DO NOW?

1. **PRINCIPLE:** What are clear, universal truths that transcend time & culture?
2. **PERSONAL:** How is God wanting this text to redeem and transform my life?
3. **DOCTRINAL:** What does this text teach me about a Christian doctrine?
4. **RELATIONAL:** How does this text help us better love/serve our neighbors?
5. **PASTORAL:** What about this text speaks to sinners, sufferers, & saints?
6. **MISSIONAL:** How does this text help fuel evangelism and global missions?



¹ Resources: *Living By The Book* (Hendricks, Moody 2007); *Grasping God's Word* (Duvall & Hays, Zondervan 2005); *Reading the Bible Supernaturally: Seeing and Savoring the Glory of God in Scripture* (Piper, Crossway 2017).

READING THE BIBLE

DEVOTIONALLY

THE ESSENTIAL TOOLBOX CCC

THE MINDSET

God is Worthy, I am Needy,
Others are Hungry



WHO
YOU AND
GOD



WHAT
E.G. "ABIDE"
PROGRAM



WHEN
E.G.
6:10AM



WHERE
E.G. FAVORITE
CHAIR



WHY
CHOOSE A
REASON

INSUFFICIENT REASONS

1. **KNOWLEDGE:** I read to know things in and about the Bible.
2. **TEACHING:** I read to prepare for teaching the Bible to others.
3. **THEOLOGY:** I read to gain a better understanding of theology.
4. **ARGUING:** I read to be able to persuade others of my point.
5. **ARCHEOLOGY:** I read to prove the Bible's accuracy and reliability.
6. **SELF-HELP:** I read to become a better person and feel better.

BEST REASONS

1. **DEVOTIONAL:** I read to worship & glorify God.
2. **RELATIONAL:** I read to know God & be known by God.
3. **TRANSFORMATIONAL:** I read to grow & become more like Jesus.

THE METHOD: D.E.V.O.²

D

DEPEND (ON GOD)

I depend entirely on God for my daily bread of spiritual nourishment. Therefore, I approach my time in His word humbly, attentively, and expectantly. This is expressed in prayer.

E

ENGAGE (THE WORD)

I engage the word by following my plan and by practicing sound bible study skills. This may mean turning to or thinking about other passages. I find it helpful to mark up my Bible with a pen and highlighter(s).

V

VOICE (MY THOUGHTS)

I commune with God by responding to His word. This is my time of quiet reflection that requires my heart and my mind. By journaling and praying, I put words to what is within me and enjoy fellowship with my Savior.

O

OBEY (THE TRUTH)

I seek to apply and obey what the Lord has taught me. Carrying out His commands is the completion of reading devotionally. With the Spirit's help, how should I now strive to obey Christ?

²Throughout Church history and across denominational lines, Christians have appreciated and applied an approach called "Lectio Divina" (leek-tee-oh div-eeen-uh) or "Divine Reading." The four elements of this method are "Lectio" (reading), "Meditatio" (meditation), "Oratio" (praying), and "Contemplatio" (contemplate). In our DEVO method we encourage similar, yet not identical, elements: reading, reflecting, journaling, praying, and obeying.

A B I D E
JOURNAL & REFLECTION

PROMPTS

JOURNAL

Write out the verse(s) that caught your attention.

COMMUNE WITH THE LORD BY ASKING...

1. "O God, by your Spirit, would You please reveal Your glory to me?"
2. "Lord, what do You want me to see in this passage?"
3. "Father, what are You telling me right now from Your word?"
4. "Why are these verses ministering to me today?"
5. "Lord, what is this text revealing about Your holy character?"
6. "What do these verses teach me about my own sinfulness?"
7. "Lord, in what ways am I just like the people in this passage?"
8. "How does what I've read make God's grace to me even sweeter?"
9. "How is God showing me Christ and the depths of His unfailing love?"
10. "How should I respond to God speaking to me through His word?"
11. "Father, what in my life needs to change now?" (S.P.E.C.T.)

S.P.E.C.T

S

SINS

What sins are You
inviting me to
confess?

P

PROMISES

What promises
are You wanting
me to trust?

E

EXAMPLES

What examples
are You encour-
aging me to fol-
low/avoid?

C

COMMANDS

What commands
are You expecting
me to obey?

T

THANK YOU

What good gifts
can I thank You
for today?

12. "What did I read that amazed/confused/encouraged/challenged me?"
13. "Does anything I've read help me accomplish my spiritual goals?"
14. "Holy Spirit, what did I learn that I should share with others?"
15. "God, who do You want me to talk to today about what I've read?"

A B I D E
P R A Y E R

PROMPTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (MATT 6:9-13)

*"Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."*

A.C.T.S.

A

ADORATION

Adore, bless, & praise
God for who He is &
what He's done.

C

CONFESSION

Admit to God how you
have sinned & failed
His standard.

T

THANKSGIVING

Accept with gratitude
the gospel & all of
God's gifts.

S

SUPPLICATION

Ask the Lord for what
you & others need to
glorify Him.

MY SPHERES: PRAY FOR...

MY WORLD: Local, national, & global issues and leaders.

MY NEIGHBORS: Those whom you live and work with regularly.

MY CHURCH: Leaders, people, ministries, & needs of CCC.

MY FAMILY: Parents, siblings, spouse, children, & relatives.

MY LIFE: Your own spiritual flourishing and material needs.



DISCIPLESHIP

MEETING GUIDE



60
MIN

5

GREET WITH GRACE

Warmly welcome each other as Christ has welcomed you—with grace, peace, and mercy, not condemnation, criticism, and coldness (cf. Rom. 15).

YOUR TIME IN GOD'S WORD

- How did God _____ in your time with Him in His word?
 - Encourage you
 - Equip you with truth
 - Convict you of sin (omission/commission)
 - Correct your errors
 - Assure you of His love and acceptance
 - Lead you to change
- From your reading this week, what did you learn about God?
- From your reading this week, what did you learn about yourself?
- From your reading, were there any questions you wanted to discuss?
- Were there any _____ this week? How did God minister through His Word to those circumstances?
 - Big events
 - Health issues
 - Highs/lows
 - Encouraging/discouraging times
 - Arguments/fights
 - Personal wins/setbacks

30
-
40

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION IDEAS

- PRAYER:** How was your prayer life this week: faithful or unfaithful?
- CONFESSION & ACCOUNTABILITY:** Are there any sins that you would like to confess? Is there an area where you need accountability and prayer? What promises should you trust? What changes should you make?
- MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION:** What passage from this past week's reading did you memorize and spend time meditating/reflecting on?
- GODLY RELATIONSHIPS:** Is there anyone you should encourage, forgive, correct, accept, evangelize, serve, or be especially loving to this week?
- SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:** Are there any other spiritual disciplines you are practicing? How have they proven fruitful this past week?
- SPIRITUAL GOALS:** Are your daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and one-year goals on target? If not, why not and what next?
- BOOK STUDY:** What stood out most from our reading and why?

15
-
20

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Ask what you can be praying about today and throughout the week.
- Pray specifically in light of what you shared and learned in your time together.
- Use the "A.C.T.S." acronym if you find it helpful.

5
-
10



THE ADDITIONAL **TOOLS** CCC



SPIRITUAL GOAL-SETTING

SET DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY, QUARTERLY, AND YEARLY GOALS.

MAKE SURE THEY ARE SMART GOALS.

S.M.A.R.T.

S	M	A	R	T
SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ATTAINABLE	RELEVANT	TIMELY

EVALUATE

Where did you succeed by God's grace, what was a struggle, and what needs more work?



GOAL IDEAS

1. **ARSENAL:** Enhance your spiritual arsenal or weaponry. For example, it may include the Abide Reading Program, memorizing scripture, reading a Christian living book, purchasing some worship music, turning off the television and replacing it with prayer, etc.
2. **BIBLE STUDY:** Set apart your personal time in the word and with God each day.
3. **PRAYER:** Set standards for your daily prayers so you can measure growth in this area.
4. **SERVICE:** Cultivate a Christlike, servant-heart within or improve in an area of service to God.
5. **LOVING OTHERS IN THE CHURCH:** A focused opportunity to love, serve, or minister to others in the body of Christ.
6. **CHURCH ATTENDANCE:** Aid attendance at the Lord's Day corporate worship gathering so worship and fellowship are a steady diet.
7. **EVANGELISM:** Witness to the lost. Select one unbelieving person to pray for specifically and set a goal regarding how to be a godly witness to him or her.
8. **GIVING:** Faithfully and generously steward wealth for the glory of God in the proclamation of the gospel and the relief of the poor.
9. **MARRIAGE:** Identify a specific aspect of marriage or a particular dynamic within the marriage relationship to focus on so the overall quality and health of the marriage is improved, and the individual grows in grace.
10. **PARENTING:** Bring a specific aspect of parenting or a particular parent-child relationship into focus for the sake of improvement and growth.
11. **WORKPLACE:** Foster a kingdom-mindedness in the workplace. Identify opportunities and relationships that can be stewarded or leveraged for the advancement of the gospel and to show others kindness.
12. **AGORA:** Seek to increase gospel-centered involvement in the public sector so that Christ, His truth, and His ways influence the culture.



SPIRITUAL

“HOUSE - CLEANING”

Periodically, it is helpful to take some time to examine oneself and see if there are relationships that need mending, encouraged, corrected, or restored. Prayerfully and thoughtfully complete the list below. It is possible that not all will be filled, but be willing. These are real issues and opportunities that require real action. Allow for a couple of weeks to follow through on these items with people. Then come together and share how it went. Of course, use discretion to avoid people's names when it is not helpful, necessary, or edifying

(Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 20:19).

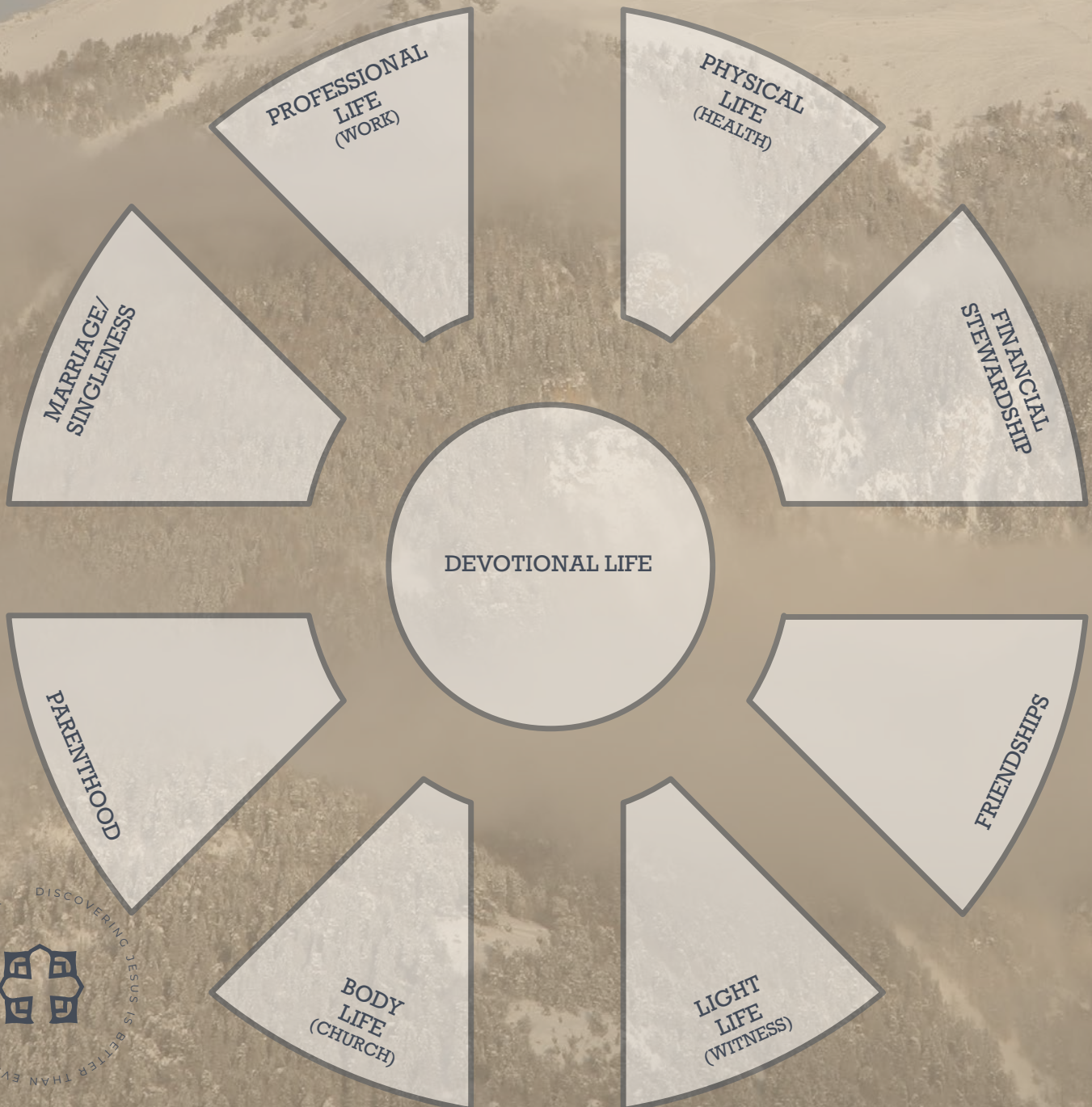
SOMEONE TO...

1. Show love to
2. Pray for
3. Forgive
4. Ask forgiveness from
5. Serve
6. Encourage
7. Accept
8. Admonish/correct
9. Witness to
10. Release to God

“WHEEL”

EVALUATION EXERCISE

Take some time to prayerfully evaluate how things are going in each applicable area of life. Where have you seen victories and growth by God's grace? How would you like to see God work? What do you need to do? Remember, it is not about perfection, but direction.



4 STEPS

MAKING DISCIPLE MAKERS⁴



COME &
SEE

JOHN 1:38-39

Choose people as your method. Help potential converts make solid decisions. Recognize your place in ministry and then stay there. Give your disciples an initial taste for ministry. Give disciples a vision for what they can become. Make it easy for them to say no. Motivate your disciples by the method of modeling. Identify the spiritual enemy. Use a tailor-made approach in witnessing. Do not allow prejudice to stand in the path of ministry. Demonstrate that you know where you are going. Recognize the importance of timing in your ministry. Challenge your disciples to share in your vision. Give them time to make a solid decision.



COME &
FOLLOW ME

MARK 1:16-20

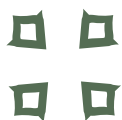
Call people who have prepared hearts. Take the responsibility on yourself to train people. Do not overload your disciples with information. Call your disciples to a vision. Establish your disciples in the four fundamentals of discipleship. Develop commitment in your disciples in stages. Establish a clear set of priorities. Respond to both success and adversity with prayer. Handle 'dropouts' with care. Show your disciples that faith pleases God. Teach your disciples how to witness in their everyday experience. Expect to find opposition to your evangelistic efforts from inside the church/religious establishment. Make fellowship with God the basis for fellowship with others. Leverage the small group as your primary discipleship vehicle.



COME &
BE WITH ME

MATTHEW 9:37-38

The church is called to make more disciples, to pray for more laborers, and to recognize leaders. Establish a laboring team to achieve spiritual multiplication. Set three goals for your laborers: convinced of the mission's significance, supervised training, and development of ministry skills. A laborer's character is a high priority in ministry. Laborers need a philosophical grid. Establish a training schedule with a simple, two-step method of observing ("watch me") and doing ("your turn"). Effective equipping requires detailed instructions. Teach your laborers how to handle rejection. Focus on receptive hearts. Show your laborers the true nature of proclaiming the Word. Compassion is a key ingredient in spiritual multiplication. Teach your laborers through personalized testing. The cost of discipleship is a truth that should be gradually unveiled to the disciple. Successful laborers will interest others in becoming laborers.



ABIDE
IN ME

JOHN 15:1-8

Before sending them out on their own, make sure laborers know what they will be facing. True leadership consists of character, knowledge, and skills. Humility is a vital key to effective leadership. Obedience is the proof of love. The love of Christians for one another is the most powerful form of evangelism. Remaining in Christ entails regular Bible study, prayer, and obedience to God. Make sure that you understand and apply the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

⁴Summarized and adapted from *Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker* by Bill Hull (Baker Books, 2004).

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

1	TRIUNE
2	SOVEREIGN
3	HOLY
4	GREAT & AWESOME
5	RIGHTEOUS
6	IMMUTABLE
7	OMNIPOTENT
8	OMNIPRESENT
9	OMNISCIENT
10	ETERNAL & EVERLASTING
11	INCOMPREHENSIBLE
12	FAITHFUL
13	LOVE
14	MERCY & COMPASSION
15	GRACIOUS
16	FORGIVING
17	GOOD
18	PATIENT
19	WRATHFUL
20	JEALOUS
21	JUST
22	WISE
23	TRUTH
24	ADVOCATE
25	CREATOR
26	ADONAI (LORD & MASTER)
27	YAHWEH (YHWH, "I AM")
28	YAHWEH RAPHA (HEALER)
29	YAHWEH RAAH (SHEPHERD)
30	YAHWEH SHALOM (PEACE)
31	YAHWEH JIRAH (PROVIDER)

Who is God? What is true about Him? As the Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."

As good and Biblical as that description is, God's glory and greatness is beyond the scope of words. Yet, according to Psalm 19, Romans 1, and Hebrews 1, God has revealed Himself to us in the power of creation, in His written revelation, and in the work of salvation—in the World (generally), the Word (specially), and the Son (definitively). He is worthy to be praise and honored for who He is!

The list to the left contains some of the revealed characteristics, attributes, and names of God. On the corresponding day of the month, pray a prayer of praise to God for who He is and meditate on the attribute's significance in the World and in your life. If you want to go further, you can reflect on Scripture passages that speak of the attribute or think about how Jesus Christ manifested this characteristic in His life.



THEOLOGY

1 0 1

Theology is the study of God. More broadly, it is the study of God and the things related to God. When Christians speak of “theology,” they often mean “systematic theology”—what all of the Bible teaches about one specific topic. Discovering how all the texts and parts fit together to communicate true and sound doctrine can be a joy!

Below are the primary branches of Christian theology.

BIBLIOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE
THEOLOGY PROPER — THE DOCTRINE OF GOD
ANTHROPOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY
HAMARTIOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF SIN
CHRISTOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST JESUS
SOTERIOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION
PNEUMATOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ECCLESIOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH
ESCHATOLOGY — THE DOCTRINE OF THE END



THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE

THE BIBLE IS ABOUT THE GLORY OF THE ONE, TRUE, TRIUNE GOD REVEALED IN THE CREATION, SALVATION, & RESTORATION OF A SINFUL WORLD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST & HIS GOSPEL.

OLD TESTAMENT (39)

PROMISES MADE

LAW (5)

Creation — “Creation & Covenant”

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

HISTORY (12)

Deterioration — “Kings & Compromise”

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

POETRY (5)

Application — “Worship & Wisdom”

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

PROPHETS (17)

Declaration — “Turn & Trust”

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT (27)

PROMISES FULFILLED

GOSPELS (4)

Manifestation — “The Life of Jesus”

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

HISTORY (1)

Proclamation — “Advance the Gospel”

The Acts of the Apostles

EPISTLES (21)

Explanation — “Letters to the Church”

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude

REVELATION (1)

Consummation — “End of All Things”

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

10

IDENTITIES

10 IDENTITIES OF EVERY

DISCIPLE

ME

GOD



I AM **SOIL & SOUL** THAT HAS BEEN CREATED **TO GLORIFY GOD**

A Creature Made in God's Image

The Creator



I AM A **SINNER** WHO HAS **REBELLED AGAINST GOD**

A Lawbreaker in Thought, Word, Desire,
& Deed

The Holy One



I AM A **SUFFERER** WHO KNOWS **THE CURSE & COMPASSION OF GOD**

A Broken, Needy, & Hurting Human

The Merciful Judge



I AM A **SON** WHO HAS BEEN **ADOPTED BY GOD**

A Beloved Child of God & Heir of
His Blessing

The Father



I AM A **SAINT** WHO HAS BEEN **JUSTIFIED BY GOD**

A Believer Declared Forgiven &
Righteous

The Savior



I AM A **STUDENT** WHO MUST ALWAYS **LEARN FROM GOD**

A Disciple who is Ignorant but Growing

The Teacher



I AM A **SHEEP** WHO CAN ALWAYS **LOOK TO & DEPEND ON GOD**

A Stubborn, Straying, Helpless Lamb

The Shepherd



I AM A **SLAVE** WHO MUST ALWAYS **OBEY GOD**

An Owned Bondservant of Lord Jesus

The Master



I AM A **SERVANT** WHO IS TO **EDIFY THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

A Spirit-filled Member of Christ's Church

The Head



I AM A **SENT-ONE** WHO IS TO **ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

An Ambassador of Christ to All Nations

The Missionary

RELATIONAL WISDOM 360⁵

THE ESSENTIAL RW SKILLS & DISCIPLINES

GOD-AWARE — *[Remember vs. Forget] the ability to interpret all of life in the light of God's character, works, & promises*

GOD-ENGAGING — *[Faithful vs. Fickle] the ability to trust, obey, & imitate God in a way that pleases & honors Him*

SELF-AWARE — *[Humble vs. Proud] the ability to accurately discern your own emotions, interests, values, strengths, & weaknesses*

SELF-ENGAGING — *[Disciplined vs. Indulgent] the ability to manage your thoughts, emotions, words, & actions so that they advance God's purposes*

OTHERS-AWARE — *[Compassionate vs. Insensitive] the ability to understand & empathize with the experiences, emotions, & needs of others*

OTHERS-ENGAGING — *[Serving vs. Manipulating] the ability to encourage, cooperate, & resolve differences with others in a mutually beneficial way*

PRACTICE THE SOG PLAN

S

SELF

How am I feeling and acting?

O

OTHERS

How are others feeling? How am I affecting them?

G

GOD

Where is God leading me? What would honor Him?

SELF: READ YOURSELF ACCURATELY

R

RECOGNIZE

Recognize and name your emotions

E

ENGAGE

Engage their source

A

ANTICIPATE

Anticipate their consequences

D

DIRECT

Direct them on a constructive course

OTHERS: SERVE EVERY PERSON YOU MEET

S

SMILE

At home, the office, church, the store, on the phone, etc.

E

EMPATHIZE

Explore and show interest and compassion

R

RECONCILE

Be a peacemaker

V

VALUE

Express appreciation and respect

E

ENCOURAGE

Give heart, inspire, and put wind under their wings

GOD: FOLLOW A TRUSTWORTHY GPS

G

GLORIFY GOD

Trust, obey, and worship Him

P

PURSUE GOD

Seek Him earnestly

S

SERVE GOD

Do what pleases Him

THE 4 G'S OF BIBLICAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

4

1. **Glorify** God
2. **Get** the Log out of Your Own Eye
3. **Gently** Restore
4. **Go** and Be Reconciled

THE 7 A'S OF BIBLICAL CONFESSION

7

1. **Address** everyone involved (All those whom you affected)
2. **Avoid** if, but, and maybe (Do not try to excuse your wrongs)
3. **Admit** specifically (Both attitude and actions)
4. **Acknowledge** the hurt (Express sorrow for hurting someone)
5. **Accept** the consequences (Such as making restitution)
6. **Alter** your behavior (Change your attitudes and actions)
7. **Ask** for forgiveness (Say the words clearly and humbly)

THE 4 PROMISES OF BIBLICAL FORGIVENESS

4

1. **I will not** dwell on this incident.
2. **I will not** bring up this incident again and use it against you.
3. **I will not** talk to others about this incident.
4. **I will not** let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

HOW TO CONFESS & FORGIVE SIN⁶

⁶Summarized and adapted from *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* by Ken Sande (Baker Books, 2004).

C H R I S T - C E N T E R E D **CHANGE**⁷

HOW PEOPLE CHANGE

Christians grow by the power and grace of God in the midst of all of life's circumstances as they rest in Christ, pursue holiness by His strength, and live in authentic, gospel-informed relationships with other believers.



HEAT

What are the circumstances of life, good and bad? If I'm always reacting to the world around me, what is happening in my world?



THORNS

How am I reacting sinfully? What do I want too badly? What do I believe wrongly? What are the consequences of my responses?



CROSS

Who is God? What does He say in His word? What has He done for me in Christ & the gospel? What does He say is now true about Him, about me, & about others? What wisdom & strength does my Redeemer supply?



FRUIT

How should I seek God in repentance and faith? What should I now confess, believe, change, turn from, accept, think, say, or do? What will be the positive benefits of living how God calls and empowers me to live?

HELPING PEOPLE CHANGE

Christians are people in need of change who can help people in need of change. By living in light of King Jesus' message, following His methods, and seeking to reflect His character, believers can be powerfully used as instruments in the Redeemer's hands to bring about change in others' lives.



LOVE

A redemptive relationship is absolutely vital to helping others change. Love enters a person's world, incarnates/imitates the love of Christ, identifies with suffering, and accepts God's agenda for transformation.



KNOW

Knowing a person means knowing their heart. Therefore, ask thoughtful questions that help you learn the person's beliefs, goals, hopes, dreams, fears, desires, and joys.



SPEAK

God uses our speaking the truth in love to accomplish His purposes in others' lives. In various ways, we share Scripture, stories, questions, and insights that connect with the unique challenges our friend is facing. Aim to remind them of God's promises and resources for change.



DO

All of us need help applying God's truth; thus, we help our friend respond in personal ways (thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions) to God's call.



HOW TO USE A CHRISTIAN BOOK IN DISCIPLESHIP

While the Bible must always remain our primary source of study and basis for discipleship, there are many helpful books that Christians have written in order to assist discipleship efforts. Here are some tips for how to best study a book together.

1. **PURPOSE:** Determine your purpose for reading the book. Is there a problem to solve, an area of life to improve, a doctrine to better grasp, a sin to fight, or a skill to develop? You and your disciplee may have different purposes.
2. **BIRD'S-EYE VIEW:** Get a bird's-eye view of the book first. Read the table of contents, noticing the chapter titles. Grasp the whole book by first reading the Table of Contents and chapter titles thoroughly and then reading the book's introduction and conclusion. Flipping through chapters helps, too.
3. **THESIS:** Identify and remember the author's thesis. It's beneficial to put it in your own words or develop a pithy phrase that is easy to recall.
4. **PACE:** Read at a comfortable pace; don't read too slowly. This actually inhibits retention and may discourage you from finishing (or enjoying) the book.
5. **CONVERSATION:** Mentally engage the author in conversation as you read, as this leads to good questions & conversation when you get together for discussion.
6. **SKIM:** Overview each chapter before you read it—title, introduction, headings, and conclusion. A good writer will often tell you what he/she is going to say, then say it, and then tell you what he/she just said!
7. **BIBLE:** Read with your Bible open. Interact with the biblical text and the author's argument. Is the interpretation in context and accurate?
8. **NOTES:** Consider keeping a small journal. It could benefit you now and later.
9. **APPLICATION:** Apply what you read. It can help to keep an "action list" as you read (i.e., What should I do now that I have read this?).
10. **SUMMARIZE:** Summarize the chapter in 2-3 sentences, and aim to capture the author's emphasis/thesis in that chapter.
11. **QUOTES:** Some people like to keep a document with just quotations. Some you may want to discuss when you get together; some you may want to memorize in order to use them in your own life and as you help others.
12. **CRAMMING:** Don't "cram"! Discipline yourself to have time to read and think.
13. **DISCUSS:** When you meet to discuss the book, consider talking about (1) the main point, (2) what ministered to you most, (3) what you did not agree with, & (4) what changes you need to make because of what you read, etc.
14. **GOAL:** Don't get through the book; let the book get through you! "Books don't change lives; sentences do." Enjoy your study and reach your goal!

8 QUESTIONS
TO OVERCOME

SINFUL ANGER⁸

1. WHAT IS THE SITUATION?

- What is happening to me?
- When and where was this?
- At what or with whom am I angry?

2. HOW HAVE I REACTED IN ANGER?

- How is my anger expressed?
- What am I thinking?
- What emotions am I feeling?
- What destructive actions have I taken?
- What relationship has been strained?

3. WHAT ARE MY MOTIVES?

- Why did I get so angry?
- What desires and beliefs mastered me?
- What was I afraid of losing?

4. WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES?

- What repercussions must I now face?
- What hurt are others now experiencing because of me?

5. WHAT IS TRUE & REAL?

- Is God as angry about this as I am?
- What was the situation in reality?
- What does the Bible say is true about me?

6. HOW CAN I TURN TO GOD FOR HELP?

- Who is God? What is the gospel?
- What can I say to God, and what does He say to me in His word?

7. HOW COULD I RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY?

- What would be the fruit of my repentance, confession, and faith?
- Who should I talk to in order to pursue reconciliation?

8. WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE BENEFITS?

- What good will come from my trusting God?
- How could my repentance, faith, and obedience glorify God?

⁸Summarized from *Good & Angry* by David Powlison (New Growth Press, 2016).

PURITY IN PLACE OF PORNOGRAPHY

(THE FIRST MEETING)



BEFORE THE MEETING

1. **SEEK THE LORD:** Draw near to Him for the much-needed wisdom from above that He alone gives. Pray to be quick to listen and slow to speak, discerning the severity of the sin and the situation, asking good questions, and counseling with godly wisdom.
2. **READY YOUR HEART:** Approach the situation with compassion, not frustration and sensibility, not shame. Keep in mind that you are co-sufferers of sin and co-heirs of eternal life in Christ.

DURING THE MEETING

1. **GATHER DATA:** Listen attentively. Ask appropriate, investigative questions. Look for patterns. Note important relationships and events. Stay curious.
2. **ASSESS SEVERITY:** In general, what is being viewed and how frequently?
3. **GET SERIOUS:** Stress the matter with sobriety (maybe open Proverbs 5-7).
4. **PROVIDE HOPE:** God's grace has the power to change (share testimony).
5. **COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS:** Communicate clearly what it will take to experience authentic, heart-level transformation.
 - *My Expectations of Them*
 - A sincere, urgent desire to get well ("Pool of Bethesda")
 - A commitment to do whatever it takes
 - An understanding that change happens in the community of God's people (Worship, church attendance, God's means of grace, accountability, and serving others will be part of it.)
 - Transformation is long-term, not a quick-fix
 - *Their Expectations of Me*
 - Christ-like Compassion (Luke 15)
 - Biblical Wisdom (Ps. 119:24; 2 Tim. 3:15-17)
 - A Faithful Companion (Prov. 17:17, 18:24; 27:6)
6. **PRAY EXPECTANTLY:** Ask for the Lord's help both for today & for the tomorrows that it will take to reveal the depth of this sin and root it out for His glory.

AFTER THE MEETING

1. **PRAYERFULLY THINK:** What will it take for this person to change? Where should I focus? What might I be missing or misunderstanding?
2. **CREATE A PLAN:** Will I be the one helping this person? Who else should come alongside? When/where will we meet? What will we read? How often?
3. **REGULARLY CHECK-IN:** Between meetings, send encouraging verses or connect at church to see how the fight is going. Follow your plan.



PURITY IN PLACE OF
PORNOGRAPHY
 (A PATH FORWARD)

WHAT'S NEW? — THE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS FOR FIGHTING FOR PURITY

1. A New **MOTIVATION**: God's Glory & Gospel Mercies (Romans 11:36-12:1)
2. A New **MIND**: Transformed Thinking about Pornography (Romans 12:1-2)
3. A New **MASTER**: Bought by the Blood of a Merciful Master (Romans 6)
4. A New **MENTALITY**: United with Christ so Glorify God in Body (1 Corinthians 6:9-20)
5. A New **METHOD**: "You C.A.N.T.B.E. Doing That!" (1 Thessalonians 4:10)

C	A	N	T	B	E
CUT	AVOID	NO	TURN	BELIEVE	ESCAPE
Cut Ties, Cleanse Your Hands: Repent, weep, and confess (James 4:8-10)	Avoid Triggers: identify places, people, websites, music, movies, etc.	No, say No! Two seconds is too much and too late (say "No!" out loud)	Turn to Christ: the Treasure of Heaven is a superior satisfaction	Believe God's Word: hide God's Word and gospel promises in your heart	Escape Temptation: leave, get out asap, flee as quickly as you can

FINALLY FREE⁹ — GRACE IS THE FOUNDATION OF CHANGE

1. Use **GODLY SORROW** to Fight Pornography
2. Use **ACCOUNTABILITY** to Fight Pornography
3. Use **RADICAL MEASURES** to Fight Pornography
4. Use **CONFESSION** to Fight Pornography
5. Use **YOUR SPOUSE/SINGLENESS** to Fight Pornography
6. Use **HUMILITY** to Fight Pornography
7. Use **GRATITUDE** to Fight Pornography
8. Use **YOUR FLOURISHING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS** to Fight Pornography



MAKING ALL THINGS NEW¹⁰ — HOPE & HEALING FOR THE SEXUALLY BROKEN

1. Getting **ORIENTED** (or Reoriented)
2. Renewal is a **PERSONAL** Battle
3. Renewal is a **LIFELONG** Battle
4. Renewal is a **DEEPER** Battle
5. Renewal is a **WIDER** Battle
6. The **SUBTLE** Struggle
7. Today's **SKIRMISH** in the Great War

⁹Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace by Heath Lambert (Zondervan, 2013)

¹⁰Making All Things New: Restoring Joy to the Sexually Broken by David Powlison (Crossway, 2017)

DEPRESSED¹¹

There are many reasons why Christians struggle with discouragement, depression, and complete despair. If you find yourself in this darkness or are walking with someone through “the valley of the shadow of death” (Ps. 23:4), these steps can help you make your ways toward Christ and His life-giving promises.

1. MY SITUATION

- Time? Place? People? Events?

2. MY FEELINGS

- Sum up your mood in one word, if you can.
- Are you sad, worried, guilty, angry, ashamed, irritated, scared, disappointed, humiliated, insecure, anxious?
- You may want to rate the intensity of your feeling(s).

3. MY THOUGHTS

- What am I thinking at this time?
- What am I thinking about myself? Others? God?
- What am I thinking about regarding the past, present, and future?

4. MY ANALYSIS

- Identify false or unhelpful thinking patterns, such as clear lies, false extremes, false ideas about God and life, false guilt, or false filters.
- What generalizations have I made, and how are they preventing me from making progress toward genuine joy and contentment?

5. MY BEHAVIOR

- How have steps 1-4 affected me and my relationships?
- Have I stopped helpful/constructive activities?
- Have I started unhelpful/destructive activities?

6. MY REASONS

- Why do I believe the thoughts I listed in Step 3 are true?
- What evidence is there to support my conclusions?

7. MY CHALLENGE

- List the evidence and reasons against the thoughts in Step 3.
- Think of who God is for you & how He would direct your way to hope.

¹¹Adapted from *Christians Get Depressed, Too* by David Murray (Reformation Heritage, 2010).

FAITHFUL
FAMILY
DISCIPLESHIP¹²

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP is leading your home by doing whatever you can whenever you can to help your family become and remain followers of Jesus Christ.



MODELING

Serve as a godly example for your family, living out your genuine walk with God and demonstrate true repentance where and when you fall short.



TIMES

Create intentional time built into the rhythm of your family's life for the purpose of thinking about, talking about, and living out the gospel.



MOMENTS

Capture and leverage opportunities in the course of everyday life for the purpose of gospel-centered conversations about God and His grace.



MILESTONES

Mark occasions to celebrate and commemorate significant spiritual milestones of God's work in the life of the family and the child.



PARTNERSHIP

Appreciate that God has given both the family and the church to help disciple children as they grow. Though fulfilling different roles, both are necessary—each beautiful and profitable in its own way.

FAMILY WORSHIP DESCRIBED

WHAT

- **What is Family Worship?**
 - What it is not: a parent's desire to raise godly children
 - What it is: the family worshipping God together

WHY

- **Why Should I Practice It?**
 - The Lord Deserves It
 - The Bible Implies It
 - The Church Practiced It
 - The Benefits Invite It
 - The Simplicity Demands It
 - The World Needs It

FAMILY WORSHIP APPLIED



SING

- **Sing the Truth**
- **Sing with Variety**
- **Sing with Direction**
- **Sing with Thankfulness**



READ

- **Prepare**
- **Make it Interactive**
- **Get Practice**
- **Keep it Simple**
- **Show Affection**
- **Read Like a Christian**



PRAY

- **Specific**
- **Thoughtful**
- **Authentic**
- **Concise**
- **Diverse**
- **Steadfast**

FAITHFUL FAMILY WORSHIP¹³



¹³ Adapted from *Family Worship* by Donald Whitney (Crossway, 2016) and *Family Worship Bible Guide* by Joel R. Beeke (Reformation Heritage, 2016).

WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?



OPTIONS

1. **ALL-PHYSICAL:** Everything is material (e.g., secular, atheism)
2. **ALL-SPIRITUAL:** Everything is immaterial (e.g., eastern religions)
3. **ALL-RELATIVE:** Truth is not absolute but relative to certain people, places, & times
4. **ALL-AMERICAN:** Individualistic, Materialistic, Moralistic, Therapeutic Deism
5. **ALL-BIBLICAL:** All of life in God's world is shaped by all of God's Word

QUESTIONS

1. **TRUTH:** What is truth?
2. **ORIGIN:** Where did I come from?
3. **IDENTITY:** Who am I?
4. **DESTINY:** Where am I going?
5. **MORALITY:** What is right and wrong?



DEFINITIONS

- A person's perception and conception of reality
- A particular philosophy of life to which someone adheres
- How one understands his or her experiences and lives out beliefs
- An individual's collection of attitudes, values, stories, beliefs, and expectations about the world around them, which inform every thought and action

ILLUSTRATIONS



GLASSES

THE GLASSES YOU PUT ON TO VIEW AND MAKE SENSE OF REALITY



PUZZLE PIECES

THE PIECES YOU PUT TOGETHER TO MAKE SENSE OF REALITY



GREEK WORDS FOR LOVE

1. **STORGE (“Store-gay”)** — This refers to natural, inherent familial love, such as what a mother has for her baby or what siblings have for one another.
2. **EROS (“Air-ahs”)** — The word refers to romantic or sexual love. From it we get the word erotic. This specific word is not used in the New Testament.
3. **PHILIA (“Fill-ee-ya”)** — This Greek word is the warmth of friendship and companionship. We see it when we read philadelphia = “brotherly love.”
4. **AGAPE (“Ah-gah-pay”)** — This means warm-hearted affection that joyfully sacrifices for the blessing, benefit, and good of another person, especially someone who does not deserve it. This is the love found in 1 Cor. 13:4-7.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.

- **PATIENT** — Love does not retaliate but takes the wound.
- **KIND** — Love blesses others with good even after having been wounded.
- **ENVY** — Love is neither envious nor jealous, craving what others have, nor wishing away these blessings from others.
- **BOAST** — Love does not brag or make much of self, throwing a parade for oneself with words, attitudes, and actions as a result of your perceived greatness.
- **ARROGANT** — Love is not puffed up with ideas of one's own importance.
- **RUDE** — Love does not act disgracefully or discourteously.
- **INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY** — Love is not sinfully preoccupied with self; thus, it does not seek, promote, or demand what it wants or things done its way.
- **IRRITABLE** — Love is not easily angered, nor does it allow the fires of sinful anger to be stoked quickly when something is believed to be wrong.
- **RESENTFUL** — Love does not play “bookkeeper,” keeping a record or list of others' wrongs.
- **WRONGDOING/TRUTH** — Love does not clap for sin but applauds the truth.
- **BEARS** — Love never wearies but bears what seems unbearable.
- **BELIEVES** — Love never stops believing but believes what seems impossible.
- **HOPES** — Love continues hoping when all seems hopeless.
- **ENDURES** — Love keeps going when people and circumstances say give up.
- **NEVER ENDS** — Love never fails or ceases, but will remain forever.

YOUR
PHONE
& GOD'S GLORY¹⁴



6 WARNINGS TO HEED

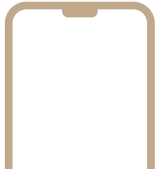
6 DISCIPLINES TO DEVELOP

1. Phones amplify our addiction to distractions (Ch. 1) and thereby splinter our perception of our place in time (Ch. 12).
2. Phones push us to evade the limits of embodiment (Ch. 2) and thereby cause us to treat one another harshly (Ch. 11).
3. Phones feed our craving for immediate approval (Ch. 3) and promise to hedge against our fear of missing out (Ch. 10).
4. Phones undermine key literary skills (Ch. 4) and, because of our lack of discipline, make it increasingly difficult to identify ultimate meaning (Ch. 9).
5. Our phones offer us a buffet of produced media (Ch. 5) and tempt us to indulge in visual vices (Ch. 8).
6. Our phones overtake and distort our identity (Ch. 6) and tempt us toward unhealthy isolation and loneliness (Ch. 7).

1. Minimize unnecessary distractions in life to hear from God (Ch. 1) to find our place in God's unfolding history (Ch. 12).
2. We ought to embrace our flesh-and-blood embodiment (Ch. 2) and handle one another with grace and gentleness (Ch. 11).
3. We must aim for God's ultimate approval (Ch. 3) and find that, in Christ, we have no ultimate regrets to fear (Ch. 10).
4. We must treasure the gift of literacy (Ch. 4) and prioritize God's Word in a world that is increasingly tempting us to take short cuts (Ch. 9).
5. We must listen to God's voice in creation (Ch. 5) and find a fountain of delight in the unseen Christ (Ch. 8).
6. We must treasure Christ to be molded into His image (Ch. 6) and seek to serve the legitimate needs of our neighbors (Ch. 7).



¹⁴ Quoted, summarized, and adapted from *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Tony Reinke (Crossway, 2017). For even further study, read Tony's newest book, *God, Technology, and The Christian Life* (Crossway, 2021).



YOUR PHONE & GOD'S GLORY¹⁵

10 HONEST QUESTIONS ABOUT SMARTPHONE HABITS



1. Do my smartphone habits expose an underlying addiction to untimely amusements?
2. Do my smartphone habits reveal a compulsive desire to be seen and affirmed?
3. Do my smartphone habits distract me from genuine communion with God?
4. Do my smartphone habits provide an easy escape from thinking soberly about my death, the return of Christ, and eternal realities?
5. Do my smartphone habits preoccupy me with the pursuit of worldly success?
6. Do my smartphone habits mute the sporadic leading of God's Spirit in my life?
7. Do my smartphone habits preoccupy me with dating and romance?
8. Do my smartphone habits build up Christians and my local church?
9. Do my smartphone habits center on what is necessary to me and beneficial to others?
10. Do my smartphone habits disengage me from the needs of the people God has placed right in front of me?

12 HELPFUL SMARTPHONE BOUNDARIES TO CONSIDER



1. Turn off all nonessential push notifications.
2. Delete expired, nonessential, and time-wasting apps.
3. At night, keep your phone out of the bedroom.
4. Use a real alarm clock, not your phone alarm, to keep the phone out of your hands in the morning.
5. Guard your morning disciplines and evening sleep patterns by using phone settings to mute notifications between one hour before bedtime and a time when you can reasonably expect to be finished with personal disciplines in the morning (e.g., 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.).
6. Use self-restricting apps to help limit your smartphone functions and the amount of time you invest in various platforms.
7. Recognize that much of what you respond to quickly can wait. Respond at a later, more convenient time.
8. Even if you need to read emails on your smartphone, use strategic points during the day to respond to emails at a computer (e.g. thirty minute sessions at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.).
9. Invite your spouse, your friends, and your family members to offer feedback on your phone habits (in one survey, more than 70 percent of Christians said nobody else knew how much time they spent online).
10. When eating with your family or friends, put your phone out of sight.
11. When spending time with family or friends, or when you are at church, leave your phone in a drawer or in your car, or simply power it off.
12. At strategic moments in life, digitally detox your life and recalibrate your ultimate priorities. Step away from social media for frequent strategic stoppages (each morning), digital Sabbaths (one day offline each week), and digital sabbaticals (two 2-week stoppages/year).



¹⁵ Quoted, summarized, and adapted from *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Tony Reinke (Crossway, 2017). For even further study, read Tony's newest book, *God, Technology, and The Christian Life* (Crossway, 2021).

OWNERSHIP VS. AMBASSADOR: Motivated by what I want for them vs. what God wants to do in them through me



IDENTITY

Where I look to find my sense of who I am



WORK

How I define the work of parenting



SUCCESS

What I define success to be



REPUTATION

What tells people who I am / what I'm about

14 PRINCIPLES OF GOSPEL-CENTERED PARENTING

14

1. **CALLING:** Nothing is more important in my life than being one of God's tools to form a human soul.
2. **GRACE:** God never calls me to a task without giving me what I need nor sends me without going with me.
3. **LAW:** My children need God's law, but I cannot ask the law to do what only grace can accomplish.
4. **INABILITY:** Recognizing what I am unable to do is essential to good parenting.
5. **IDENTITY:** If I am not resting as a parent in my identity in Christ, I will look for my identity in my kids.
6. **PROCESS:** I must be committed to a long-view of parenting because change is a process and not an event.
7. **LOST:** As a parent, I'm not dealing just with bad behavior but a deeper heart condition that causes bad behavior.
8. **AUTHORITY:** One of the foundational heart issues in the life of every child is authority. Teaching and modeling the protective beauty of authority is one of the foundations of good parenting.
9. **FOOLISHNESS:** The foolishness inside your children is more dangerous to them than the temptation outside of them. Only God's grace has the power to rescue fools.
10. **FALSE GODS:** You are parenting a worshiper, so it's important to remember that what rules your child's heart will control his or her behavior.
11. **CONTROL:** The goal of parenting is not control of behavior but rather heart and life change.
12. **REST:** It is only rest in God's presence and grace that will make you a joyful and patient parent.
13. **MERCY:** No parent gives mercy better than the one who is convinced he desperately needs it himself.
14. **REPEAT:** Do all of these things over and over again. Parents are never not in need of God and His wisdom.

GOSPEL-INFORMED PARENTING¹⁶

THE
ADDITIONAL TOOLS
ccc



G O S P E L - I N F O R M E D

LEADERSHIP¹⁷

1

ACHIEVEMENT

A ministry community whose time is controlled by doing the business of the church tends to be spiritually unhealthy.

2

GOSPEL

If your leaders are going to be tools of God's grace, they need to be committed to nurturing that grace in one another's lives.

3

LIMITS

Recognizing God-ordained limits of giftedness, time, and energy is essential to leading a ministry community well.

4

BALANCE

Teaching your leaders to recognize and balance the various callings in their lives is a vital contribution.

5

CHARACTER

A spiritually healthy leadership community acknowledges that character is more important than structure or strategy.

6

WAR

It is essential to understand that leadership in any gospel ministry is spiritual warfare.

7

SERVANTS

A call to leadership in the church is a call to a life of willing sacrifice and service.

8

CANDOR

A healthy leadership community is characterized by the humility of approachability and the courage of loving honesty.

9

IDENTITY

Where your leaders look for identity always determines how they lead.

10

RESTORATION

If a leadership community is formed by the gospel, it will always be committed to a lifestyle of fresh starts and new beginnings.

11

LONGEVITY

For church leaders, ministry longevity is always the result of gospel community.

12

PRESENCE

You will only handle the inevitable weakness, failure, and sin of your leaders when viewed through the lens of the presence, power, and grace of Jesus.

¹⁷Summarized and adapted from *Lead* by Paul David Tripp (Crossway, 2020)



X-RAY

QUESTIONS¹⁸

1. What do you love?
2. What do you want, desire, or wish for?
3. What do you fear or worry about?
4. What do you think will bring you the satisfaction you seek?
5. What are your personal goals and expectations?
6. What do you feel like doing?
7. What do you think you need?
8. What are you working to get?
9. What brings you the most joy?
10. Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, and escape?
11. What/whom do you trust?
12. Whose performance matters to you?
13. Do you get depressed or defensive when you are wrong or when you fail?
14. Who must you please, and whose opinions count the most?
15. What do you desperately hope will last in your life?
16. How do you define success or failure in any particular situation?
17. Are your standards God's standards, your own, or someone else's?
18. What possession, experience, and enjoyment would make you most happy?
19. What do you value most?
20. What would bring you the greatest happiness if you had it?
21. What would bring you the greatest misery if you lost it?
22. What do you see as your rights? To what do you feel entitled?
23. In what situation do you feel pressured or tense?
24. What/who do you seek to escape from? What/who do you escape to?
25. What do you really want out of life?
26. What do you pray for?
27. What do you think about most often?
28. What do you talk about most often?
29. How do you spend your time?
30. Who do you dream of being one day, and what do you dream of doing then?
31. What is the difference between what you say you believe and what your life says you believe?
32. What are your idols?
33. Where do you say, "If only..."?



THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed is a historic summary of essential Christian doctrine. Its title is not because the apostles wrote it, but because it contains a concise summary of the truths they taught. Its structure is clearly Trinitarian, its language is thoroughly biblical, and its scope is all-encompassing. Since it describes all that God has done to achieve our salvation, it was initially used to teach the core doctrines of the Christian faith to new believers before they were baptized. Spanning many centuries and crossing into many cultures, the creed has become the most significant and beloved summary of Christian truth. It is worth learning, remembering, protecting, and passing on to the next generation of Christians.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;¹⁹
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic²⁰ church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

¹⁹Some scholars do not believe this phrase was in the original or earliest versions of the creed. On the other hand, others hold this phrase, in the original or not, meant Jesus descended into "Sheol", (the realm of the dead).

²⁰"Catholic" means "universal"; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples. This is not a reference to the Roman Catholic Church, which boastfully claims to be the catholic church.



HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

GIVING GOD THE GLORY WHEN SHARING YOUR STORY

A Christian's testimony is telling other people about how God saved you and worked in your life. Depending on the situation and audience, a testimony can take 30 seconds, 5 minutes, 30 minutes, or an entire hour! Either way, each of us who know Jesus is given opportunities to tell others about His grace that rescued us from sin and gave us new life. How can we do that well?

TIPS FOR SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Each person's story is unique. Tell yours, and avoid unhelpful comparisons.
- Weave the gospel into your testimony. You can do this by using meaningful Bible verses or rich hymn/song lyrics that describe God, sin, Jesus, grace, forgiveness, and new life.
- When you only have a shorter time (30 sec – 2 min), focus on the “How” portion of your testimony. Emphasize key verses, truths, questions, people, and scenarios that were significant. Share only the most important details, and if anything, use a verse that clearly articulates the gospel.
- When you have a longer time (5 min – 30 min), still focus on the “How” portion, but determine which elements of your “Then” and “Now” might be uniquely relevant and significant for your listener. People are more likely to listen to and resonate with your story when you talk about where you grew up, something you used to believe, a specific sin pattern you dealt with, or a season of suffering that was influential. This can move the conversation toward Jesus and His gospel.

OUTLINE OF A TESTIMONY

1. **THEN:** Your Life Before Knowing Jesus
2. **HOW:** Your Coming to Know Jesus
3. **NOW:** Your Life After Knowing Jesus



SCRIPTURE FOR SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

MEANINGFUL VERSES EXPRESSING GOSPEL TRUTHS

- **GOD'S CHARACTER** — Exodus 15:11; Exodus 34:5-7; Isaiah 6:1-7; Isaiah 40:28
- **OUR SINFULNESS** — Rom 3:23; Isa 59:2; Ps 130:3; Ecc 7:10; Rom 3:10-20; Rom 5:6
- **OUR DECEIVED LIVING** — Titus 1:16; Matt 15:6-9; Prov 14:12
- **WHO IS JESUS** — John 1:1-4, 14; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-3
- **CHRIST'S CROSS** — Phil 2:8; Col 2:13-14; Isa 53:4-5; 1 Cor 1:18
- **THE GOSPEL** — Rom 6:23; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Gal 2:16; Luke 18:9-14; Titus 2:11-14
- **GOD'S LOVE** — John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 1 John 3:1, 4:9; Ps 136; John 15:13
- **GOD'S GRACE** — Eph 2:8-9; Ps 103:8-13; 2 Cor 12:8-10; Rom 11:6
- **GOD'S FORGIVENESS** — Ps 130:4; 1 John 1:9; Matt 18:21-36; Col 3:13; Eph 4:32
- **THE INVITATION TO BELIEVE** — Matt 11:28-30; Acts 16:31; Rom 10:9-10; Prov 3:5-6
- **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP** — Luke 9:23-25
- **REPENTANCE & FAITH** — Prov 28:13; Isa 55:6-7; Acts 16:31; Acts 17:30-31; Mark 1:17; John 1:11-13; 1 Thess 1:9-10; Eph 2:8-9; John 3:15; John 4:13-14; John 6:40
- **JESUS ALONE SAVES** — Acts 4:12; John 14:6; 1 Tim 2:5
- **THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS** — Luke 9:23-25, 57-63; Matt 16:13-17; Acts 2:36
- **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST** — 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 2:20-21; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Rom 12:1-2; Rom 13:14
- **ASSURANCE** — Rom 5:1; Rom 8:1, 38-39; John 6:37; John 8:36; John 10:28
- **I'M AN UNASHAMED CHRISTIAN** — Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 1:12; Luke 9:26; Acts 5:29
- **BAPTISM** — Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41; Eph 4:4-6
- **OTHER BELOVED CHAPTERS** — Ps 23, 139; Isa 53; Rom 8; Ps 139; Col 3
- — YOUR FAVORITE VERSES —

CHRISTLIKE

DIALOGUE ²¹

Christlike dialogue means having conversations with others that honor Christ and reflect His ways. Therefore, whether we agree or disagree with other people, we ought to glorify God in what we say and how we say it. Christlike dialogue requires us to be intentional with our Knees, Ears, Mouth, and Heart.



PRAY
(KNEES)

PREPARE BY PRAYER

1. **GOD, PREPARE ME:** Words of my mouth & meditation of my heart (Ps. 19:14)
2. **GOD, LEAD ME:** Who, what, where, when, & how (Prov. 16:9)



LISTEN
(EARS)

LISTEN WITH LOVE

1. **BE COURTEOUS:** Stay attentive & listen without interruption (James 1:19)
2. **BE CHARITABLE:** Assume the best about words & motivations (Matt. 7:12)
3. **BE CURIOUS:** Ask clarifying questions to help you understand (Prov. 18:13)
4. **BE CLEAR:** Repeat or summarize the other person's statements for clarity
5. **BE CREATIVE:** Find what you can agree upon and start there (Acts 17:22ff)



SPEAK
(MOUTH)

SPEAK WITH KINDNESS

1. **STAY LOW:** Clothe yourself with humility toward the other (1 Peter 4:10)
2. **SPEAK HONESTLY:** Be authentic about your thoughts & feelings (Prov. 24:26)
3. **SHARE SCRIPTURE:** Use truth carefully & lovingly (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-26)
4. **SUGGEST SOLUTIONS:** Provide answers; offer options; negotiate if necessary
5. **SHOW GRACE:** Expect pushback, but meet it with grace (2 Tim. 4:1-5)



TRUST
(HEART)

TRUST THE LORD

1. **KNOW YOUR LIMITS:** God is God, you are not (Psalm 46:10; Titus 3:1-2)
2. **REPEAT THE PROCESS:** Keep the conversation going (Rom. 12:13; 1 Cor. 13:7)

THE
ADDITIONAL TOOLS
ccc

WORKS OF THE FLESH & FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT



GALATIANS 5:19-21

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1. SEXUAL IMMORALITY
2. IMPURITY
3. SENSUALITY
4. IDOLATRY
5. SORCERY
6. ENMITY
7. STRIFE
8. JEALOUSY
9. FITS OF ANGER
10. RIVALRIES
11. DISSENSIONS
12. DIVISIONS
13. ENVY
14. DRUNKENNESS
15. ORGIES
16. AND THINGS LIKE THESE

GALATIANS 5:22-23

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1. LOVE
2. JOY
3. PEACE
4. PATIENCE
5. KINDNESS
6. GOODNESS
7. FAITHFULNESS
8. GENTLENESS
9. SELF-CONTROL

ONE ANOTHER²²

1. WITH ALL HUMILITY

"Our helpfulness—our care for souls—starts with our need for care. We need God, and we need other people. Maturity through dependence is our goal. As a way to put this humility to the test, we ask for prayer. This will contribute to a church culture that is less self-protective and more united."

2. MOVE TOWARD OTHERS

"God takes the initiative and moves toward us; we take the initiative toward others. This is simple teaching with endless applications."

3. KNOW THE HEART

"Know the heart, know the person. Our interest in helping one another pushes us beyond routine conversations, and into the realm of the heart. A clear guide to this terrain can enrich our relationships."

4. KNOW THE MAIN INFLUENCES

"If we are to help wisely, we want to know the heart and the significant influences on the heart. Among those many influences are two representatives in particular: other people and our physical bodies."

5. BE PERSONAL AND PRAY

"Though we might think that real help comes through dramatic and new insights, most help tends to come in more ordinary ways. It comes through our personal engagement with each other, our attention to Christ, and prayer."

6. TALK ABOUT SUFFERING

"Hardships and suffering are everywhere, and Scripture counters by speaking to our troubles on nearly every page. The exodus story leads the way."

7. TALK ABOUT SIN

"Wise conversations will talk about sin. Though we might prefer to avoid this, we know that we all struggle with sin, and we all need each other's help. As with suffering, we offer that help very carefully."

8. REMEMBER AND REPEAT

"The purpose has been to remember and live out applications of the gospel of Jesus Christ. But in that, the very power of God is further on display, and the church is strengthened and drawn together."

²²Quoted and adapted from *Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships* by Edward T. Welch (Crossway, 2018).

PRAYING

TOGETHER BETTER²³

PRAYER IS...

- “Pouring out our hearts to God,” (New City Catechism).
- “Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies,” (Westminster Shorter Catechism, #98).
- God’s people humbly and boldly seek God’s presence to offer God praise, advance God’s purposes, connect to God’s power, ask for God’s provisions, submit to God’s plans, and trust God’s promises until faith becomes sight.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

MEGAN HILL: “For the early church, there was much to do. But essential to their gospel-proclaiming, bread-breaking, widow-feeding, and church-planting work was praying together...Wherever the gospel went, wherever churches were established, God’s people were a praying people. Brothers and sisters, can we think that Christians today ought to be any different?”

- The Church **Waiting** (Acts 1:12-14)
- The Church **Worshiping** (Acts 2:42, 46-47)
- The Church **Witnessing** (Acts 4:23-31)
- The Church **Weeping** (Acts 20:36-38)

HOW TO PRAY TOGETHER BETTER

- Move from Orthodoxy to **Orthopraxy**
- Move from Faithless to **Faithfulness**
- Move from Alone to **Together**
- Move from Listener to **Laborer**
- Move from Vague to **Specific**
- Move from Cliche to **Thoughtful**
- Move from Wordy to **Concise**
- Move from Performance to **Passion**
- Move from Self-Centered to **God-Centered**
- Move from External to **Internal**
- Move from Temporal to **Eternal**
- Move from Your World to **The World**
- Move from Weariness to **Perseverance**
- Move from Faith to **Sight**



²³For further study, read *Praying Together Better* by Megan Hill (Crossway, 2016).

WAR²⁴

1. **DESIRE:** "I want _____."
2. **DEMAND:** "I will have _____."
3. **FELT NEED:** "I must have _____ or else."
4. **EXPECTATION:** "You should _____ so I will be happy."
5. **DISAPPOINTMENT:** "You didn't _____!"
6. **PUNISHMENT:** "Because you didn't _____, I will _____!"

PEACE-BREAKING (ENGAGE & ATTACK)

- **ASSAULT** — Some people try to overpower another person by using various forms of force or intimidation, such as verbal attacks (e.g. sharp words, bringing up past failures, gossip, or slander), physical violence, or efforts to damage a person financially, professionally, or publicly (Acts 6:8-15). Such conduct always makes conflict worse.
- **LITIGATION** — Although some conflicts may legitimately be taken before a civil judge (Acts 24:1-26:32; Romans 13:1-5), lawsuits usually damage relationships and often fail to achieve complete justice. We ought to make every effort to settle differences within the house rather than the civil courts (Matt. 5:25-26; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).
- **MURDER** — In extreme cases, people may be so desperate to win a dispute that they will try to kill those who oppose them (see Acts 7:54-58). While most people would not actually kill someone, we still stand guilty of murder in God's eyes when we harbor anger or contempt in our hearts toward others (1 John 3:15; Matt. 5:21-22).

PEACE-FAKING (ESCAPE & AVOID)

- **FLIGHT** — One way to escape from a conflict is to run away. In marriage, this may take the shape of leaving the room, distancing yourself in the relationship, or filing for divorce. Flight may be legitimate in extreme circumstances (1 Sam. 19:9-10), but in most cases it only postpones a proper solution to a problem.
- **DENIAL** — Another way to escape from a conflict is to pretend that a problem does not exist. This often looks like putting on a plastic smile or lying by acting as if everything is fine. Another way is to refuse to do what should be done to resolve a conflict properly. These responses bring only temporary relief and usually make matters worse (1 Sam. 2:22-25).
- **SUICIDE** — When people lose all hope of resolving a conflict, they may seek to escape from the situation (or make a desperate cry for help) by attempting to take their own lives (1 Sam 31:4). Suicide is never a right way to deal with conflict.

THE ADDITIONAL TOOLS ^{CCC}

PEACE²⁴

REMEMBER THE GOSPEL

5

DISCOVERING JESUS IS BETTER THAN

1. **WE ARE NOT BORN AT PEACE WITH GOD** — We are “God’s enemies” (Romans 5:10), “alienated from God and enemies in our minds because of your evil behavior,” (Colossians 1:21).
2. **WE ARE IN NEED OF A PEACEMAKER** — “For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,” (Isaiah 9:6). “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus,” (2 Tim. 2:5).
3. **WE ARE OFFERED PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST** — “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:1). “For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross,” (Colossians 1:20).
4. **WE CAN ENJOY PEACE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS** — “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God,” (Matthew 5:9). “For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,” (Ephesians 2:14). “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,” (Colossians 3:15).
5. **WE ARE AMBASSADORS OF GOD’S PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE** — “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God,” (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20).

GLORIFY GOD AS PEACEMAKER²⁵

4

1. **OVERLOOK AN OFFENSE** — Many disputes are so insignificant that they should be resolved by quietly overlooking an offense. “A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense,” (Prov. 19:11). Overlooking an offense is a form of forgiveness and involves a deliberate decision not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into pent-up bitterness. “Love covers a multitude of sins,” (1 Peter 4:8).
2. **RECONCILIATION** — If an offense is too serious to overlook or has damaged our relationship, we need to resolve personal or relational issues through confession, loving correction, and forgiveness. “[If] your brother has something against you ... go and be reconciled,” (Matthew 5:23-24). “Forgive as the Lord forgave you,” (Colossians 3:13).
3. **MEDIATION** — If two people cannot reach an agreement in private, they should ask one or more objective outside people to meet with them to help them communicate more effectively and explore possible solutions. “If he will not listen [to you], take one or two others along,” (Matt. 18:16). These mediators may ask questions and give advice, but the parties retain the responsibility of making the final decision on how to resolve their differences.
4. **SEE PAGE 21** — For further reflection on Confession and Forgiveness.

²⁵See page 21 on 4 G’s of Conflict Resolution, the 7 A’s of Confession, & the 4 Promises of Forgiveness.

THE **ADDITIONAL TOOLS** ccc

HOW TO MEMORIZE

SCRIPTURE²⁶

DEFINITION

Intentionally remembering portions of the Bible in a word-for-word manner.

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. Memorization supplies spiritual power.
2. Memorization strengthens your faith.
3. Memorization stimulates meditation on scripture.
4. Memorization spurs you on to holy living.
5. Memorization supports discipleship, counseling, and evangelism.
6. Memorization steadies you in suffering.

METHODS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. Write out the verse(s) in a journal or each on a separate index card.
2. Repeat the verse(s) out loud 5-10x, stressing a different word each time.
3. Regularly review verses (e.g., daily, weekly, monthly, etc.).
4. Additional ideas you may find helpful:
 - Make the verse(s) into a song. Use a familiar or made up tune.
 - Draw an accompanying symbol that captures the truth of the text.
 - Walk through the room and associate certain spaces with phrases.

APPROACHES TO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE



GOSPEL TRUTHS

Memorize Certain Verses that Speak of the Good News.

Example: Find verses on God's character, man's sinfulness, Jesus' teachings and work on the cross, Heaven & Hell, the promises of God's judgment and forgiveness, etc.



SELECTED SCRIPTURES

Memorize Different Verses for Specific Issues.

Example: "God's Love" = John 3:16 & Romans 5:8; "God's Holiness" = 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:1-3; "Spiritual Fruit" = Galatians 5:22-23.



DAILY JOURNAL VERSES

Memorize the Verse you Chose in Quiet Reflection.

Example: Take your morning verse with you throughout the day by writing it on a small piece of paper and review it at various times.



LONGER PASSAGES

Memorize a Paragraph, Section, Chapter, or Entire Book.

Example: Colossians 3:12-17; Psalm 23; Romans 8; Ephesians 1; Genesis 1-3; The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); Titus; The Gospel of Mark.

20 SPIRITUAL

DISCIPLINES ²⁷

There is no standardized list of spiritual disciplines, but some are more prominent. The following is a concise list of twenty notable disciplines. Remember that these disciplines are merely tools to help us grow. If we fail to see these disciplines and habits as responses to divine grace, we will slip into the trap of thinking that they have value in themselves. Spiritual disciplines are good servants but poor masters; they are useful means but inadequate ends.

It would be a mistake to claim that every follower of Christ should practice all of these disciplines in a consistent or rigorous way. Some will be more essential for you at one time, and some will serve you better at other times. You will find that some are non-negotiable while others can be pursued intermittently. Ultimately, the goal is to know God, trust God, delight in God, and live for God better.

1. **SOLITUDE:** Move away from others to be alone with and seek God.
2. **SILENCE:** Cut out all the noise and distractions to be quiet before God.
3. **PRAYER:** Talk to God with praises, confessions, thanksgivings, & requests.
4. **CONFESSION:** In humility and with honesty, tell God how you have sinned.
5. **THANKSGIVING:** In gratitude, express your appreciation to God for His gifts.
6. **SCRIPTURE:** Ensure you are daily in God's Word for study and application.
7. **MEMORIZATION:** Intentionally remember certain passages of Scripture.
8. **MEDITATION:** Think about certain passages, truths, and themes of Scripture.
9. **JOURNALING:** Write down Scripture verses and personal reflections.
10. **READING:** Grow in wisdom for the Christian life by reading godly books.
11. **LEARNING:** Keep maturing by taking classes from godly teachers.
12. **STEWARDSHIP:** Honor God in how you manage possessions & relationships.
13. **FASTING:** Set apart a time of abstaining from good things to seek the Lord.
14. **CHASTITY:** Subdue sexual desires to resist sin and find superior joy in Christ.
15. **SIMPLICITY:** Relax your grip on material possessions and extravagance.
16. **CHURCH:** Gather together with other believers for public worship of God.
17. **FELLOWSHIP:** Enjoy Christ-centered, joy-deepening redemptive relationship.
18. **ENCOURAGEMENT:** Bless another person by explicitly sharing edifying truth.
19. **SERVICE:** Concentrate on the needs of others and aim to meet them.
20. **EVANGELISM:** Seek out unbelievers to talk about Jesus & His gospel.



²⁷Further study: *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney (NavPress, 1991), *Habits of Grace* by David Mathis (Crossway, 2016), or "What are Spiritual Disciplines?" <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/spiritual-disciplines>; accessed on 11/14/21.



CHOOSING SOMEONE TO

DISCIPLE²⁸

1. **FAMILY MEMBER** — These relationships hold a special priority and responsibility. Do not overlook those under your own roof or those who share your last name. Is there anyone in your immediate or extended family that you should seek to help grow in Christ?
2. **SPIRITUAL CONDITION** — Do your best to determine if someone needs evangelism or discipleship. Is this person a “Paul” (who should be discipling me), a “Barnabas” (who is more of a spiritual companion), a “Timothy” (who is less spiritually mature or as far along in an area), or “Hell-bound” (an unbeliever headed for judgment apart from knowing Jesus)?
3. **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** — Those within your own church family should be a primary place you look for someone to disciple. They are hearing the same sermons, are singing the same songs, and are in relationship with many of the same people. If someone is not a member at your church (or at a solid, healthy, biblical fellowship), encourage them to become one.
4. **GENDER** — To align with biblical norms, foster deepening friendships, and avoid inappropriate intimacies, select someone of the same gender as you.
5. **AGE** — The pattern of Scripture is for older men to disciple younger men and older women to disciple younger women (cf. Titus 2). Along with this wisdom, consider how a person’s age may help or hinder your discipleship.
6. **PROXIMITY** — Discipleship happens most naturally when people’s schedules and commitments overlap. Is there someone who is already in “your circle”—household, church, small group, Sunday School, or neighborhood?
7. **SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES** — Aim to meet with someone who has enough similarities but who is not exactly like you. Watch the Lord use what you have in common to make your time together enjoyable, as well as use your differences to challenge and mature you both.
8. **FAITHFUL** — You want to meet with someone who is reliable. Avoid wasted time by selecting someone who is devoted to Jesus, His word, and His Church. This person will likely respond positively when told he/she is expected to disciple someone else once ready.
9. **AVAILABLE** — You want to find someone who is accessible. Many are “too busy” and will not make the time nor invest their best time in meeting.
10. **TEACHABLE** — You want to disciple someone who desires to learn and is eager to put in the work you are expecting him/her to do. Find a person who wants to be a growing disciple.

²⁸Adapted from *Discipling* by Mark Dever (Crossway, 2016).

HOW TO ENJOY A DISCIPLESHIP RELATIONSHIP

1. **Determine from the start to love the disciplee God has given you** (John 13:34-35, 15:13; Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 13:7; 1 John 4:18).
2. **Work out an agreeable time to meet.** Once a week is best, but adjust as is necessary and profitable.
3. **Get to know one another by sharing information about your lives:** jobs, families, hobbies, etc. Begin by sharing your testimonies of salvation.
4. **Ask about goals and desired growth.** Help your disciplee focus on where to grow by using the “Wheel Evaluation,” “Spiritual Goal-Setting,” & “Spiritual House Cleaning” tools.
5. **Study the Bible together** (e.g., Abide Reading Program), or **read a solid Christian book together.** Ask a pastor for the recommended reading list and review the tool “How to Use a Christian Book in Discipleship” on page 23.
6. **Give assignments and expect accountability.** Ask hard questions (see “X-Ray Questions for the Heart”). With grace and love, help train him to be diligent, disciplined, and accountable with completing assignments. Be clear on your expectations.
7. **Share and memorize Scripture together.** Discuss the importance of hiding God’s Word in our hearts. Discuss the need to be in God’s word regularly.
8. **Do things together.** Your time should always come back to Christ, but have fun together as well. Get to know one another!
9. **You will no doubt see this person’s weaknesses and sin.** Patiently and prayerfully seek ways to help him/her see these things, too. Don’t be judgmental. If exhortation, admonition, or correction seem necessary, share what is helpful in a loving, tender, and compassionate manner.
10. **Encourage them always.** Everybody needs encouragement; nobody can ever be encouraged enough (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14).
11. **Share how you solve problems.** Using God’s Word, commentaries, sermons, counsel by mature Christians, show your disciplee how to work on and solve personal problems and relational issues.
12. **Ask, “What can we pray about?”** Pray diligently for your disciplee and frequently with your disciplee. This is never wasted time but often the best use of your time.
13. **Get help.** If there is a question or problem that seems beyond your capabilities, get help from a pastor, biblical counselor, or wise believer you know in the church. Always be sure to follow-up with your disciplee.
14. **Develop and grow.** Discipling is a unique relationship in which you step into each other’s lives, share with one another, and dig into the truths of the Word together in order to become more like Jesus Christ. This takes time, commitment, and patience.
15. **Invite your disciplee into your home and demonstrate what a godly home looks like.** Talk about the highs and lows of family, relationships, and everyday life.
16. **Be a godly model in your character, conduct, and lifestyle.** Discuss how and why you say what you say and do what you do.



TIPS FOR THE 1-ON-1

DISCIPLER²⁸

1. **Make sure you are well prepared.** Pray and study the Word before spending one-to-one time with someone, and organize yourself.
2. **Remember, you cannot lead anyone farther than you have gone.** You cannot lay a solid foundation in someone else's life with what are only sketchy outlines in your own life.
3. **You teach by the example of your life.** The person who is ministering one-to-one must be an example of what he or she is teaching. This doesn't require perfection, but it demands a humble pursuit of growth and integrity.
4. **Tailor your help to meet the needs of the individual.** Each disciple is different. Don't expect them all to learn the same way or at the same pace.
5. **Meet the person's needs through Scripture.** Yes, share your thoughts and experiences—but always go back to what the Word says (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
6. **Repeat everything.** Make no apologies for repeating things (Isa. 28:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:12-15). Repetition is the key to learning; the key to learning is repetition.
7. **In everything show the person how.** It has been said that we remember 10 percent of what we read, 20 percent of what we hear, 30 percent of what we see and hear, 70 percent of what we say and write, and 90 percent of what we say and we do! We are generally too long in telling people what to do and too short in showing them how. Together do what you are teaching!
8. **Give achievable assignments.** Set the bar high, but don't set it at the level of discouragement. Knowing his/her strengths and weaknesses is helpful.
9. **Take nothing for granted.** Check and double-check the individual's progress on commitments. For example, don't hesitate to ask, "How has your time been in the Word this week?" or "Did you pray for those who asked?"
10. **Keep emphasizing the Lordship of Jesus Christ.** In every discussion and problem your disciplee may present, always point to Jesus and the Gospel.
11. **Help your disciplee establish spiritual goals.** What specific ways can this disciple of Jesus know Him more, pursue Him, and make Him known?
12. **Never stop sharing the importance of the basics:** the Gospel, God's Word, prayer, fellowship, evangelism, and keeping Christ as the center of it all.
13. **Explain the 2 Timothy 2:2 principle.** Concentrate on faithful disciples who will be able to teach others also. Teach your disciplee to give his or her life to a few, who will in turn do so for others.
14. **Be thankful for the fellowship.** A relationship filled with gratitude makes for an enjoyable time, is a sweet aroma, and becomes a compelling example.
15. **Pray together every time you meet.** Apart from Christ, we can do nothing.
16. **Remember Psalm 127:1.** The Lord builds His house. Don't labor in vain.



THE ADDITIONAL TOOLS ^{ccc}

TEACHING TO CHANGE LIVES³⁰

- T** THE LAW OF THE **TEACHER** — If you stop growing today, you stop teaching tomorrow.
- E** THE LAW OF **EDUCATION** — The way people learn determines the way you teach.
- A** THE LAW OF **ACTIVITY** — Maximum learning is always the product of maximum involvement. Purposeful activity implies quality activity.
- C** THE LAW OF **COMMUNICATION** — To impart information requires the building of bridges between you and the learner.
- H** THE LAW OF THE **HEART** — Teaching that impacts is not head-to-head but heart-to-heart.
- E** THE LAW OF **ENCOURAGEMENT** — Teaching is most effective when the learner is properly motivated.
- R** THE LAW OF **READINESS** — The teaching-learning process is most effective when teacher and learner are both adequately prepared.

A SIMPLE WAY TO TEACH GOD'S WORD



"HOOK"

Arrest the Audience's
Attention



"BOOK"

Open God's Word and
Teach the Truth



"LOOK"

Illustrate the Point
with a Story or Activity



"TOOK"

Give Practical Applica-
tions for Head, Heart,
& Hands

³⁰Summarized and adapted from *Teaching to Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive* by Howard G. Hendricks (Multnomah Books, 1987).

9 MARKS³¹

O F A

HEALTHY CHURCH

- 1. EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING** — An expository sermon takes the main point of a passage of Scripture, makes it the main point of the sermon, and applies it to the Christian life today.
- 2. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY** — Biblical theology is sound doctrine, right thoughts about God, & belief that accords with Scripture.
- 3. THE GOSPEL** — The good news that God saves sinners through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 1).
- 4. CONVERSION** — A biblical understanding of conversion recognizes both what God does and what people do in salvation. In conversion, God gives life to the dead (Ephesians 2:5), gives sight to the blind (2 Corinthians 4:3-6), and gives the gifts of faith and repentance (Phil. 1:29; Acts 11:18). And in conversion, people repent of sin (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19) and believe in Jesus (John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26). A biblical understanding of conversion recognizes that only God can save, and that He saves individuals by enabling them to respond to the gospel message through repentance of sin and trust in Christ.
- 5. EVANGELISM** — Evangelism is simply telling non-Christians the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to save sinners and urging them to repent and believe. In order to biblically evangelize, you must preach the whole gospel, even the hard news about God's wrath against our sin; call people to repent of their sins and trust in Christ; and make it clear that believing in Christ is costly, but worth it.
- 6. MEMBERSHIP** — According to the Bible, church membership is a commitment every Christian should make to attend, love, serve, and submit to a local church.
- 7. DISCIPLINE** — In the broadest sense, church discipline is everything the church does to help its members pursue holiness and fight sin. Preaching, teaching, prayer, corporate worship, accountability relationships, and godly oversight by pastors and elders are all forms of discipline. In a narrower sense, church discipline is the act of correcting sin in the life of the body, including the possible final step of excluding a professing Christian from membership in the church and participation in the Lord's Supper because of serious, unrepentant sin (see Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).
- 8. DISCIPLESHIP** — Scripture teaches that a live Christian is a growing Christian (2 Peter 1:8-10). Scripture also teaches that we grow not only by instruction, but by imitation (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1). Therefore, churches should exhort their members to both grow in holiness and help others do the same.
- 9. LEADERSHIP** — The Bible teaches that each local church should be led by a plurality of godly, qualified men called elders.

³¹<https://www.9marks.org/about/the-nine-marks/> (Accessed August, 29, 2022)

IN PARENTING

GOSPEL FLUENCY DEFINED

- The flourishing believer's heart-language
- Whole-person communication that is influenced, informed, and shaped by God's good news of grace toward sinners

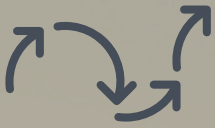
GOSPEL FLUENCY IN PRACTICE

- 1. KNOW THE GOSPEL:** The gospel is the good news that the Holy God, Creator of everyone and everything, willingly and lovingly provides salvation for sinners in and through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus receive the gift of eternal life.
- 2. TREASURE THE GOSPEL:** The gospel is first for parents before it's ever preached by parents. Our need for God's grace is just as significant as our children's. And since out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45), what comes from our lips as parents reveals what's really in our hearts.
- 3. SPEAK THE GOSPEL³²:**
 - 1. IN CONVERSATION:** The regular, mundane moments of life
Whether it's an observation you make or a question you ask, inject the gospel into regular conversation. Set yourself up for gospel conversations by asking questions that take mundane conversations deeper into the heart—loves, fears, wants, and hopes.
 - 2. IN EXPLANATION:** The moments when a question is asked
“Why? Why? Why?” Kids are constantly looking for meaning in the reality around them. Don't dismiss their questions as merely rude or obnoxious; see them as God-given opportunities to speak God's truth into their curiosity.
 - 3. IN ILLUSTRATION:** the moments when you can give an object lesson
See God in everything, and speak about God in everything. Use everything in God's Word to teach God's gospel. Whether it's a blossoming tree, a soccer ball, an ambulance or cop car, a McDonald's Happy Meal, or a storybook scene at bedtime, leverage everything to tell of God's goodness and grace.
 - 4. IN RECREATION:** the times of activity, adventure, & refreshment
Rather than missing opportunities during family fun, redirect hearts and minds to the spiritual truths on display. Whether outdoors or indoors, in the backyard or a long way from home, take advantage of the chances to speak of grace. Done poorly, you can over-spiritualize an otherwise enjoyable moment. But done well, you can enrich moments of play and fertilize faith in the real world.
 - 5. IN INSTRUCTION:** the intentional times of teaching
Don't settle for merely talking to your children about God. Set apart regular times to intentionally teach them about God and His gospel. Moments like family worship, before/after church, following youth group, mealtimes, and bedtimes can become a pulpit to speak truth into their lives.
 - 6. IN CORRECTION:** the moments of unique, redemptive discipline
This may be inconvenient, but it is essential and worthwhile. In the moments where sin and disobedience are being addressed, ensure that the law is followed by the hope of the gospel. It is God's kindness that leads to repentance and His grace that fuels our faithful, loving obedience.



³²In *Give Them Grace: Dazzling Your Kids with the Love of Jesus* (Crossway, 2011), Elyze Fitzpatrick notes that Scripture affords parents several different communication methods. At various times a parent's language may include the following: (1) Managing: giving basic instruction to adjust a child's behavior; (2) Nurturing: giving a child hope of God's care & comforting them with truth; (3) Training: helping a child learn how the gospel applies to a circumstance; (4) Correcting: showing a child his/her error in context of what Jesus has done and how He now calls them to live; (5) Sharing Promises: communicating what a child is failing to believe and what is theirs if they would trust the Lord.

THE GOSPEL STORY: THE STORYLINE OF HOLY SCRIPTURE



1. **CREATION:** God made everyone and everything
2. **FALL:** Man sinned, rebelling against God and His law
3. **REDEMPTION:** God's promised Savior-King came as Jesus Christ
4. **RESTORATION:** God will one day judge all people and make all things new

THE GOSPEL HAND: HOW TO REMEMBER THE GOSPEL



1. **GOD:** The Holy Creator [Thumb]
 - Eternal, glorious, holy, powerful, & sovereign
 - Faithful, good, merciful, love, righteous, & just
2. **MAN:** The Fallen Creature [Index]
 - In the image of God: male & female
 - Designed with dignity, value, meaning, & purpose
 - Sinners, sufferers, skeptics, & scoffers
3. **PROBLEM:** Good God, Evil People [Middle]
 - The good judge will punish all evil and banish all evildoers
 - Evil people cannot be "religious" or "good" enough
4. **JESUS:** The Sinner's Savior [Ring]
 - His Person: truly God & truly man
 - His Work: life, death, resurrection, & return
5. **RESPONSE:** Repent & Believe [Pinky]
 - Forsake Everything: count all as loss compared to Jesus
 - Follow Jesus: know Him & make Him known

7 TIPS FOR PERSONAL EVANGELISM³³ (JOHN 4:1-30)

7

1. **WILLING (vv. 1-5):** Intentionally go to difficult places/people.
2. **NATURAL (vv. 6):** Don't force it or be awkward.
3. **PERSONAL (vv. 7-9):** Authentic care breaks down walls.
4. **CREATIVE (vv. 10-15):** Use "hooks" to engage in dialogue.
5. **HONEST (vv. 16-19):** Get real about sin: yours, theirs, & world's.
6. **JESUS-CENTERED (vv. 20-26):** Emphasize who Jesus is, what He has done for sinners, and why He is worthy of worship.
7. **EXAMPLE (v. 27-30):** Model for other Christians on how to evangelize.

SHARING THE GOSPEL





MAKING THE MOST OF SUNDAY

BEFORE CORPORATE WORSHIP

1. **SUNDAY MORNING STARTS SATURDAY NIGHT:** This mindset is the key.
2. **PREPARE YOUR HEART:** Humble yourself, confess sin, & reflect on grace.
3. **PREPARE YOUR MIND:** Fill your mind with what is good, lovely, & true.
4. **PREPARE YOUR BODY:** Get enough rest to be alert, engaged, & focused.
5. **PREPARE YOUR PLANS:** Prep for the morning by being ready the night before.
6. **SERVE OTHERS:** Care for family, friends, and neighbors by helping them.
7. **LISTEN TO ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Attentively listen for important items.

DURING CORPORATE WORSHIP

1. **RECEIVE GOD'S GREETING:** The Lord says, "Grace to you and peace."
2. **ANSWER THE CALL TO WORSHIP:** Respond to the revelation of God's truth.
3. **SING IN FAITH:** Lift your voice in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
4. **PRAY WITH ONE ANOTHER:** Seek the Lord together, adding your "Amen."
5. **GIVE WITH GLADNESS:** Gospel-generosity shapes your weekly love-gifts.
6. **LISTEN WITH EXPECTATION:** Engage with God's Word as it is preached.
7. **COMMUNE WITH GRATITUDE:** Eat and drink with Christ and His people.
8. **GIVE DOXOLOGY:** Let your final expression be praise to the Triune God.
9. **RECEIVE THE BENEDICTION:** Leave trusting in God's unending blessing.



AFTER CORPORATE WORSHIP

1. **TAKE A MOMENT:** Instead of hurrying away, pause, think, and thank.
2. **TALK WITH OTHERS:** Enjoy visiting about the sermon, the service, & life.
3. **USE YOUR GIFTS:** Serve others in the church in a specific ministry.
4. **GATHER FOR DISCIPLESHIP:** Meet at the church, in a home, or on a walk.
5. **SHARE A MEAL TOGETHER:** Fellowship with others around the table.
6. **MAKE TIME TO REFLECT:** The Lord's Day is for rest & remembrance.
7. **DOERS OF THE WORD:** From Sunday to Sunday seek to apply the Word.



15 WAYS TO PRAY FOR **THE LOST**³⁴

1. Pray that God would glorify His name in their lives (Romans 11:36; Mark 12:29-31).
2. Pray that God would do spiritual heart surgery (Ezekiel 36:22-32; Acts 16:14).
3. Pray that God would cause them to be born-again (John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:3).
4. Pray that they would come to Jesus with their burdens (Matthew 11:28-30).
5. Pray that God would free them from their slavery to sin (Romans 6:17).
6. Pray that God would remove Satan's blinding influence (2 Corinthians 4:4).
7. Pray that God would grant them repentance (2 Timothy 2:25-26).
8. Pray for opportunities to be a shining example to them (Matthew 5:16).
9. Pray for a burden to plead for their souls faithfully (Romans 10:1; Luke 18:1-8).
10. Pray for boldness in generating and taking opportunities to speak the gospel, even when resisted (Ephesians 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2).
11. Pray for God to put other Christians in their path (Colossians 1:3-8).
12. Pray they would see and appreciate God's common grace (Matthew 5:45).
13. Pray that God would use any circumstance to get their attention (Psalm 119:67).
14. Pray they would ask questions about life, death, eternity, suffering, meaning, religion, and Jesus (Deuteronomy 4:29; Jeremiah 29:13; Acts 17:22-34).
15. Pray "Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven," (Matthew 6:10).

15 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED³⁵

1. Pray they will sense God's presence (Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 139:1-18).
2. Pray they will experience God's comfort (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).
3. Pray they will trust Jesus as their Good Shepherd (Psalm 23; John 10).
4. Pray they will feel connected to the body of Christ and know other Christians are praying for them (1 Corinthians 12:20; 2 Timothy 1:3).
5. Pray they will see God open doors for evangelism (Colossians 4:3).
6. Pray they will boldly share the gospel despite opposition (Acts 4:29).
7. Pray they will flourish in their faith, maturing as disciples and making new disciples (Colossians 1:28-29).
8. Pray they will be given wisdom in covert ministry work (Acts 9:23-25).
9. Pray they will remain joyful in Christ amid their suffering (Acts 5:41).
10. Pray that they will experience God's comfort when their family members are killed, injured, or imprisoned for their witness (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).
11. Pray they will have a heart to forgive and love their enemies (Matthew 5:44).
12. Pray they will daily put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-19).
13. Pray they will be deeply rooted in God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
14. Pray they will not forsake Christ in times of testing (Luke 8:13; 2 Timothy 4:10).
15. Pray they will count it a privilege to be numbered among the martyrs, if it be the Lord's will (Revelation 6:9-11).

15 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE UNREACHED³⁶

"It is estimated that over 3 billion people in the world are currently considered unreached. Unreached peoples and places are those among whom Christ is largely unknown...Outside of specific prayer requests from missionaries supported by our churches, it's easy for our requests to remain so vague. These prayers can be so general that it becomes difficult to stay motivated to pray consistently. Beyond, "God, please save the world," we're not always sure what to pray. Below you'll find a list of ways to pray for unreached people and places based on various truths found in God's Word. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it can serve as a starting point as you pray for those with little or no access to the gospel."

1. Pray for the Church to have the compassion of Christ (Matthew 9:36).
2. Pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).
3. Pray for God to open their minds and hearts to the light of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).
4. Pray for healthy churches and faithful pastors to be raised up among the unreached (Titus 1:4-5).
5. Pray for the Lord to sustain the faith of missionaries and indigenous believers through trials, persecution, and pressure (Romans 8:35-39).
6. Pray for God to work in the lives of those who persecute the church, either converting them to Christ or otherwise thwarting their efforts to stop the spread of the gospel (Psalm 2:1-12).
7. Pray for Scripture to be translated into languages where Christ is not currently known (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
8. Pray for God's kindness and mercy to be shown toward those among the unreached who face extreme physical suffering (Matthew 22:39).
9. Pray for those in poverty to be remembered and helped (Galatians 2:10).
10. Pray for the kings, leaders, governments, and people with authority to honor King Jesus (1 Timothy 2:1-6).
11. Pray that false gods and vain religions would be exposed (Galatians 4:8).
12. Pray for current missionary efforts to prosper (Psalm 1:2-3; Colossians 4:2-6).
13. Pray for missionaries to be creative, yet always biblical, about how they present the gospel to unreached peoples (Acts 17:22-32; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
14. Pray for God to use supernatural means to give them the gospel (Acts 9 & 10).
15. Pray for specific nations and UPG's ("The Joshua Project" — www.joshuaproject.net).





15 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES³⁷

1. Pray for confidence in God's Word (Acts 13:4-5).
2. Pray they would be filled with God's Spirit (Acts 13:6-9).
3. Pray for victory in spiritual warfare (Acts 13:10-12).
4. Pray for success in gospel witness (Acts 13:12).
5. Pray for peace/favor with other believers and unbelievers (Acts 13:13-15).
6. Pray that the gospel will be clear through them (Acts 13:16-47).
7. Pray that God will open hearts around them (Acts 13:48).
8. Pray for joy in the midst of suffering (Acts 14:1-2).
9. Pray for kindness in the midst of slander (Acts 14:1-2).
10. Pray for supernatural power to accompany them (Acts 14:3).
11. Pray that Christ-like humility will characterize them (Acts 14:4-18).
12. Pray for patience (Acts 14:8-18).
13. Pray for perseverance (Acts 14:19-20).
14. Pray that God would use them to make disciples (Acts 14:21-23).
15. Pray that God would use them to multiply churches (Acts 14:24-28).

³⁷Adapted from "16 Ways to Pray for Missionaries" by David Platt, <https://www.imb.org/2016/11/08/16-ways-to-pray-for-missionaries/>, accessed September 5, 2022.



T.U.L.I.P.

THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

T

Mankind is born completely and thoroughly corrupted by sin. All people are not as bad as they can be, but all are as bad off as they can be: spiritually dead in their sins and transgressions, unable to be good and unwilling to do good, loving darkness instead of light, children of wrath, enslaved to sin, and incapable of understanding spiritual realities apart from God's intervention.

Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 90:7-11; Ecclesiastes 7:20; John 3:19, 6:44; Romans 1:20-32, 3:9-18, 5:6; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:14

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

U

God's election of sinners unto salvation is entirely dependent on Him, not on anything man is, does, or does not do. God sovereignly chose some to receive eternal life; therefore, predestination is not based on our faith but on God's will to set His covenant love upon us.

John 17:1-26; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:1-9, 2:9-10; Romans 9:10-29; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9, 2:10

LIMITED ATONEMENT

L

More accurately "particular/definite redemption," Christ's atoning death on the cross was solely for the redemption of His elect. His substitutionary sacrifice was not for all people throughout all time; it effectively paid the penalty and debt His beloved Bride owed because of her sin.

Romans 8:28-30; John 10:11-18, 17:1-26; Ephesians 2:3-7, 5:25-32; Colossians 2:13-14

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

I

God's grace is what enables and empowers an unwilling sinner to see and believe upon Jesus Christ. Such beauty and love cannot be stifled or denied by man's will. God's grace effectively accomplishes His perfect will.

John 3:3, 6:10, 10:1-16; Romans 8:28, 9:18; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Acts 9:1-18

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

P

God ensures that His chosen people will, by His preserving love and power, persevere all the way to the end. None whom God predestined to eternal life or for whom Christ died shall be lost; all are kept secure until they are taken home to be with the Lord.

John 6:40, 44, 65, 11:25-26, 14:1-3, 17:20-26; Jude 1, 24-25; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Psalm 16:5-11, 23:5-6, 121:8, 130:7-8; Philippians 1:6, 20-23



EXPOSITORY LISTENING³⁸

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

"It is required of those that hear the Word preached that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer upon it; hide it in their hearts and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives."

ANTICIPATION: THE LISTENER'S RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE

1. **DAILY ABIDING:** Spend time in God's Word daily.
2. **SUNDAY MORNING STARTS SATURDAY NIGHT:** Don't forget it.
3. **REVIEW READING:** Read the verses and your notes from last Sunday.
4. **PREVIEW READING:** Read the text for tomorrow's sermon.
5. **GUARD YOUR MIND:** Avoid what will cause lingering distractions.
6. **REST UP:** Get a good night's sleep so you can be fresh and focused.
7. **GOOD TUNES:** Listen to your favorite worship songs in the morning.
8. **PRAY FOR YOURSELF:** Ask God to make your heart soft and receptive.
9. **PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR:** Ask God to empower the preaching.
10. **RECONCILED:** Take the initiative to make things right with others.
11. **EXPECTATION:** Anticipate God will speak to you in the preaching.



ATTENTION: THE LISTENER'S RESPONSIBILITY DURING

1. **ACTIVE LISTENING:** Make eye contact, laugh, nod, & say, 'Amen.'
2. **INTERACT:** As you listen, respond to questions, stories, & exhortations.
3. **TAKING NOTES:** Write down the outline, key truths, texts, & questions.
4. **UNDISTRACTED:** Fight off distractions and do not be one to others.
5. **SHOW DISCERNMENT:** Listen with an open Bible to check the text.

APPLICATION: THE LISTENER'S RESPONSIBILITY AFTER

1. **REFLECTION:** Read back over the sermon's verses and your notes.
2. **MEDITATION:** Think on what you learned and how you plan to change.
3. **GET SPECIFIC:** What beliefs and behaviors should now change?
4. **TRUTH TO CHANGE:** What must I remember to change?
5. **JUST ONE STEP:** What is the first step to change? When will I do this?
6. **MEALTIME:** Visit about the sermon over a meal with others.
7. **GROWTH GROUP:** Attend a small group to interact with the sermon.
8. **EVERY DAY:** As the week unfolds, look for ways the sermon applies.

³⁸Adapted from *Expository Listening: A Practical Handbook for Hearing and Doing God's Word* by Ken Ramey (Kress Christian Publications, 2010).

THE 5 SOLA'S OF THE REFORMATION

THE 5 SOLAS BECAME SUMMARIES OF THE ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES THAT THE REFORMERS BELIEVED TO BE THE TRUE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN FAITH.³⁹

SOLA SCRIPTURA — SCRIPTURE ALONE (2 TIM 3:15-17; PS 19:7-11; 2 PET:16-21)

- We **affirm** that the Word of God is the only inspired, inerrant, and infallible source of written revelation. It is our sole authority in matters of faith and practice.
- While we respect and give sincere consideration to Christian tradition and what the church has historically taught, we **deny** that tradition is another form of God's inspired revelation and is thus binding upon a man's conscience. It must always remain subservient to the Holy Scriptures.

SOLA GRATIA — GRACE ALONE (EPH 2:1-10; ROM 4:4-5; TITUS 2:11-14)

- We **affirm** that only by God's grace is a man saved from the wrath to come. Salvation is of the Lord. It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit to bring the spiritually dead to life, to make children of wrath into children of God.
- We **deny** that salvation is in any sense a human work and that man can make any progress toward God by his own will through religious acts.

SOLA FIDE — FAITH ALONE (ROM 3:21-4:9; GAL 2:16; PHIL 3:9-10; TITUS 3:3-7)

- We **affirm** that it is only through faith alone, which is a gift of God's grace, that a man can be justified. It is only on account of faith that our sins are forgiven and Christ's righteousness is imputed to us so that we stand justified and at peace with God. Works are the fruit of faith.
- We **deny** that mankind has any merit of his own to offer God and that any works must cooperate with our faith to be a means of justification.

SOLUS CHRISTUS — CHRIST ALONE (ISA 43:10-11; 1 TIM 2:5; HEB 7:25; 1 JN 1:1-2)

- We **affirm** that Jesus Christ is the only Savior, that He is the only sacrifice for sin that satisfies God's justice and righteousness, and that He is the only Mediator between God and man since He alone is the God-Man.
- We **deny** that there is any other Savior, that the Mass is a propitiatory sacrifice, that the treasury of merit is real or effectual, that Mary is a co-Mediatrix with Jesus, and that any human priest or deceased person contributes to the justification and final salvation of a believer.

SOLI DEO GLORIA — GLORY TO GOD ALONE (ROM 11:33-36; ISA 42:8)

- We **affirm** that, since God will not share His glory with another and salvation is solely of God, He deserves the glory in our lives at all times and in all ways. Furthermore, what the church teaches, how she worships, and how she is governed is regulated by Holy Scripture. Life in the home and in society are beautiful and dignified when done according to His Word and for His glory.
- We **deny** that any doctrines, traditions, and practices that exalt sinful men, bear the marks of man-made foolishness, or clearly contradict Scripture, are legitimate and acceptable forms of worship and Christian living.

³⁹For further study see *The Case for Traditional Protestantism: The Solas of the Reformation* by Terry L. Johnson (Banner of Truth, 2004).



ESSENTIALS OF A GOSPEL-CENTERED MARRIAGE⁴⁰

1. **GOSPEL:** Your marriage is an illustration of Christ's relationship to His people.
2. **MISSION:** The main purpose of your marriage is companionship and partnership in mission.
3. **KINGDOM:** Your marriage is to demonstrate that it is good to live under King Jesus' good and gracious reign.
4. **MOMENTS:** Extraordinary change happens in ordinary moments.
5. **WIVES:** As the Church submits to Christ, so a wife puts her husband's will and leading before her own.
6. **HUSBANDS:** As Christ loves the Church, so a husband puts his wife's needs and interests before his own.
7. **GRACE:** You always need it and are never beyond its reach.
8. **LOVE:** Daily thoughtfulness matters more than grand gestures.
9. **CONFLICT:** Fights begin when you forget God's glory and grace and your selfish desires are unmet by your spouse.
10. **RECONCILIATION:** Peace begins when you remember God's glory and grace and your selfish desires are recognized, repented of, and replaced.
11. **FORGIVENESS:** Trust is a privilege earned, and forgiveness is a gift given.
12. **INTIMACY:** Spiritual, emotional, and relational oneness enrich the delight and duty of physical oneness.
13. **FAMILY:** Be committed to enjoying Christ more than one another and one another more than your children.
14. **BEAUTY:** Love chooses to see true beauty and nurture unfading beauty.
15. **DEATH:** Identity and joy is found in Christ, not in momentary marriage.



⁴⁰Adapted from *Gospel-Centered Marriage: Becoming the Couple God Wants You to Be* by Tim Chester (The Good Book Company, 2011) and *Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments* by Winston T. Smith (New Growth Press, 2010).

HOW TO MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE⁴¹

DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE

1. **BIBLICAL TEXTS:** Jos. 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 63:6; Luke 2:19; Phil. 4:8
2. **SCRIPTURAL SYNONYMS:** Muse, Mutter, Murmur, Growl, Groan, Talk, Ponder, Think, Dwell On, Remember, Reflect On, Recall, Fix Attention On
3. **BIBLICAL MEDITATION:** Thinking deeply about God's truth for the sake of insight, introspection, worship, and obedience

BENEFITS OF MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

1. Meditation deepens our understanding of the text
2. Meditation awakens our awe of God
3. Meditation stokes the fire of love for Christ
4. Meditation deepens our repentance
5. Meditation solidifies our resolve to fight sin
6. Meditation stocks our faith with God's promises
7. Meditation improves memorization of Scripture
8. Meditation brings comfort, assurance, contentment, and joy



HOW TO MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE

1. Select what you will meditate on (e.g., what you read in your devotional time; the Gospel; an attribute or promise of God; a command or biblical theme).
2. Read, repeat, and rehearse the verse(s) slowly, carefully, and prayerfully.
3. Connect to other verses of Scripture or other truths you have heard or read.
4. Use a journal to record your thoughts, insights, and desired changes.
5. Conclude with personal application and prayer.

TIPS FOR IMPROVING & ENJOYING MEDITATING ON SCRIPTURE

1. Avoid unbiblical approaches to meditation such as Transcendental Meditation, Eastern Religions views, and Roman Catholic mysticism.
2. Enjoy "planned" and "spontaneous" times of reflection.
3. More often than not, solitude is the most conducive context for meditation.
4. Involve the Mind (Consideration), Heart (Affections), & Will (Resolutions).
5. Put yourself in the text. What would you be thinking, feeling, wondering, fearing, experiencing, etc. if what you are reading was happening to you?
6. Be cautious of going beyond the bounds of Scripture or Christian orthodoxy.

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ALL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

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