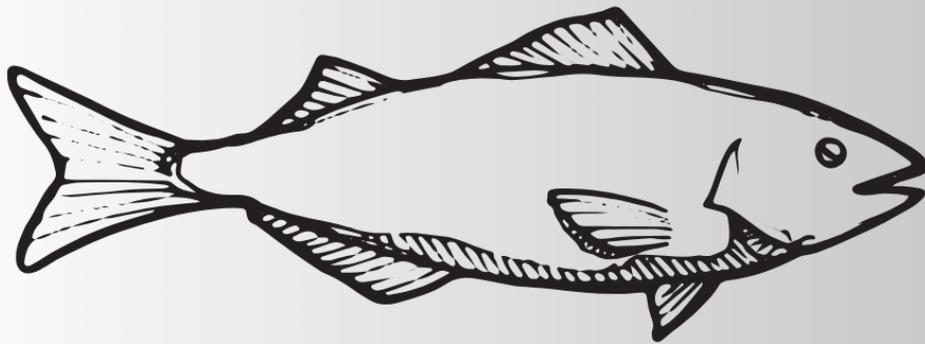


**THE
GOSPEL
NEWS TOO GOOD
NOT TO SHARE**

**A BIBLE STUDY TO EQUIP AND
EMPOWER YOU TO SHARE THE
THE GOOD NEWS BOLDLY**



JEREMY RODRIGUEZ



Dedications

To my father, Zeke,
my brother, Anthony,
and my father-in-law, Paul

- Thank you for being the men in my life who taught me to stand tall, stand strong,
and never back down. Your examples of courage and faith continue to inspire me
every day.

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

Thank you Eddie Ortiz,
-Thank you for calling me that day.
God used you and I'm here today.

*"The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are instructed to
know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me each
morning; he awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed."*

Isaiah 50:4 CSB

And of course to all my church family at
Crossway Church in Phoenix, Arizona

A people SAVED BY GRACE who SEEK HIS FACE. Where we
LOVE THE LOST pressing for the fire of REVIVAL AT ALL COST

*"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains
might quake at your presence."*

Isaiah 64:1 (ESV)

About the Author

Jeremy Rodriguez is the Senior Pastor of Crossway Church in Phoenix, Arizona, a role he took on from his father, Ezequiel Rodriguez, in 2019. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to build a house of prayer, leading his congregation in deep intercession, powerful worship, and bold evangelism. Jeremy has been married to his wife, Diana, since 2011, and together they have three beautiful children. With a heart for sharing the gospel and equipping believers to live out their faith, Jeremy believes in the urgency of proclaiming Christ in a world that desperately needs Him. Known for his Pentecostal fervor and commitment to biblical truth, he encourages others to stand firm, stand strong, and never back down in their walk with God.

INTRODUCTION

We Are the Light, Yet Darkness Grows

We are living in the last days. I feel it in my spirit. The signs are everywhere. You don't have to look hard to see that we are standing on the brink of something urgent, something prophetic. Jesus Himself said, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars" (Matthew 24:6), and today we live in a world full of noise—debates, elections, conflicts—all of it feeding a desperate cry for leadership, for something, someone to follow. We turn on the news and see a broken world.

Nations are trembling, economies are shaking, and the hearts of men are failing them from fear (Luke 21:26). The world is desperate for a leader. But let me be real with you—the world isn't going to find that leader in politics, not in this election, not in any election. They are searching in the wrong places, hoping that human systems can solve the spiritual chaos we see unfolding.

I remember the days back in Oxnard, California, walking the streets of La Colonia with my father. We went door to door sharing the gospel with anyone who would listen. We set up sound equipment in parks, and my dad would sing songs and preach to the people walking by. Where have those days gone? Where is the boldness, the urgency that we once had for sharing the good news? We used to take to the streets, unafraid, to tell people about the saving power of Jesus Christ. That fire, that passion—it's what the world needs now more than ever.

The truth is, the government will not save us. The media will not save us. No man or woman in power will ever bring peace to a world that is decaying

at the roots. But we, the church, cannot ignore the fact that even spiritual leaders, pastors, and those standing in our pulpits have lost the trust of the people. There's been a great falling away. People have witnessed the scandals, the compromises, and the watering down of the truth, and now they question if there is any truth at all.

Many don't even trust those who are supposed to represent the Lord anymore. And can you blame them? We have allowed the world to seep into the church—worldly opinions, ideologies, and agendas have flooded our sermons. We've exchanged the fear of God for the fear of man.

We've allowed the sacredness of consecration, holiness, and conviction to be replaced by comfort, compromise, and convenience. The words "holiness" and "sanctification" have become offensive in our churches, but God said, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). We have a generation of people who are more concerned about filling their pews with numbers than filling their hearts with truth. And because of that, the light that we are supposed to be has grown dim. We are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), so why has it become so dark?

The church has sat idly by while the world has gotten darker and darker. Our enemy, Satan, is not resting. He knows his time is short, and he's increasing his attack, deceiving many, even some of the elect (Matthew 24:24). But what about us? What about you and me? Have we grown passive? Have we convinced ourselves that sharing a livestream or a church flyer is the same as sharing the gospel? Have we been comfortable letting others carry the burden of evangelism while we sit in our homes, thinking we've done enough?

I want to speak to those of you who have never shared the gospel, who have never stepped out of your comfort zone to tell someone about Jesus. Maybe you've thought, "I'm not qualified," or "Someone else will do it." But I'm here to tell you, there is no time left for excuses. The hour is late. People are dying without Christ, and we have been silent for too long. Jesus said, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few"* (Matthew 9:37). Where are the laborers? Where are the men and women who will rise up and say, *"Here I am, Lord, send me!"* (Isaiah 6:8)?

I'm not asking if you're a pastor or a preacher. I'm asking if you're a believer in Jesus Christ. If you've been saved by the blood of the Lamb, then you've been called to share the good news. You don't need a platform; you don't need a microphone; you need a heart that is burning with the love of Christ and a desire to see people saved. You may say, "I don't know how," but the gospel isn't complicated. Paul said, *"I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day"* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). That's the gospel, plain and simple.

You don't need to be a theologian to tell someone about Jesus. You just need to be willing. You don't need to be perfect; you just need to be available. The world is dying without the hope of Christ, and you hold the answer. The gospel isn't just good advice—it's the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). This world is full of broken people, people who are tired of lies, tired of false promises, tired of being let down by government, media, and even religious leaders. They are looking for hope, and that hope is Jesus.

We live in a time when people don't trust much of anything anymore. They don't trust the government; they don't trust the media, and they don't even

trust the church. And I get it—there’s been too much compromise, too much hypocrisy. But God has not changed, and His gospel has not lost its power. The gospel is still the answer, and the world needs it now more than ever.

This Bible study is not just meant to be read alone, but I encourage you to do it in a group. Study together, practice together, learn together, and pray together. The early church set the example for us, as they would gather together to break bread, sing hymns, and read scripture as a community. *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people"* (Acts 2:42, 46-47). This is how we grow—by coming together in unity and lifting each other up. Don't just gather with those who already know the gospel—bring new people to your study. Don't just invite others from different churches; bring the unchurched, bring the lost. We cannot simply move a fish from one bowl to another and call it "revival." True revival comes when we reach the broken and the unsaved.

Look around you. The world is more evil now than it's ever been. Sin is celebrated, perversion is embraced, and people who stand for truth are mocked and ridiculed. Isaiah warned us about this: *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness"* (Isaiah 5:20). Does that not describe the time we're living in? We've allowed the culture to shape the church, instead of the church shaping the culture. The church has been silent while the world has been preaching its message loudly and boldly. But enough is enough. We cannot be silent any longer.

Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden*” (Matthew 5:14). We cannot hide the light of Christ any longer. If the world is dark, it’s because we’ve hidden the light. If people are lost, it’s because we haven’t shown them the way. We are called to be the salt of the earth, to preserve, to season, to bring flavor. But if we lose our saltiness, we are good for nothing (Matthew 5:13). The church must wake up from its slumber. We must rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the gospel with boldness, with urgency, with fire in our hearts.

The time for complacency is over. The time for compromise is over. We are living in the final hour, and the world needs the church to be the church. Not a watered-down version of it, not a comfortable, convenient version, but the true, Spirit-filled, gospel-preaching, disciple-making church that Jesus died to establish. This world is desperate for hope, desperate for truth, and we have what they need. But will we give it to them? Will we step out of our comfort zones and proclaim the gospel, or will we sit back and let the world continue its descent into darkness?

I am writing this to stir you up. This is not the time for passive Christianity. This is not the time for casual faith. This is the time for radical obedience, for a bold, fearless proclamation of the gospel. I don’t care if you’ve never shared the gospel before. I don’t care if you’ve been afraid or felt unqualified. Now is the time to step out in faith. Now is the time to open your mouth and declare that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). The world is dying without Him, and we are His messengers.

So I challenge you—no, I urge you—to take up the mantle of evangelism. Take up the responsibility that has been given to us as followers of Christ. Let us not be silent any longer. Let us not sit idly by while the world grows darker and darker. We are the light, and it’s time to shine. “*The night is far gone; the day is at hand*” (Romans 13:12). There is no more time to waste.

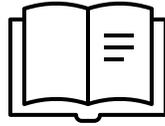
The harvest is ready, but where are the laborers? **WILL YOU BE ONE OF THEM?**

Read this prayer aloud before you read this book:

Father, I pray that the words in this book fall like good seed into good soil within me, that they would take root and bear much fruit in my life (Matthew 13:23). Let Your Word not return void but accomplish all You desire in me (Isaiah 55:11). As I step into the calling to share the gospel, I ask that You give me strength and boldness, knowing that You are with me wherever I go (Joshua 1:9). Lord, prepare me for the battle ahead, for You have said, "In this world you will have trouble," but I rejoice because You have overcome the world (John 16:33). Though persecution may come, I declare that no weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit, that I may boldly declare Your truth, unafraid of what man can do (Acts 4:31). Let my heart burn with the urgency of the harvest, for You said the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37). Send me out, confident that You go before me and stand with me in every step. In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

SESSION 1

What is the Gospel?



Before we can share the gospel effectively, we must understand it deeply. The gospel is not just a message of hope—it is the *power of God* for salvation (*Romans 1:16*). It is the good news that has the ability to bring life to the dead, to bring hope to the hopeless, and to reconcile humanity back to God. But we must be careful not to reduce the gospel to a series of memorized phrases or intellectual arguments. It's not just a story; it's the very heartbeat of our faith.

To know the gospel deeply is to let it sink into the core of who you are. This isn't something you learn once and set aside. No, the gospel is something that continually transforms you. As Pentecostal preacher A.W. Tozer once said, "*We must never underestimate the power of the gospel. It is living and active, always at work in the heart of the believer, drawing them closer to Christ and empowering them to share His love with the world.*" That's the beauty of the gospel: it's not just something we believe—it's something that transforms us from the inside out. And it's this very transformation that enables us to share it effectively with others.

When I think about knowing the gospel, I'm reminded of how my father lived it. One thing he often said to me was, "Son, *this Word will keep you.*" He knew that if I kept God's Word in my heart, it would protect me. He wasn't interested in simply telling me about Jesus; he wanted me to truly

know Him. I remember how he would sit at the kitchen table with his Bible wide open, not just reading the words but *living them*. He didn't preach from a distance—he was involved. I watched him as he gave not just his time, but his whole life, to sharing the gospel.

We would drive for hours up and down the streets of California, and I would listen as he would talk to strangers, share his food with the homeless, and preach to people in parks. He never went anywhere without carrying the gospel with him. My father didn't just know the gospel—he was *compelled* by it. That's the kind of understanding we must have. The same urgency Paul had when he said, "*Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*" (*1 Corinthians 9:16*)—that must be in our hearts, too.

This deep knowledge of the gospel isn't just about knowing facts; it's about understanding the depth of God's love for us. It's knowing that the God who created the heavens and the earth chose to send His only Son to die for us. As it is written: "*But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (*Romans 5:8*). This isn't just a feel-good message—it's the truth that changes everything.

Before we can proclaim this message to others, we must first let it do its work in us. We need to know, deep down, that Jesus' death was necessary for our redemption. His burial signified the completeness of His sacrifice. And His resurrection—oh, His resurrection!—declared His victory over death and sin. As Paul writes, "*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins*" (*1 Corinthians 15:17*). It's not just that He died—He rose again, and in that resurrection, we have hope of eternal life.

The world today is filled with confusion about what it means to be a Christian, about what the gospel really is. Too often, the message has been

watered down or distorted to fit personal opinions, or worse, to make it more palatable. But the gospel doesn't need to be dressed up—it stands on its own. As Charles Spurgeon famously said, *“The gospel is like a caged lion. It does not need to be defended, it just needs to be let out of its cage.”* This truth hits me every time. The power of the gospel lies in its simplicity, its purity, and its truth.

To truly know the gospel is to have an encounter with the living God. This isn't about memorizing the right words or preparing the most eloquent speeches. It's about knowing that the gospel is the *power of God* to transform lives, including your own. It's about experiencing what Paul talks about when he says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is the transformation we must experience for ourselves before we can bring it to others.

The early church was deeply connected to this truth. They didn't treat the gospel as a secondary message—it was central to everything they did. They gathered together not just to learn, but to grow, to worship, to break bread, and to proclaim the good news. *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* (Acts 2:42). This same devotion must be alive in us if we are to truly know the gospel. We don't just study it alone in a corner; we come together, just as they did, to build each other up, to practice, to refine, and to sharpen each other.

I urge you—don't rush through this study. Take the time to sit with these truths. Don't just let them pass through your mind; let them sink into your heart. Meditate on the reality of what Jesus has done. Pray through it. Let

it transform you. Then, and only then, will you be ready to share it with others. My dad used to tell me, “Son, *you can’t give what you don’t have.*”

And that’s true. You can’t share a gospel you don’t know. So take this time to *know* it, to let it grow roots in your heart. Before you can share it with others, you must allow it to work in you. As Jesus said, “*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me*” (John 15:4). This is where it all begins.

As we journey through this first section, remember that understanding the gospel deeply is the key to sharing it effectively. It’s not just about what we say—it’s about living the gospel out. The more we know Him, the more natural it will be to share Him with others. This is where the journey of evangelism begins: with a deep, personal knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ.

This is where it all begins....

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 1

In this session, we are going to learn exactly what the gospel is—what it means when we talk about the good news of Jesus Christ. By the end of our time together, you'll have a clear understanding of the key parts of the gospel: Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We'll talk about why this message is so important and urgent to share with others. Plus, you'll practice summarizing the gospel in a way that's simple and easy to share with anyone, so you can feel confident when the opportunity arises to explain it to someone else.

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV)

This passage summarizes the heart of the gospel: Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. These three key events are central to the Christian faith and the message we are called to share with others.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

The gospel is not just information; it is the **power of God** for salvation. It's the message through which God transforms lives. As believers, we should have confidence in this message because it is God's power at work.

1. What is the Gospel?

The gospel is the "good news" about what God has done through Jesus Christ to save humanity. The key elements of the gospel are:

- **Christ died for our sins.** Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, taking our punishment upon Himself.
- **He was buried.** His burial shows that He truly died, fulfilling the Scriptures.
- **He was raised on the third day.** His resurrection proves His victory over death and sin, giving us hope for eternal life.

Discussion Question

"Why is it important that the gospel includes not just Jesus' death, but also His burial and resurrection?"

2. Why is the Gospel Important?

The gospel is essential because it is **God's plan for salvation**. Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness, freedom from sin, and eternal life. There is no other way to be saved except through Jesus' death and resurrection.

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

Salvation is not something we can earn through good works or religious practices. It is a free gift, available to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Discussion Question:

"Why do people often try to earn their way to God through good deeds or religious practices, when the gospel says salvation is a free gift through faith?"

3. The Urgency of the Gospel

We are called to share the gospel because it is the only message that can bring salvation to a lost world. People cannot believe in Jesus unless they hear the gospel, which means that we, as believers, have a responsibility to share it. We will speak more of this topic later in the book as well.

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

Romans 10:14 (ESV)

Every day, people around us are searching for hope and truth. The gospel provides the answer to the deepest needs of the human heart. This is why sharing the gospel is not just important; it is *urgent*.

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

This verse reminds us that we are ambassadors for Christ—representing Him in this world. God is using us to bring His message of reconciliation to others. Our role is vital in helping people hear and respond to the good news.

Discussion Question:

"How does knowing that someone's eternal destiny may depend on hearing the gospel change the way you view sharing your faith?"

Training Activity:

Now that you understand the basic elements of the gospel and its importance, let's practice summarizing it in a way that is clear and easy to share with others.

Step 1: Write a 2-3 Sentence Summary

The goal is to explain the gospel in a way that anyone can understand.

Use the following example as a guide:

“The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Through faith in Him, we can be forgiven and receive eternal life.”

Now, take a moment to write your own summary of the gospel:

Step 2: Practice Sharing the Gospel

Once you've written your summary, pair up with another participant or form small groups. Each person will take turns sharing their gospel summary aloud.

Tips for Sharing:

- Keep it simple and focused on the main points: Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
- Remember that the power is in the message, not in how perfectly you deliver it. Trust God to use your words to touch hearts.

Step 3: Feedback

After everyone has shared, offer feedback to one another.

What was clear?

What could be made simpler or more understandable?

The goal is to help each other grow more confident in sharing the gospel.

Discussion Question:

What did you find easy or challenging about summarizing the gospel?"

Homework for Next Session:

1. Reflect on Your Gospel Summary:

Take time during the week to refine your gospel summary. Practice saying it out loud in front of a mirror or with a family member or friend. The more you practice, the more natural it will feel.

2. Pray for an Opportunity to Share the Gospel:

Ask God to give you an opportunity this week to share the gospel with someone. It could be a family member, friend, coworker, or even someone you meet in passing. Be ready to share the hope of Christ when the opportunity arises.

3. Memory Verse:

Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

Reflect on this verse and let it encourage you to share the gospel boldly.

Before we finish this section, let's take a moment to reflect on what we've learned today. The gospel is not just a message to share; it is the **foundation** of our faith and the source of our hope. As we grow in understanding it, let's also grow in boldness to proclaim it.

Prayer:

“Lord, we thank You for the gospel, the good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Help us to understand it deeply and share it boldly with others. Give us opportunities to speak Your truth this week, and give us the courage to follow through. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Session 1 Summary:

- **What is the gospel?** The good news of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.
- **Why is the gospel important?** It is God’s plan for salvation through faith in Christ alone.
- **The urgency of the gospel:** We are called to share this message because it is the only way for people to be saved.

SESSION 2

Why Do We Share the Gospel?



There is one reason why you are in church today. Someone shared the gospel with you. Whether it was a family member, a pastor, a friend, or a stranger, someone told you the good news of Jesus Christ. I know many people who only found hope because someone cared enough to share that message. Even as you read these words, think about it: perhaps you're reading this book because someone gave it to you. Maybe you were curious, or maybe a person loved you enough to say, "I want you to read this." Whatever the reason, the gospel has been shared with you in some way.

Now think about this—what would have happened if the man who brought God's word to Saul of Tarsus didn't go? In Acts 9, after Saul had been struck down and blinded on the road to Damascus, God called a man named Ananias to go to Saul and pray for him. At first, Ananias was hesitant—after all, Saul had a reputation for persecuting the church—but God said to him, "*Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel*" (Acts 9:15). Imagine if Ananias had ignored that call. Saul—later known as Paul—would go on to become one of the most influential apostles in history, writing much of the New Testament and spreading the gospel to countless people. But what if Ananias hadn't gone? What if he hadn't shared the message that God gave him?

The truth is, every person we meet has the potential to be transformed by the gospel, just like Paul was. But they will never know the power of that transformation if we stay silent. Paul himself wrote, “*How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*” (*Romans 10:14*). The gospel spreads through people like you and me, people who are willing to open their mouths and share the good news.

Consider Peter. After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem, as He had instructed them, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In that moment, Peter stood up and boldly preached the gospel to a crowd of thousands. The same Peter who had once denied Jesus three times now proclaimed Him with power. And because Peter opened his mouth and preached, *three thousand people* were saved that day (*Acts 2:41*). What would have happened if Peter had stayed quiet? What if he had let fear or doubt hold him back?

The message is clear: the gospel must be shared. It isn't an option. It's a command. Jesus told us, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations*” (*Matthew 28:19*). It's not just the job of pastors or missionaries. It's the job of every believer.

Let me tell you about someone who never gave up on me—my youth pastor, Eddie Ortiz. I'll never forget him. Eddie looked tough: he had tattoos covering both arms, a shaved head, a mustache, and always wore dark glasses. You might have thought he was unapproachable, but when that man greeted you in church, you *felt* the love of God. And he never gave up on me.

There was a time in my life when I was surrounded by family but felt deeply alone. Being the pastor's son made me feel like I was in a fishbowl—constantly watched, constantly expected to be perfect. I didn't want to go to church. I was struggling with depression, and in one of my darkest moments, I cried out to God, saying, *“Lord, if You're real, You need to show me. Otherwise, I don't want to be here anymore.”* And in that very moment, my phone rang. It was Eddie. He said, *“God told me to call you and pray with you.”* Eddie didn't know what I was going through at that exact moment, but he obeyed the call to reach out. And that phone call changed everything for me. What if Eddie hadn't called? What if he had ignored that nudge from God?

The gospel isn't just something we share when it's convenient. It's something we share because someone's life could be on the line. It's not just about bringing people to church; it's about bringing them into a relationship with the living God. We are God's messengers, His ambassadors. Paul wrote, *“We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20)*. God uses us to reach people—to speak words of hope, truth, and life. But that can only happen if we're willing to answer the call.

Maybe you're reading this right now, and you feel unsure about sharing the gospel. Maybe you think, *“I'm not good at talking to people,”* or *“What if they reject me?”* But sharing the gospel isn't about how skilled you are or how well you can explain things. It's about being obedient to God's call. It's about trusting that He will give you the words to say. Jesus promised us, *“Do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you” (Matthew 10:19-20)*.

Think about your own life. How did you come to know Jesus? Was it because someone invited you to church? Was it because someone told you about the love of Christ? Maybe it was a family member, a friend, or even a stranger. But someone shared the gospel with you. And now you have the opportunity to do the same for someone else. You don't know whose life you might impact. You don't know how God might use your words to change someone's eternity. But you have to be willing to speak.

The world is desperate for hope. People are searching for answers. They're tired of being let down by the things of this world. And we have the answer. We have the good news of Jesus Christ—the only news that can bring real change, real healing, and real salvation. But it's up to us to share it.

Don't wait for someone else to do it. Don't think, "*That's the pastor's job,*" or "*Someone else will tell them.*" God is calling you. Just like He called Ananias to go to Saul, just like He called Peter to preach at Pentecost, He is calling you to share His message of salvation. Will you answer the call?

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 2

In this session, we'll explore why sharing the gospel is not just a suggestion but a command from Jesus. By the end of our time together, you'll have a deeper understanding of the Great Commission, God's heart for the lost, and why every believer is called to share the gospel. We'll also talk about practical steps for making evangelism a part of our daily lives.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

This passage is known as the **Great Commission**—Jesus' command to His followers to make disciples of all nations. Sharing the gospel is a core part of this mission, and Jesus promises to be with us as we carry it out.

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”

Romans 10:13-15 (ESV)

This scripture highlights the necessity of sharing the gospel. People cannot believe in Jesus and be saved unless they hear the message, and it's up to us to share it.

1. The Great Commission: Jesus' Command to Share the Gospel

The Great Commission isn't just for pastors, missionaries, or evangelists—it's a command for every believer. Jesus' final words to His disciples before ascending to heaven were to **"Go and make disciples."** Sharing the gospel is the first step in making disciples, as people need to hear about Jesus before they can follow Him.

Discussion Question:

"Why do you think Jesus chose to give this command to all believers, not just to a select few?"

2. God's Heart for the Lost

God's desire is for **all people** to come to know Him. He does not want anyone to perish, but for everyone to have the opportunity to receive eternal life.

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

We share the gospel because we align our hearts with God's heart. Every person we meet is someone whom God loves and wants to be saved.

Discussion Question:

"How does knowing God's heart for the lost affect how we approach evangelism?"

3. The Role of Every Believer in Sharing the Gospel

Sharing the gospel is not about being perfect or knowing everything—it's about being faithful to the call. We are all ambassadors for Christ, and through us, God makes His appeal to the world.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

As ambassadors, we represent Jesus to the world. This means our actions, words, and willingness to share the gospel are crucial in helping others come to faith.

Discussion Question:

“How does it change your perspective to know that you are an ambassador for Christ?”

Training Activity:

In this session, we'll focus on practicing how to start gospel conversations and invite people to church or share your testimony as a way to introduce the gospel.

Step 1: Practice Inviting Someone to Church

Inviting someone to church is one of the easiest ways to open the door to sharing the gospel. In this activity, you'll practice how to invite someone with genuine care and enthusiasm.

Example Invitation:

"Hey, I've been going to this church and it's really been meaningful to me. We're having a special service this Sunday, and I'd love for you to join me. I think you'll really enjoy it and find it encouraging."

Now, take a moment to write your own invitation to invite someone to church:

Step 2: Practice Sharing Your Testimony

Sharing your personal story of how Jesus changed your life is a powerful way to introduce the gospel. Break into pairs or small groups and take turns sharing your testimony in 3-5 minutes. Focus on:

- What your life was like before you met Christ.
- How you came to know Him.
- How your life has changed since.

Example Testimony Outline:

- **Before Christ:** "I was searching for meaning and felt empty, no matter what I tried."
- **How I met Christ:** "A friend shared with me how Jesus died for my sins and offered me new life. I put my faith in Him."
- **After Christ:** "Now, I have peace, purpose, and hope, knowing that Jesus is with me and has a plan for my life."

Step 3: Group Feedback

After each person has shared their invitation or testimony, take a moment to give feedback. Was the message clear? Did it feel natural? What might be done differently to make it even more personal or engaging?

Discussion Question:

What did you find easy or challenging about inviting someone to church or sharing your testimony?

Homework for Next Session:

1. Pray for Opportunities to Invite or Share Your Testimony:

This week, ask God to give you an opportunity to invite someone to church or share your testimony. Pay attention to how God opens doors for conversations about faith.

2. Refine Your Testimony:

Take time to refine your testimony. Practice sharing it out loud with a friend, family member, or in front of a mirror. The more comfortable you are sharing it, the more natural it will feel when the opportunity comes.

3. Memory Verse:

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Reflect on this verse throughout the week and let it inspire you to take steps of boldness in sharing your faith.

As we finish this session, remember that sharing the gospel is not just a responsibility but a privilege. We are partnering with God in bringing His message of hope to a lost world. Let's pray for courage and wisdom as we step out in faith to share the good news.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for entrusting us with the message of the gospel. Help us to be bold and loving as we share it with others. Give us opportunities this week to invite someone to church or share our testimony, and give us the courage to follow through. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Session 2 Summary:

- **The Great Commission:** Jesus commands all believers to share the gospel and make disciples.
- **God’s Heart for the Lost:** God desires that all people come to salvation, and we share the gospel to align with His heart.
- **The Role of Every Believer:** We are ambassadors for Christ, representing Him to the world and sharing His message of reconciliation.

Next session, we will focus on **how to share your personal testimony** effectively as a tool for sharing the gospel and building relationships.

SESSION 3

How to Share Your Testimony



I'll never forget the time I first began to feel the pull to share my testimony. I was struggling with deep, dark thoughts—thoughts that seemed too heavy to admit to anyone. Suicidal thoughts. I didn't want to tell anyone what I was going through because I felt embarrassed, ashamed even. The last thing I wanted was for people to know the weight I carried. But I knew deep down that I needed to speak up. I needed to share it because, as the Word says, *"They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony"* (*Revelation 12:11*). There is power in your testimony, power to overcome the enemy.

It wasn't easy. It never is. But God began to show me that my past, my struggles, could very well be someone else's present. The battles I fought and the victory Christ gave me could be the very thing that points someone else to hope. You see, your story isn't just for you—it's for others. God brings us through trials not only to grow our faith, but to help someone else. And that's why we share.

As I started to open up about the depression I faced and the darkness I walked through, something amazing happened. People began to respond. I saw people cry, break down in front of me, because they were going through the exact same thing I had faced. It reminded me that we're not alone in our struggles, and sometimes, the very thing we've been afraid to

talk about is what someone else needs to hear. It's not always easy, but sharing your testimony can be life-changing—not just for you, but for the person who hears it.

Have you ever shared your testimony and found that someone began to cry? Maybe it was because they were going through the same thing. Maybe it was because they had never heard someone speak so honestly about the things they were too afraid to say out loud. That's the power of your testimony. It opens the door for healing, for connection, and most importantly, for the Holy Spirit to work in someone's life.

And here's the truth: *My old story is now history, but I was called out of darkness to preach His story for His glory.* God didn't just save me so that I could keep quiet about it. He pulled me out of darkness so that I could testify to His goodness, His faithfulness, and His power. He called me to tell others what He has done for me so that His name would be glorified and others would find hope in Him. It may not be easy to share, but you need to. If God has brought you through something, He wants to use that to bring others through it too. It's not just your story—it's His story working in your life. And even if it's just for *one* soul, even if it's just for *one* person, all of heaven will rejoice. Jesus said, *“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).* Your testimony could be the very thing that leads someone to that moment of repentance, that moment of finding hope and salvation in Christ.

You don't have to be a polished speaker or have it all figured out. God will use your words. He will take your story, no matter how broken or difficult it seems, and use it to bring healing and hope to others. Just like He did for me. Sharing your testimony isn't always easy, but it is always worth it.

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 3

In this session, we'll learn how to effectively share our personal testimony as a tool to introduce the gospel. By the end of our time together, you'll be equipped to share your story in a way that points others to Jesus.

We'll discuss the power of personal testimony and how God uses our stories to draw people to Himself. You'll also have an opportunity to practice sharing your testimony with others.

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

This passage encourages us to always be ready to share why we have hope in Christ. Our personal testimony is one of the most effective ways to share that hope with others.

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Revelation 12:11 (ESV)

This verse emphasizes the power of our testimony. Along with the victory won by Christ's sacrifice, our testimony can help overcome the enemy by proclaiming what God has done in our lives.

1. The Power of Personal Testimony

Your testimony is a unique and powerful tool that God can use to reach others. People may argue with theology or doctrine, but they can't argue with your personal experience of how Jesus changed your life.

Sharing your testimony doesn't mean you have to be a Bible scholar. It's about simply telling others how you encountered Jesus and how He made a difference in your life.

Discussion Question:

"What impact do you think sharing your testimony could have on someone who doesn't know Christ?"

2. The Structure of a Testimony

A clear and effective testimony typically has three main parts:

- **Before Christ:** What was your life like before you met Jesus? What struggles or needs did you face?
- **How You Met Christ:** What led you to place your faith in Jesus? How did you come to understand the gospel?
- **After Christ:** How has your life changed since you met Jesus? What difference has Christ made in your life?

Example Testimony Outline:

- **Before Christ:** "I was overwhelmed with anxiety and felt lost, always searching for peace in the wrong places."
- **How I Met Christ:** "A friend invited me to church, and I heard the message of Jesus' love and forgiveness. That day, I decided to trust Him with my life."
- **After Christ:** "Since then, I've experienced a deep sense of peace and purpose, knowing that I am loved and guided by God."

Discussion Question:

"Why do you think it's important to include how Christ has changed your life when sharing your testimony?"

3. Relating Your Story to Others

When sharing your testimony, try to relate it to the person you're talking to. Listen to their story and find common ground. For example, if they are struggling with anxiety, share how Christ brought peace to your life. The goal is to show how the gospel addresses the needs and desires of their heart.

Discussion Question:

"How can you tailor your testimony to speak to the specific struggles or needs of the person you are sharing with?"

Training Activity:

Now that we've discussed the structure of a testimony and its power, let's put it into practice. In this session, you will practice sharing your testimony in a clear and concise way that highlights how Christ changed your life.

Step 1: Write Out Your Testimony

Take a few moments to write out your testimony using the three-part structure:

- 1. Before Christ**
- 2. How You Met Christ**
- 3. After Christ**

Use the lines provided to draft your testimony

Step 2: Practice Sharing Your Testimony

Once you've written your testimony, pair up with another participant or form small groups. Each person will take turns sharing their testimony aloud.

Tips for Sharing:

- Keep it **brief** (around 3-5 minutes).
- Focus on **Christ's role** in your life.
- Be **genuine and relatable**—don't try to impress, just tell your story.

Step 3: Group Feedback

After everyone has shared, take a moment to offer feedback.

- What parts of the testimony stood out?
- Was the message clear?
- How did it connect emotionally?
- What could be simplified or clarified?

Discussion Question:

"What did you find easy or challenging about sharing your testimony?"

Homework for Next Session:

1. Refine Your Testimony:

Take time this week to refine your testimony. Focus on making it clear and concise. Practice sharing it with a friend, family member, or even in front of a mirror.

2. Pray for Opportunities to Share Your Testimony:

Ask God to give you an opportunity to share your testimony this week. Be open to conversations where you can talk about how Jesus has changed your life. Don't be afraid to take a step of faith.

3. Memory Verse:

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Reflect on this verse throughout the week. Let it remind you to always be prepared to share your testimony and to do so with love and gentleness. As we finish today’s session, remember that your testimony is a powerful tool that God can use to bring others closer to Him. Let’s pray that God would give us the boldness to share our stories and the wisdom to know when and how to speak.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for the testimony You’ve given each of us. Help us to share it boldly and clearly, and use our stories to bring others to You. Give us opportunities to speak of Your goodness and to reflect Your love in all that we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Session 3 Summary:

- **The Power of Personal Testimony:** Your story is a powerful way to share the gospel and show others how Jesus changes lives.
- **The Structure of a Testimony:** Share what your life was like before Christ, how you met Him, and how He changed your life.
- **Relating Your Story to Others:** Connect your testimony to the struggles or needs of the person you’re speaking to.

Next session, we will dive deeper into **how to approach conversations about faith** and overcome common obstacles to sharing the gospel.

SESSION 4

Overcoming Obstacles in Sharing the Gospel



Let's be real—one of the hardest parts about sharing the gospel is overcoming the obstacles that get in the way. Fear is probably the most common. Fear of rejection, fear of being labeled, fear of persecution, fear of being “cancelled.” Fear has done more to hold the church back than almost anything else. It makes us second-guess what we should say, keeps us silent when we should speak, and causes us to hesitate when God has opened a door.

But fear isn't the only obstacle. Sometimes it's complacency. We get comfortable with where we are in life and in our faith. It's easy to sit in a church pew and think, *“I'm doing my part. Someone else will handle the evangelism.”* But Jesus didn't give the Great Commission to just pastors and evangelists. He gave it to all of us. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)*. There are no exceptions. If we are followers of Christ, we are called to share the gospel. Complacency tells us it's not urgent, but the gospel is always urgent.

Then there's *self-doubt*. How many of us have thought, *“Who am I to share the gospel? I don't have all the answers, I'm not perfect. I've made mistakes.”* The enemy loves to use our insecurities to keep us from stepping out. But let me tell you this: sharing the gospel isn't about being perfect. It's

about pointing people to the One who *is* perfect. It's about being honest, vulnerable, and real about what Jesus has done in your life. As Paul said, *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7). We don't need to be perfect vessels. God works through our imperfections to show His power.

Sometimes, it's *busyness* that gets in the way. We're so caught up in the day-to-day grind of life—work, family, responsibilities—that we forget to prioritize sharing the gospel. It becomes just one more thing on a long list of "to-dos." But sharing the gospel isn't just another task. It's central to our calling. Jesus said, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33). When we put His kingdom first, He opens up opportunities for us to share, even in the middle of our busy lives.

I've faced these obstacles in my own life. Growing up, I wasn't always sure how to move beyond them. But my dad, as much as I've shared about him, helped me become the man I am today. He didn't just preach at me, he lived out the example of how to walk through fear, self-doubt, and all the other challenges that come with sharing the gospel. He showed me what it looks like to preach beyond the obstacles.

But he also taught me to own my calling and be courageous in it. As a young man, I wasn't just living under his shadow—I had to find my own path and my own voice in the ministry. I had to step out, despite my fears, and realize that God had equipped me uniquely to share His Word. Whether it was standing on a stage or sitting with someone one-on-one, I learned that the obstacles in front of me could be overcome if I trusted God.

And that's something I want you to know as well. You don't have to have it all together. You don't have to be fearless. You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to be willing to trust God with the process.

One of the greatest examples of this courage is found in the story of Joshua. When God called him to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, the obstacles seemed overwhelming. There were literal giants in the land, and fear could have easily taken over. But God said to him, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9). Joshua's strength didn't come from his own ability; it came from the knowledge that God was with him every step of the way. In the same way, we need to remember that we don't face the obstacles alone. God goes before us.

Then there's the story of Jehoshaphat. He faced an enormous army and was afraid. But instead of letting fear paralyze him, he sought the Lord. *"Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord"* (2 Chronicles 20:3). In his fear, he turned to God, and what did he do? He worshipped. Even in the face of impossible odds, Jehoshaphat led his people in worship, trusting God to deliver them. Sometimes, the best way to overcome the obstacles in front of us is to simply worship through them, knowing that the battle is not ours, but God's.

And let's not forget Paul. Paul faced obstacle after obstacle—shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment. But he never let those obstacles stop him from preaching the gospel. In fact, he said, *"For when I am weak, then I am strong"* (2 Corinthians 12:10). His obstacles became opportunities for God's strength to be revealed. And that's exactly what happens when we share the gospel in the face of fear, self-doubt, or busyness. God's strength shines through our weakness.

When I was younger, I didn't always know how to share the gospel with confidence. I had my own struggles—feeling like I didn't fit the mold of what a pastor's son should be, dealing with my own fears and doubts. But as I grew in my faith, I realized that the very things I saw as obstacles were the same things God would use to shape me into the person He wanted me to be. And that's true for you as well.

The things you see as obstacles today might be the very things God uses to shape your testimony, to give you the courage to share your story, and to impact someone else's life. Sometimes it's the push we need to move forward, to jump when we don't feel ready, to take that first step. My dad taught me that courage isn't the absence of fear—it's moving forward despite the fear. And that's the mindset we need to have when sharing the gospel.

Don't let fear, self-doubt, busyness, or complacency hold you back. The world needs the gospel, and God has called you to share it. He doesn't expect you to be perfect, but He does ask for your obedience. As Paul said, *“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16)*. That urgency, that willingness to step beyond the obstacles and proclaim the good news, is what makes all the difference.

So here's the truth: God has equipped you for this. He's given you His Spirit, not one of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline (*2 Timothy 1:7*). He's with you in every conversation, every moment of sharing your faith. Whether you're talking to a coworker, a family member, or a stranger, He is with you. And even if it's just for one soul, even if your testimony reaches just one person, heaven will rejoice (*Luke 15:7*). Don't let the obstacles keep you silent. Be strong and courageous. Trust that God will give you the words, the opportunities, and the strength to overcome whatever stands in your way. The gospel is worth it.

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 4

In this session, we'll focus on the common challenges and obstacles we face when sharing the gospel and how to overcome them. By the end of this session, you'll have practical strategies for overcoming fear, rejection, and other barriers that might hinder you from sharing your faith. You'll also practice handling objections in a way that is respectful and effective, helping you engage in meaningful conversations about Christ.

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

This verse reminds us that fear does not come from God. Instead, He gives us power, love, and a sound mind to carry out His will, including sharing the gospel.

“And He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

Luke 10:2 (ESV)

Jesus emphasizes the abundance of people ready to receive the gospel. The challenge is not that people aren't open, but that there are few laborers willing to step out and share.

1. Overcoming the Fear of Rejection

One of the biggest obstacles people face when sharing the gospel is the fear of rejection. Many of us hesitate because we worry that people will reject us, ridicule us, or shut us down. However, it's important to remember that rejection is not personal—it's the message they may be rejecting, not you.

Jesus Himself experienced rejection, and He prepared His disciples for the possibility of it.

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you."

John 15:18 (ESV)

When people reject the gospel, they're ultimately rejecting Christ, not you. Our job is to share the message faithfully and leave the results to God.

Discussion Question:

"What are some of the fears you've encountered when thinking about sharing the gospel, and how do you think this scripture can help you overcome them?"

2. Responding to Objections and Difficult Questions

Another challenge in sharing the gospel is facing tough questions or objections. Many people feel unprepared for these situations and worry they won't know how to answer. While it's important to study and grow in our knowledge, we don't have to have all the answers to be effective witnesses.

The apostle Paul reminds us to handle objections with gentleness and respect.

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Key Tip:

When faced with an objection or a tough question, it’s okay to say, “That’s a good question, let me think about it and get back to you.” This shows humility and opens the door for further conversations.

Common Objections & Responses:

1. **“How can a loving God allow so much suffering?”**

Response: “That’s a great question. While the Bible doesn’t give us all the answers to why we suffer, it does show that God is with us in our suffering and promises to restore all things in the future. Jesus Himself suffered for us, and He offers us hope in the midst of our pain.”

2. **“Aren’t all religions basically the same?”**

Response: “Many religions teach good moral values, but Christianity is different because it’s not about what we do to reach God; it’s about what God has done to reach us. Through Jesus, we can have a personal relationship with God, something unique to Christianity.”

Discussion Question:

“What are some common objections or questions you’ve heard about the gospel, and how can we respond to them with love and respect?”

3. Handling Hostility and Conflict

While many people may respond to the gospel with curiosity or indifference, there will be times when you encounter hostility. It's crucial to remain calm and remember that we are representing Christ in all situations.

Jesus taught His disciples to expect resistance, but also to respond with grace.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”

Matthew 5:11-12 (ESV)

When you face hostility, here are some tips to keep in mind:

- **Stay calm:** Don't react emotionally or get defensive.
- **Listen well:** Sometimes people's hostility comes from pain or past experiences. Listening can open doors for future conversations.
- **Respond with love:** Never repay anger with anger. Respond with kindness and a soft answer.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 15:1 (ESV)

Discussion Question:

"How can we maintain a calm and loving attitude when someone is hostile or argumentative about our faith?"

4. Trusting God to Work in People's Hearts

It's easy to feel the weight of responsibility when sharing the gospel, but we must remember that it's ultimately God who changes hearts. We are called to plant seeds, but God is the one who makes them grow.

“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”
1 Corinthians 3:7 (ESV)

Trust that God is working behind the scenes, even when you don't see immediate results. Your role is to share the message faithfully and leave the rest to Him.

Discussion Question:

“Why is it important to remember that the results of sharing the gospel are in God's hands, not ours?”

Training Activity:

Now that we've discussed some of the common challenges and how to respond to them, let's put these strategies into practice. We'll do some role-playing to help you feel more prepared for real-life situations.

Step 1: Role-Playing Objections

Break into pairs or small groups. One person will play the role of someone asking tough questions or raising objections to the gospel, while the other person will practice responding.

Example Objections:

- “How do you know the Bible is true?”
- “Why should I believe in Jesus when there are so many other religions?”
- “If God is real, why is there so much evil in the world?”

Step 2: Practice Sharing the Gospel

Switch roles and take turns sharing the gospel. Focus on keeping it simple,

addressing objections respectfully, and sharing your personal testimony where relevant.

Tips for Sharing:

- **Stay calm and patient:** Don't rush the conversation.
- **Listen first:** Make sure you understand their concerns before responding.
- **Point back to Jesus:** Keep the focus on the core message of the gospel—Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Step 3: Group Feedback

After everyone has shared, offer feedback.

Was the gospel presented clearly?

Were the objections handled with gentleness and respect?

What could be improved?

Discussion Question:

"What was the most challenging part of responding to objections, and what did you learn from this activity?"

Homework for Next Session:

1. Reflect on Handling Objections:

Take time this week to reflect on the most common objections or tough questions you hear when sharing the gospel. Think about how you can respond to them with love, patience, and truth.

2. Pray for Courage:

Ask God to give you boldness this week to share your faith, even when faced with difficult situations or objections. Pray for opportunities to practice what you've learned in real conversations.

3. Memory Verse:

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

Memorize this verse and let it encourage you when fear or anxiety arises. God has given you the power to share His gospel boldly and lovingly. As we close this session, remember that every time you share the gospel, God is at work. Even when you face challenges or objections, trust that He is using your faithfulness to reach others. Let's pray for courage, wisdom, and love as we continue to share His good news.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for equipping us to share Your gospel. Help us to overcome our fears, respond to objections with grace, and trust that You are working in people's hearts. Give us boldness to proclaim Your truth, even in the face of challenges. In Jesus' name, amen.”

Session 4 Summary:

- **Overcoming the Fear of Rejection:** Rejection is not personal; it's about the message, not you.
- **Responding to Objections:** Answer with gentleness and respect, and don't be afraid to say you don't know.
- **Handling Hostility:** Stay calm, listen well, and respond with love.
- **Trusting God for Results:** Remember that it's God who changes hearts; our role is to share faithfully.

Next session, we will discuss how to continue following up with people after sharing the gospel and how to disciple new believers.

SESSION 5

Effective Follow-Up & Discipling New Believers



When Jesus stood at the tomb of Lazarus, He spoke words that brought life to a dead man. With just His voice, He reversed death itself. *“Lazarus, come out”* (John 11:43). At that moment, life returned to Lazarus. The breath of God filled his lungs, and death had no choice but to release him. But the story didn’t end there. Jesus didn’t stop after bringing him back to life. He turned to His disciples and gave them a specific instruction: *“Unbind him, and let him go”* (John 11:44).

Think about that for a moment. Jesus had just done the impossible—He had raised a man from the dead. He had spoken the word and brought life where there was death. But He didn’t stop there. He called His disciples into the process. He said to them, *“Now you untie him.”* The disciples couldn’t raise Lazarus from the dead. Only Jesus could do that. But they had a part to play in setting him free. They were responsible for loosing the ties, for removing the grave clothes that still bound him.

The same is true for us today. God brings life to those who are spiritually dead. He revives the dry bones, He breathes life into dead souls, and He brings people out of spiritual darkness. But then He turns to us, His disciples, and says, *“Now you untie them.”* It’s our responsibility to help people walk in the freedom that Christ has given them. It’s our job to guide

them out of the grave clothes of their old life and into the new life that Jesus offers.

This is what discipleship is all about. Discipleship is more than just sharing the gospel. It's about walking alongside people as they learn to live in the freedom that Christ has given them. It's about helping them shed the old habits, the old ways of thinking, and the old ties that still cling to them, even after they've come to faith. It's the process of unbinding the grave clothes and helping people fully embrace the new life that Jesus has given them.

Too often, we stop at introducing people to Jesus. Maybe we invite someone to church, we share the gospel with them, or we say a prayer. And when they respond, we rejoice—and rightly so! But we cannot stop there. Just as Jesus didn't leave Lazarus bound, we can't leave new believers in their grave clothes. Discipleship is the ongoing work of helping people grow in their faith, helping them walk in the freedom that Jesus has already given them.

Consider the story of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37. The bones were scattered, lifeless, and dry. But when Ezekiel prophesied as God instructed, breath entered them, and they stood on their feet—a vast army. *“Then He said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live’” (Ezekiel 37:9).* The breath of God brought life to the bones, but it was Ezekiel's obedience to prophecy that initiated the process.

God has called us to be part of this process. It's not enough to see people brought to life in Christ—we need to walk with them as they grow in that life. It's not enough to rejoice when someone responds to the gospel—we

need to disciple them, teach them, and help them walk in the freedom and fullness of what God has for them.

Discipleship isn't always easy. It takes time, it takes patience, and it takes commitment. But it's worth it. Jesus told us to "*go and make disciples of all nations*" (*Matthew 28:19*), not just converts. He didn't call us to stop at the moment of salvation. He called us to walk with people, to teach them how to follow Him, how to live out their faith, how to overcome the struggles and challenges that come with their new life in Christ.

We are called to come alongside others in their journey. Discipleship is about building relationships, about walking through life together, about helping each other grow in Christ. It's about being there for someone when they struggle, when they fall, when they feel like giving up. It's about encouraging them, praying for them, teaching them, and helping them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Paul understood this well. In his letters, we see him not only preaching the gospel but pouring himself into the lives of those he discipled. He said, "*We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us*" (*1 Thessalonians 2:8*). Discipleship is about giving of ourselves—our time, our energy, our love—to help others grow in their faith.

Sometimes, discipleship can feel like hard work. It can feel like you're pouring into someone who isn't ready to fully walk in their new identity, or like you're constantly reminding them to "take off their grave clothes" of their old life. But remember, just as the disciples untied Lazarus, you are helping untie someone from the things that once bound them. You are helping them walk in freedom.

And here's the encouragement: you don't have to do this alone. Jesus promised to be with us in this process. He said, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). As we disciple others, we're not relying on our own strength or wisdom—we're relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us. God is at work in their hearts, just as He is at work in us. We're simply joining Him in the process.

There is nothing more rewarding than seeing someone you've discipled grow in their faith. There is nothing more powerful than watching someone walk in the freedom that Jesus has given them. And there is nothing more fulfilling than being part of the process of "untying" someone from their past and watching them step into their new identity in Christ.

So, here's my challenge to you: don't stop at sharing the gospel. Don't stop at the moment of salvation. Be willing to invest in discipleship. Be willing to walk with people as they grow, as they struggle, as they learn to follow Christ. Be willing to "untie" those whom Jesus has brought to life. The work of discipleship is not always easy, but it is always worth it.

God has called you to be part of this process. He has equipped you to walk with others as they grow in their faith. And He will give you the strength, the wisdom, and the grace to help others experience the fullness of life in Christ.

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 5

In this session, we will focus on the critical steps that follow after sharing the gospel. By the end of our time together, you'll understand why follow-up is essential for spiritual growth and how to disciple new believers. We will explore practical ways to build relationships, help others grow in their faith, and keep them connected to the church community. You'll also learn how to use intentional follow-up strategies to support those who have recently encountered Christ.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

Jesus didn't just command us to share the gospel—He told us to make **disciples**. This involves walking with people on their journey of faith, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

This verse reminds us of the importance of community. New believers need regular encouragement and guidance. As a church, we are called to help them stay connected and continue growing.

1. The Importance of Follow-Up

When someone responds to the gospel and makes a decision to follow Christ, it's only the beginning of their journey. Without intentional follow-up, new believers can easily fall away, become discouraged, or feel isolated. Effective follow-up helps them establish strong roots in their faith.

“As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”

Matthew 13:20-21 (ESV)

Example:

Imagine a young woman who has just accepted Christ at a church event. She's filled with joy, but after the excitement wears off, she's unsure how to keep growing in her faith. If no one reaches out to help her, she may feel lost or disconnected.

Following up with her through a phone call, a coffee meeting, or even attending church together the next Sunday can be the difference between her drifting away or becoming a strong disciple of Christ.

Discussion Question:

"Why do you think new believers are vulnerable after making a decision to follow Christ, and how can we help them establish stronger roots in their faith?"

2. Practical Ways to Follow Up

Follow-up is about showing new believers that they are not alone on their journey. Here are some practical ways to effectively follow up after someone responds to the gospel:

- **Personal Contact Within 48 Hours:**

Reach out to the person within 48 hours after they make a decision for Christ. Whether it's through a phone call, text, or visit, let them know that you are there to support them. The sooner you make contact, the more likely they are to stay connected.

- **Invite Them to Church or Small Group:**

Encourage them to attend church regularly or join a small group. Invite them to sit with you or meet you there to ease any anxiety they may have about attending alone. Small groups are especially helpful for building relationships and growing in faith.

- **Give Them a Bible and Simple Study Material:**

Many new believers may not have a Bible or know where to start reading. Provide them with a Bible and recommend an easy-to-understand study guide, such as a booklet on the basics of Christianity or a beginner's reading plan. Walk them through the first steps of how to engage with Scripture.

Example:

You recently led a co-worker to Christ. After their decision, you call them within two days to check in, congratulate them, and answer any questions they might have. You invite them to your church's Sunday service and offer to meet for coffee beforehand so they feel comfortable. You also give them a Bible with a note of encouragement and a reading plan to help them get started in their journey.

Discussion Question:

"What practical ways can we make new believers feel welcomed and supported in their first few weeks of faith?"

3. Building Relationships and Accountability

The journey of faith is not meant to be walked alone. For new believers, it's important to form relationships that will provide guidance, accountability, and encouragement. Discipling someone involves building trust and being intentional about walking alongside them as they grow in Christ.

Key Areas to Focus on in Relationships:

- **Consistent Communication:**
Regularly check in with new believers through texts, calls, or meeting up. Ask them how they're doing spiritually and offer to pray for them. This shows that their spiritual growth matters to you.
- **Answering Their Questions:**
New believers often have questions about faith, prayer, and how to read the Bible. Be available to answer these questions, and if you don't know the answer, help them find it. Don't underestimate the impact of simply being present to guide them.
- **Encouraging Spiritual Disciplines:**
Help them develop spiritual disciplines, such as daily Bible reading, prayer, and attending church. These practices will strengthen their relationship with God and deepen their faith.

Example:

After someone at church accepts Christ, you decide to take them under your wing. Over the next few weeks, you meet up weekly to talk about their spiritual journey, answer questions, and pray together. You

encourage them to attend a small group and regularly check in via text to see how they're doing in their Bible reading and prayer life.

Discussion Question:

"How can we build strong relationships that help new believers stay accountable and grow in their faith?"

4. Establishing a Discipleship Path

Discipleship is more than just a one-time follow-up—it's an ongoing process that requires a plan. A structured discipleship path can help new believers grow systematically in their understanding of God and their faith journey. The goal is to help them move from new converts to mature followers of Christ.

Steps for Establishing a Discipleship Path:

- **Start with the Basics:**
Begin with foundational topics such as the nature of God, the person of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, and how to pray. These topics give new believers the framework they need to understand the Christian faith.
- **Introduce Spiritual Disciplines Gradually:**
Encourage new believers to develop spiritual disciplines, but be mindful not to overwhelm them. Start with simple goals like reading a short passage of Scripture daily or praying for five minutes each day, then gradually increase as they grow more confident.
- **Get Them Involved in Church Life:**
Help new believers find their place in the church by encouraging them to serve in ministries, attend prayer meetings, or join social gatherings. Being part of a church community helps them feel connected and supported.

Example:

You decide to create a discipleship path for a friend who recently became a Christian. Over the next few months, you meet every week to discuss key topics about faith, such as who Jesus is, how to pray, and the meaning of salvation.

You also encourage them to attend a Bible study group and gradually introduce them to church service opportunities, helping them to feel integrated into the church family.

Discussion Question:

"What are some key foundational topics that new believers should learn about in their first few months of faith?"

Training Activity:

In this session, we'll practice creating a follow-up plan for new believers. Each person will pair up with a partner and come up with a personalized follow-up strategy based on a scenario provided.

Step 1: Choose a Scenario

Select one of the following scenarios to create a follow-up plan for:

1. A young adult who accepted Christ at a youth event.
2. A co-worker who recently started attending church and accepted Christ.
3. A family member who gave their life to Christ at a family gathering.

Step 2: Develop a Follow-Up Plan

With your partner, create a detailed plan that includes:

- A first contact within 48 hours.
- A schedule for regular communication (weekly or bi-weekly).

- A plan to invite them to church or a small group.
- Steps to introduce spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, etc.).

Step 3: Share and Discuss

Share your follow-up plan with the group. Discuss how you would implement each step and any challenges you foresee. Offer feedback to one another on how to make the plan more effective.

Discussion Question:

"What did you learn from creating a follow-up plan, and how do you think this approach will help new believers stay connected?"

Homework for Next Session:

1. Implement Your Follow-Up Plan:

If you know someone who has recently accepted Christ, reach out to them this week and begin following up. Use the plan you created as a guide, and be intentional about helping them grow in their new faith.

2. Pray for Opportunities to Disciple:

Ask God to show you people in your life who need discipleship and follow-up. Pray for opportunities to come alongside someone in their spiritual journey.

3. Memory Verse:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

Let this verse remind you that the Great Commission includes making disciples, not just converts.

Follow-up is a critical part of evangelism. Let's remember that making disciples means walking with people as they grow in their relationship with Christ. Let's pray for the wisdom and commitment to help others grow in their faith and stay connected to the church.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for the opportunity to disciple others. Help us to be faithful in following up with those who have come to know You. Give us wisdom in how to guide them and love them well, and help us to point them to You in everything we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

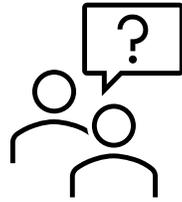
Session 5 Summary:

- **The Importance of Follow-Up:** New believers need support and connection to stay strong in their faith.
- **Practical Ways to Follow Up:** Personal contact, inviting them to church, and giving them resources are key.
- **Building Relationships and Accountability:** Walk with new believers to help them grow and stay accountable.
- **Establishing a Discipleship Path:** Provide a clear plan for new believers to mature in their faith.

Next session, we'll explore how to deepen discipleship relationships and help new believers take their next steps in faith.

SESSION 6

Deepening Discipleship Relationships



We don't have the luxury of time. Every day, people around us are slipping into eternity without knowing Jesus. Every moment we delay in sharing the gospel, in discipling others, is a moment lost—an opportunity gone. The urgency is real, and it's pressing. We must take discipleship seriously, not just as a suggestion but as a command, because we are running out of time.

Our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, families, and friends need Jesus, and it is our responsibility to bring them to Him. The truth is, we cannot afford to wait. The stakes are too high. Jesus said, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest”* (Matthew 9:37-38). The harvest is ready—souls are ready—but where are the laborers? Where are the disciples who are willing to do the hard work of investing in the lives of others and helping them grow in their faith?

This is not just about making converts. It's about making disciples. It's about deepening relationships with those who are new to the faith and those who have walked with Christ for years. Discipleship means walking alongside people as they learn to follow Jesus, as they grow in their faith, as they shed the “grave clothes” of their old life and step into the fullness of their new identity in Christ. We don't just bring people to Jesus and then

walk away—we are called to walk with them, to guide them, to teach them, and to help them grow.

Look around you. The world is dark, and it's getting darker by the day. *"For the night is coming, when no one can work"* (John 9:4). We don't know how much time we have left, but we do know this: today is the day to act. Today is the day to share the gospel. Today is the day to deepen our discipleship relationships. If we don't act now, when will we? If we don't make discipleship a priority today, what will happen to the next generation?

We can't just tell people about Jesus and then leave them to figure it out on their own. Discipleship means building relationships, investing time and effort, and walking with others as they grow in Christ. Paul said, *"We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us"* (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Discipleship is about giving of ourselves—not just sharing the gospel, but sharing our lives, our time, and our hearts. It's about loving people enough to walk with them through their struggles, to encourage them in their faith, and to help them grow into mature believers.

We must take this seriously. The people in our lives need Jesus, and they need us to be the ones who bring them to Him. Jesus said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20). Making disciples is not optional—it's a command. And we must do it with urgency because time is running out.

Think about your family, your friends, your coworkers. Have you shared the gospel with them? Have you walked with them in discipleship? Or have

you waited, thinking, *“There’s more time, I’ll do it later”*? But later might never come. We are not promised tomorrow, but we have today. *“The night is far gone; the day is at hand”* (Romans 13:12). We cannot afford to delay. Every moment we wait, every day we put it off, is a moment that could be lost.

We are called to be fishers of men, but fishing isn’t enough—we must also walk with those we catch. Discipleship isn’t a one-time event. It’s an ongoing process of helping people grow in their faith, of teaching them how to live for Christ, and of guiding them into a deeper relationship with Him. The people around us are hungry for truth, for hope, for something real. And we have the answer. But will we share it? Will we take the time to disciple them, to walk with them, to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus?

Jesus Himself modeled this for us. He didn’t just preach to the crowds and walk away. He invested deeply in His disciples. He spent time with them, teaching them, guiding them, and showing them how to live. And He has called us to do the same. The world is in desperate need of disciples—people who know Jesus and are living for Him. But disciples don’t just happen. They are made through intentional, committed relationships.

We cannot be passive about this. We cannot assume that someone else will do it. God has called us to disciple the people in our lives. *“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”* (Romans 10:14). The people in our lives need to hear the gospel, and they need us to walk with them as they grow in their faith.

There is an urgency to this. The time is short, and the world is getting darker. We don't know how much longer we have, but we do know this: Jesus is coming back, and we must be ready. Not just for ourselves, but for those around us. We must be diligent in sharing the gospel and in making disciples. This is not something we can put off until tomorrow. Today is the day to act. *“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).*

Discipleship is about more than just teaching people about Jesus. It's about helping them live for Him. It's about walking with them through their struggles, their doubts, their questions, and their victories. It's about building relationships that are centered on Christ and encouraging each other to grow in our faith. We cannot do this alone, and neither can the people we are discipling. We need each other. That's why discipleship is so important.

So, I ask you, who are you discipling? Who in your life needs Jesus? Who in your life needs someone to walk with them as they grow in their faith? Don't wait. Don't put it off any longer. The time is now. There is an urgency to this because eternity is at stake. The people around us need to know Jesus, and they need us to be the ones who bring them to Him. Will you answer the call? Will you make discipleship a priority?

The night is coming, and time is running out. Let us be the laborers who go into the harvest with urgency, who cast the net, and who walk with those who come to Christ. Let us not delay any longer. The time is now.

BIBLE STUDY SESSION 6

In this session, we'll focus on how to take discipleship relationships to the next level. By the end of this session, you will understand the biblical foundation for deeper relationships, how to cultivate accountability and spiritual growth, and the importance of long-term commitment in discipleship. We'll also cover how to mentor others in their journey with Christ and help them become disciple-makers themselves.

“And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

This is the call to discipleship from Jesus Himself. Discipleship is not just about learning; it's about transformation. Jesus invites us to follow Him, be changed by Him, and join Him in His mission to reach others.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

James 5:16 (ESV)

Deep discipleship relationships are built on transparency and accountability. Confessing sins to one another and praying for each other fosters spiritual growth and healing.

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)

True discipleship requires close relationships where we challenge, encourage, and sharpen each other in faith. As we walk together, we grow stronger and more equipped to live out the gospel.

1. The Biblical Foundation for Deeper Discipleship

The Bible shows us that discipleship is more than just a program or a series of meetings—it's a relationship. Jesus modeled discipleship by spending time with His followers, teaching them, correcting them, and sending them out.

“And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach.”

Mark 3:14 (ESV)

Jesus called the disciples to be **with Him** before sending them out. Discipleship begins with relationships. Jesus lived life alongside His disciples, showing them what it means to follow God. As we disciple others, we are called to do the same—inviting them into our lives, not just teaching them from a distance.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

Discipleship flourishes in community. Regularly meeting with those we disciple allows us to stir one another up in love, good works, and spiritual growth. Meeting together helps disciples stay connected, encouraged, and focused on Christ.

Example:

You have been discipling a young believer for a few months. While you meet regularly for Bible study, you decide to invite them into your daily life—maybe to go grocery shopping, have lunch, or do an outreach event

together. By spending time with them in everyday life, you model what it means to follow Jesus in all aspects of life, not just during a formal study session.

Discussion Question:

"Why is it important to build personal relationships in discipleship, rather than keeping it only formal or programmatic?"

2. Cultivating Accountability and Transparency

Accountability is an essential part of deep discipleship. The Bible encourages believers to walk in transparency, confessing their sins and praying for one another. This mutual accountability helps us to grow and keeps us on track spiritually.

"Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

Galatians 6:1 (ESV)

Accountability isn't about judgment or criticism—it's about helping each other stay faithful to Christ. In discipleship, we should create safe spaces where people feel comfortable being honest about their struggles, knowing that they will receive prayer, support, and encouragement.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (ESV)

In discipleship, we walk with one another so that when one person stumbles, there is someone there to help them back up. This kind of relationship helps keep both the discipler and the disciple accountable to God and to each other.

Practical Steps for Accountability:

- **Ask Specific Questions:** When you meet with those you disciple, ask specific questions about their spiritual life. For example, “How has your prayer life been this week?” or “What struggles can I pray for you about?”
- **Create a Judgment-Free Zone:** Assure those you are discipling that you’re not there to judge them but to help them grow. Make it clear that it’s okay to admit failures, knowing that God’s grace is sufficient.
- **Offer Encouragement and Prayer:** When someone shares a struggle or sin, don’t just give advice—pray with them. Ask God for wisdom and strength to overcome challenges.

Example:

You’re meeting regularly with a man from your church, and you both decide to be accountability partners in your spiritual growth. At each meeting, you share openly about the things you’ve struggled with that week—whether it’s impatience, prayerlessness, or any other issue. After discussing it, you pray for one another, asking for God’s grace and strength.

Discussion Question:

"How can we build relationships of accountability without making people feel judged or uncomfortable?"

3. Encouraging Spiritual Growth through Discipleship

Discipleship is not just about helping people avoid sin; it's about encouraging them to grow deeper in their walk with Christ. As disciples grow, they should increasingly reflect the character of Jesus and live out the values of the kingdom of God.

“As newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.”

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)

New believers need spiritual nourishment to grow, just like infants need milk. As a disciple-maker, part of your role is to encourage those you disciple to seek spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer, worship, and service. As they mature, their lives will increasingly reflect Christ.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

Spiritual growth means becoming **rooted and built up** in Christ. This happens through consistent study of God's Word, faithful prayer, and living out the teachings of Jesus. Encourage those you disciple to establish these disciplines in their daily lives.

Ways to Encourage Growth:

- **Bible Study:** Challenge those you disciple to read and study Scripture daily. Discuss key passages together and help them apply the Word to their lives.

- **Prayer Life:** Encourage a growing prayer life. Teach them how to pray using Scripture and offer to pray with them regularly.
- **Serving Others:** As disciples mature, encourage them to serve in their church or community. This helps them to live out the gospel in practical ways.

Example:

You've been discipling someone for six months, and you've noticed they've grown in their understanding of Scripture. You now challenge them to start serving in the church's hospitality team, helping them apply their faith in service to others.

Discussion Question:

"What practical ways can we help those we disciple grow deeper in their relationship with Christ?"

4. Discipling Disciple-Makers

The ultimate goal of discipleship is multiplication—helping those we disciple become disciple-makers themselves. Just as Jesus sent out His disciples to make more disciples, we are called to teach those we mentor to share the gospel and disciple others.

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

Paul's instruction to Timothy emphasizes the importance of teaching disciples who will be able to teach others. This is the model of multiplication—investing in others who will continue the process of discipleship, spreading the gospel to more people.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

The Great Commission is a call not only to share the gospel but to make **disciples** of all nations. This means that those we disciple should be equipped to disciple others, continuing the work of Christ.

Practical Steps for Multiplication:

- **Teach Them to Share the Gospel:** Part of discipleship is teaching others how to share their faith with others. Equip those you disciple with the tools to confidently proclaim the gospel.
- **Encourage Them to Disciple Others:** Once a disciple has grown in their faith, encourage them to find someone else to disciple. Offer support and guidance as they begin discipling others.
- **Model Discipleship:** Show them what it looks like to disciple by living it out in front of them. Invite them to join you when you meet with others, modeling how to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations.

Example:

After discipling someone for a year, you’ve seen tremendous growth in their faith. Now, you encourage them to start meeting with a new believer and begin discipling them, offering guidance as they take on this new role.

Discussion Question:

“How can we help those we disciple become disciple-makers, and why is it important for the gospel to multiply through relationships?”

Training Activity:

In this session, we'll practice creating a discipleship plan for helping someone grow into a disciple-maker. Each group will choose a scenario and come up with a strategy for mentoring someone toward becoming a disciple-maker.

Step 1: Choose a Scenario

Select one of the following scenarios:

1. A young adult has been a Christian for two years and is eager to grow.
2. A mother of two has recently started attending church regularly and wants to serve.
3. A college student accepted Christ last year and is now interested in leading a Bible study.

Step 2: Develop a Discipleship Plan

With your group, create a step-by-step discipleship plan that includes:

- **Bible Study and Prayer:** How will you help them grow in Scripture and prayer?
- **Accountability and Relationships:** How will you foster transparency and accountability?
- **Equipping for Service:** How will you encourage them to serve and disciple others?

Step 3: Share and Discuss

Present your discipleship plan to the group. Discuss how each step will help the person grow into a disciple-maker and what challenges might arise. Offer feedback to refine the plan.

Discussion Question:

"What did you learn from developing a discipleship plan, and how do you think this approach will help others grow into disciple-makers?"

Homework for Next Session:

1. Apply Your Discipleship Plan:

If you're discipling someone, begin applying your plan this week. Focus on helping them grow in their faith and equipping them to disciple others.

2. Pray for Opportunities to Multiply:

Ask God to show you how to multiply your efforts by helping others become disciple-makers. Pray for wisdom and guidance in equipping others for this task.

3. Memory Verse:

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

Memorize this verse and reflect on how discipleship is a chain of faithful followers teaching others to follow Christ.

As we finish our study, let's remember that discipleship is about multiplication. It's not just about growing in our own faith—it's about helping others grow so they can lead others to Christ. Let's pray for the courage and wisdom to disciple others who will, in turn, disciple more.

Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for the gift of discipleship. Help us to invest in others and guide them as they grow in their faith. Give us the wisdom to disciple with love and patience, and help us equip others to disciple as well. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Session 6 Summary:

- **The Biblical Foundation for Deeper Discipleship:** Discipleship begins with relationships and grows through community.
- **Cultivating Accountability and Transparency:** Build relationships of trust where people feel safe to share.
- **Encouraging Spiritual Growth:** Challenge those you disciple to deepen their relationship with Christ.
- **Discipling Disciple-Makers:** Help those you disciple to become disciple-makers themselves, continuing the mission of Christ.

Next session, we’ll look at long-term strategies for sustaining discipleship and growing your disciple-making ministry.

STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED



We cannot share what we do not know. How can we effectively lead others into the Kingdom if we ourselves are not grounded in the Word of God? This is why the Bible urges us, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). This is not just about gaining knowledge. It’s about gaining wisdom—learning how to live, how to love, how to lead others to Jesus. It’s about knowing the Word deeply enough that we can explain it clearly, that we can live it authentically, and that we can proclaim it boldly.

When I think about this call to study and to know God’s Word, I think about my father. My father, even now, is still out on the roads, preaching the gospel. He’s still sharing the Word of God despite everything. He’s a Vietnam veteran who came home with shrapnel in his knees from a grenade explosion that damaged his kneecaps, and even now he can’t see out of his left eye. In 2018, he broke his hip, and yet, even in the hospital, he was ready to preach again. His shoulder has been replaced with plastic, but that doesn’t stop him from standing at a pulpit or from talking to anyone he meets about the saving grace of Jesus. He keeps going.

Why? Because he knows the power of the Word. He knows that people are dying without Jesus. He knows that *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”* (Isaiah 40:8). No matter what

happens to our bodies, no matter how much we endure, the Word of God remains, and it is our calling to preach it, to live it, and to share it until we take our last breath.

This same tenacity is in me. Even when I'm sick, I keep preaching. Even when I'm hurting, I keep serving. I can't stop because the fire of God's Word burns within me. *"If I say, 'I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name,' there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot"* (Jeremiah 20:9). The fire in my bones won't let me be quiet. I've come too far, and the stakes are too high for me to stay silent.

My family is too important to me. My children need Jesus. My marriage needs Jesus. My church, my friends, my community—they need Jesus. How can I stay silent when everything around me is crying out for the truth of God's Word? How can I keep quiet when the world is desperate for hope, for salvation, for the truth? I have to keep going. And so do you.

We cannot afford to be passive or complacent when it comes to knowing God's Word. We cannot afford to be casual about our study of the Bible. The time is urgent, and the world is growing darker. We are called to be lights in the midst of that darkness, but how can we shine if we don't know the source of our light? *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalm 119:105). If we don't know the Word of God, we are walking in darkness ourselves, and we are incapable of leading others into the light.

To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a student of His Word. It's not enough to know *about* God—we must *know* Him through His Word. We must study, not to impress people, but to stand before God as workers who are approved by Him. This isn't about gaining knowledge for the sake of

knowledge. It's about gaining wisdom. *"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding"* (Proverbs 2:6). When we know the Word, we gain wisdom that guides us in every area of life—how to live, how to love, how to disciple others, and how to endure in the face of trials.

You see, it's not enough to just preach. It's not enough to just speak the Word. We must live it, breathe it, and let it flow out of us in everything we do. We must become so immersed in God's Word that it shapes every decision, every conversation, every relationship. Jesus said, *"If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (John 8:31-32). The truth of God's Word sets us free, and it is that freedom we are called to share with others.

But how can we share that freedom if we don't know it ourselves? How can we proclaim the truth if we haven't studied it, wrestled with it, and let it take root in our hearts? The Apostle Paul, who endured incredible suffering for the sake of the gospel, never wavered in his commitment to knowing and sharing the Word. He told Timothy, *"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching"* (2 Timothy 4:2). Paul understood the urgency of knowing the Word and sharing it, no matter the cost. He knew that the Word of God is our anchor, our weapon, and our source of life.

This is why we study. Not for approval from men, but for approval from God. We study to show ourselves approved, so that when we stand before Him, we can say, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (2 Timothy 4:7). We study so that we are equipped to handle the Word of truth, to share it with others, and to lead them into the Kingdom of God.

My father instilled this in me. He never sat me down to talk about sports or television shows. He sat me down to talk about the Word of God. He shared the gospel with me at the kitchen table, on long drives, and in everyday conversations. He knew that if I kept the Word of God in my heart, I would always be safe. *“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11)*. That was his legacy to me—a love for the Word and a passion to share it with others.

And now, that same legacy burns within me. The fire in my bones compels me to keep preaching, to keep teaching, to keep sharing the gospel, no matter what. And I pray that same fire burns within you. I pray that you will study the Word, not just to gain knowledge, but to gain wisdom, to know God more deeply, and to be equipped to share His truth with the world.

We don't have time to waste. The world is in desperate need of the truth, and we have been entrusted with the most powerful message of all time—the gospel of Jesus Christ. So, study to show yourself approved. Study to know God, to love Him, and to share Him with others. Study because eternity is at stake, and we cannot afford to be silent any longer. The world needs Jesus, and we are His messengers.

A PRAYER FOR YOU



Father God, I come before You with a heart full of reverence, acknowledging Your greatness and Your glory. I thank You for each person reading this book, each one who has committed to the calling of sharing the gospel, deepening discipleship, and being a light in this dark world. Lord, as we come together to seek Your face, I ask for Your Spirit to ignite a fire within them that cannot be quenched. Let it burn like a flame in their bones, just as it did in the prophet Jeremiah, who said, *“There is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot”* (Jeremiah 20:9).

Lord, we know that we are living in the last days. We see it, we feel it, and Your Word declares it. You said, *“In the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive...”* (2 Timothy 3:1-2). But, Lord, we are Your people. We are the ones You have called to rise up and proclaim the gospel in the midst of the darkness. Your Word tells us, *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden”* (Matthew 5:14). I declare that each person reading this will shine as that city on a hill, boldly proclaiming the gospel, unafraid of what man can do.

Lord, we pray that You empower them to preach the gospel with clarity and confidence, knowing that *“The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16). Father, let them grasp the depth of the gospel—Your death, Your burial, and Your resurrection, and give them

the words to share it with boldness. Just as Paul said, *“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Let this truth be firmly rooted in their hearts and on their lips.

Father, as they dive deeper into the work of discipleship, let them never grow weary of doing good, knowing that in due season they will reap if they do not give up (*Galatians 6:9*). You’ve called us not just to make converts, but to make disciples. Your Word commands us, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”* (*Matthew 28:19-20*). I declare that each person reading this will take this commission seriously, investing their time, their hearts, and their lives into discipling others for Your Kingdom.

Lord, as they face obstacles—whether fear, doubt, or persecution—remind them of Your promise: *“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control”* (*2 Timothy 1:7*). I declare that fear will not hinder them. Persecution will not silence them. They will press on, knowing that *“We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”* (*Romans 8:37*).

Father, in moments when they feel weak, remind them of Your strength. You said, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness”* (*2 Corinthians 12:9*). When they feel like they can’t go on, let them remember that *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (*Philippians 4:13*). Lord, when their hearts are heavy, remind them that *“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall*

mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Lord, let them study to show themselves approved, not unto men, but unto You. Your Word declares, *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).* Let them hunger and thirst for Your Word, knowing that it is a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path (*Psalm 119:105*). Father, give them wisdom and understanding, as Your Word says, *“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).*

God, I ask that You raise them up as laborers in Your harvest. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (*Matthew 9:37*). I declare that each one reading this will rise up and be counted as a laborer for Your Kingdom, casting their nets into the waters, knowing that You are the One who brings the increase.

Lastly, Lord, I pray for their families, for their children, for their marriages, for their loved ones. Lord, we declare Your protection over their households. *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).* Let them lead their families by example, living out the gospel in their homes and leading others to Christ by the way they live.

Lord, we know the time is short. The night is coming when no man can work (*John 9:4*), and so I declare over them the urgency of this call. Let them go forth with boldness, with confidence, and with the power of the Holy Spirit to be Your witnesses, from their neighborhoods to the nations.

Father, I thank You for the work You are doing in and through them. Strengthen their hearts, embolden their voices, and anoint their hands for the work ahead. *“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6)*. In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus, Amen.

BASIC GOSPEL TERMINOLOGY

Understanding the key terms and concepts of the Christian faith is essential for effectively sharing the gospel and growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Whether you are a new believer or a seasoned follower of Christ, these foundational theological terms will help you grasp the core truths of Christianity and equip you for evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual growth. By knowing these terms, you will be better prepared to explain your faith, guide others in their journey with Christ, and deepen your own understanding of God's work in the world. Use this glossary as a reference to strengthen your knowledge and apply these truths as you live out and share the gospel.

Atonement (*uh-TOHN-ment*)

Atonement refers to the reconciliation between God and humanity through Jesus' death on the cross, which paid the penalty for sin. Through His sacrifice, we are restored to a right relationship with God.

"He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2 (ESV)

Baptism (*BAP-tiz-uhm*)

Baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus, symbolizing a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It represents the inward change and new life that comes through faith.

"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Romans 6:4 (ESV)

Conversion (*kuhn-VUR-zhun*)

Conversion is the moment when a person turns from sin and trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation. It involves repentance and placing faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

Disciple (*dih-SAHY-puhl*)

A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ who seeks to grow in their faith and live according to His teachings. Discipleship involves learning from Jesus and helping others follow Him.

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

Discipleship (*dih-SAHY-puhl-ship*)

Discipleship is the process of helping others grow in their relationship with Jesus by teaching, mentoring, and guiding them to live out their faith. It involves both learning from Christ and teaching others to do the same.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

Evangelism (*ih-VAN-juh-liz-uhm*)

Evangelism is the act of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ with the goal of leading others to faith in Him. It involves sharing the message of salvation through Christ’s death and resurrection.

“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15 (ESV)

Faith (*fayth*)

Faith is trusting in God and believing in His promises, especially in Jesus Christ as Savior. It is the foundation of salvation and is expressed through obedience to God's will.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Gospel (*GOS-puhl*)

The gospel is the “good news” of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection for the salvation of sinners. It is the central message of Christianity and the basis of evangelism.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV)

Grace (*grayce*)

Grace is God's unearned favor, by which He offers salvation to humanity through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a gift from God, not based on works, but given freely to those who believe.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)

Justification (*juhs-tih-fuh-KAY-shun*)

Justification is the act by which God declares a sinner righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a legal standing given by God, not earned through works, but granted through faith in Christ's sacrifice.

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1 (ESV)

Kingdom of God (*KING-duhm uv GOD*)

The Kingdom of God refers to God's rule and reign, established through Jesus Christ, both spiritually in the hearts of believers and ultimately in the world when Christ returns.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:15 (ESV)

Mission (*MISH-uhn*)

In the Christian context, mission refers to the calling of believers to spread the gospel and make disciples in all nations. It is a core part of the Great Commission given by Jesus to His followers.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19 (ESV)

Prayer (*prayer*)

Prayer is the act of communicating with God, involving praise, confession, thanksgiving, and requests for guidance and help. It is a vital part of a believer's relationship with God.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

Propitiation (*proh-pish-ee-AY-shun*)

Propitiation is the act of satisfying God's righteous wrath against sin through Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus' sacrifice appeased God's justice and made reconciliation with Him possible.

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:10 (ESV)

Redemption (*rih-DEM-shun*)

Redemption refers to God’s act of delivering people from the bondage of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It means being set free from sin’s penalty and power by the grace of God.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

Regeneration (*ree-jen-uh-RAY-shun*)

Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit by which a person is spiritually reborn and becomes a new creation in Christ. It marks the beginning of the believer’s transformation and new life in God.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Repentance (*ree-PEN-tuhns*)

Repentance is the act of turning away from sin and turning toward God, involving a change of heart and behavior. It is a key response to the gospel and necessary for salvation.

“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.”

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

Righteousness (*RAHY-chuhs-nis*)

Righteousness is the state of being morally right or justified before God, which believers receive through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not

earned by works but is a gift from God through Christ's righteousness.

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

Romans 1:17 (ESV)

Salvation (*sal-VAY-shun*)

Salvation is the deliverance from sin and its consequences, granted by God to those who believe in Jesus Christ. It involves being saved from the penalty of sin and receiving eternal life through faith in Christ.

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 (ESV)

Sanctification (*sangk-tih-fih-KAY-shun*)

Sanctification is the ongoing process by which believers are made holy through the work of the Holy Spirit, becoming more like Christ. It is a lifelong process of spiritual growth and transformation.

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV)

Explore Crossway Church Online

Dive into our vibrant community at Crossway Church from anywhere, at any time. Our church is dedicated to spreading the love of Jesus Christ and fostering deep spiritual growth through dynamic worship, fervent prayer, and powerful sermons.

We invite you to join us for these spiritually enriching experiences and connect with us through our various ministries. At Crossway Church, you're not just visiting; you're part of our family.

Visit Our Website:

www.crosswayaz.com

There, you'll find the latest updates on our location, service times, events, and how you can get involved. Embrace a journey of faith and fellowship with us from wherever you are.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
— Matthew 11:28 ESV

Scan to Learn More



Follow Crossway Church on social media:
Facebook / Instagram / Youtube: @CrosswayChurchAZ