

VICTORY: VISION, MISSION, PROCESS

Vision Statement

Victory is a life-giving church that is reaching the world for Christ one person at a time, with love, grace, and compassion.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to “Change Lives With The Truth” through Biblical discipleship.

The Process

It is our goal to make biblical disciples according to Matthew 4:19: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”. A disciple is someone: Following Jesus, Being Changed By Jesus, and On Mission for Jesus

GROUP GUIDELINES

Setting some basic group guidelines for how we will honor one another in our group discussions is important.

- Ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within.
 - They help with the flow and pace of discussions.
 - They help us value one another.
 - They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.
-

SAFE GROUP: We strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard (*there are many others*).

- If someone sins against you – **Matthew 18:15-20**
- Restoring someone in sin - **Galatians 6:1-5**

- Forgive a sinner - ***Colossians 3:12-13***
- Reconciling differences – ***Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5***

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally effecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE “I” STATEMENTS: It’s easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use “I” statements rather than “them”, “the church”, “us”, “we”, etc.

Share - Week 1

THIS CURRICULUM:

Over the next four weeks we are going to help each other prepare to share our faith with the people around us.

This week, let's look at what motivates us to share our faith in Jesus with others and how we begin by building bridges and earning the right to be heard.

GETTING STARTED:

Share about the last time you told someone about Jesus. What was it like?

In what ways can sharing the gospel about Jesus be difficult?

WHY does sharing Jesus with others matter?

WHY SHARE:

- **John 3:16:** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- **Romans 5:8:** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **Luke 15:7, 10, 32:** *I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance....Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents..... It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.*
- **Luke 19:10:** *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
- **2 Peter 3:9-10:** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

What do you see about God's heart expressed in them?

Pick a passage from each column:

COLUMN 1

1 Peter 2:9

COLUMN 2

Luke 19:10

2 Peter 3:9-10

1 Peter 3:15-16

1. After hearing these passages how would you describe who we are and what we have been entrusted with?
2. Whose responsibility is it to share Jesus with others that don't know Him?
3. What keeps us from sharing Jesus with others? (Be as real and personal as you can be. Try not to be theoretical about answering this.)

HOW TO SHARE: Start with your lifestyle and relationships

A. Your life opens doors - Read:

1 Peter 3:15-16: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander..

1. How does Christ being Lord of your heart change you?
2. In what ways do you have hope?
3. How does having hope and Christ as your Lord impact how you live?
4. What do you think being prepared means?

B. Build A Relationship

- Share your life - Think about how Jesus shared His life with those who He was seeking after. Look at: **John 1:37-39:** *When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want? They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.*
- Meet a need (serve them) - Meeting needs when God reveals them is a way to express God's heart and love towards people. Remember how Jesus used the story of the Good Samaritan who demonstrated loving his neighbor by meeting his needs? You can read about this in Luke 10:26-36.
- Listen to their story - Be curious and genuinely interested in their story. Jesus modeled this in His interaction with the woman at the well described in John 4:1-42. Learn about them first. Ask good questions.

Listen to their story and where they are in their journey to Jesus

Seek to understand where they are coming from.

Listen for what questions or roadblocks they in responding to Jesus.

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER:

1. Who is in your world that does not yet have a relationship with Jesus? (You might need to become aware of those in the places you work, live and play. Be playful and intentional!)
2. How can you invite them to share life with you?
3. In what ways can you serve them - meet a need they have?
4. What is their story?
5. What would it take for you to get the opportunity to hear their story?
6. What are their questions about God?

PRAYER SUGGESTION:

Put an empty chair in the center of your group. Think about who in your life does not have a relationship with Jesus. Take time as a group to pray for the specific people in your lives who need Jesus.

Ask God to open your eyes, to give you a heart like His for them, for ways to serve them and share life with them. Ask for opportunities to hear their story and to understand where they are in their journey.

NEXT WEEK:

In the next few weeks here is where we are headed:

Week 2: Be Prepared - Sharing Your Story (We will develop and share our testimonies)

Week 3: Be Prepared - Sharing God's Story (We will learn and practice a way to share God's plan of salvation).

Week 4: Follow-Through and Follow-Up

EXTRAS:

Part of listening is seeking to understand a person's questions and roadblocks. Part of being prepared to give an answer for the hope you have is working on being prepared to answer questions people have. What kinds of questions do the people in your world have?

Get yourself prepared to answer the questions that the people in your life have. never be afraid to say, "Great question! I don't know, but I will find out. When can we meet again and I will find out by then?"

Some common questions people have:

Is there a God?

Which God?

What kind of God is He?

How do I know if the Bible is reliable?

What about all the different religions?

SHARE - WEEK 2

Share Your Story

Be Prepared: Share Your Story:

Last week we discussed God's heart for people becoming our heart for people. We looked at how our lifestyle gives us a platform to share the hope we have. Listening to someone's story and understanding where they are is critical to building a relationship and earning the right to share. A part of becoming prepared is to find answers for the spiritual questions or roadblocks that the people in our own part of the world are asking.

This week we want to help you prepare by writing and sharing your personal testimony of how God impacted your story.

We want to get practical. Let's look at God's Word, and then, let's practice and share.

GOD'S WORD:

***Ephesians 2:1-10:** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- What was life like before God?
- What did God do?
- What was different as a result?

This is a great example of how to share the story of your journey with God.

PREPARING YOUR STORY - SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY:

The time you take to share your story depends on the context and situation. You could take 90 seconds, 2 minutes, 5 minutes, 2 hours, or anything in between. Whatever the

length, it contains three key elements: What life was like without God, how you came to choose Jesus, and what difference He has made in your life. Today, during group time, help each other prepare a short version (about 2 minutes long).

Think about when you might share a short version of how you chose to follow Jesus. Share the situations that come to mind.

When sharing our stories, especially after we know the other person and their story, we can draw from the variety of our life experiences to custom fit it to another person's pain, questions, and context to be transparent and relatable.

DEVELOP YOUR STORY: Here are some questions to help: _____

1. What was your life like before Jesus?
 - A. Where were you?
 - B. What got you there?
 - C. What lies did you believe?
 - D. What steps did you take to solve your own problems?
2. What brought you to Jesus?
 - A. Where did He find you?
 - B. What did Jesus do?
3. What is different about you since knowing Jesus?
 - A. How has He changed your life?
 - B. How has He changed you?

TIPS: _____

1. Don't glorify or exaggerate your past.
2. Focus on what God did for you, not on what you gave up for God.
3. Don't use "Christian-ese."

Remember: Every story matters. Everyone has a journey that led them to making a choice about Jesus. Everyone experiences the power of God that saves them and gives them eternal life. Not all stories are dramatic with a past life filled with lots of experiences without God. Some stories are more subtle in how a self-ruled life was expressed and changed. But all stories are redeemed by God, are worthy to be told, and are used by God to help others see how He works in every life.

PREPARING TO SHARE YOUR STORY WORKSHEET:

You have a significant role in what Jesus is doing in the world. You are here at this place and this time for a reason. You are here to be a part of what God is doing. He is reaching out to people who don't have a relationship with Him and drawing them to respond to Him. Your own story of how God reached out to you and how you responded is significant. It is a tool you can use to reach the world for Jesus one person at a time. You can introduce someone to Christ. Therefore, it is essential that you have your testimony well thought out and that you are prepared to share it.

This is where your story and His story come together, resulting in a changed life.

There are 3 parts to think about in your personal testimony:

1. What was your life like before you had a personal relationship with Jesus?
2. How did you make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?
3. What is your life like now with Jesus Christ?

What was your life like before you had a personal relationship with Jesus? People often view God and the church negatively-perhaps they had a broken relationships or searched for satisfaction in the wrong places. Think through your "Before Christ" days and examine how you thought and lived. Who or what were you gods? When telling this part of your story, be sure not to spend too much time bragging about your old ways of life or how sinful you were. Make this the shortest part of your testimony.

People come to Christ in many different ways with one thing in common: God draws each person. How did you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior? How did God work in your life and draw you to Himself? Was there anyone who helped you along in this process? Friends? Family? A pastor?

The most exciting and attractive part of our testimony is what your life is like now that Jesus Christ is the center of it. How has being committed to Jesus changed your life? Have you experienced victories and struggles? How have your relationships changed? Remember that your excitement about following Christ will make your listeners excited about starting a relationship with Him.

Take 10 minutes to answer the three main questions to telling your story. Take 5 minutes to pull out a few key points of your story in each section.

WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE BEFORE JESUS?

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO JESUS?

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU SINCE KNOWING JESUS?

Later you may want to go back over your story and make additions or changes.

PRACTICE SHARING:

Now we want to share it! We get to speak it out loud. There is power in our stories. Romans 1:6 says that what God has done in our lives has power - power to save us and transform us, and when we tell our story, it has the power to draw others to God. Be bold and courageous. Practice it. It's your story so tell it!

1. Pair Up. This is a great time for men to pair up and women to pair up. Have one person share while the other listens and provides feedback. Again, this is where you need a time keeper. Take 5 minutes to share and 2 minutes to five feedback. Listener:

- What did you hear?
- What did you not hear?

2. Now switch roles. Same rules apply.

DEBRIEF:

What did you learn, discover, or experience in this?

OUTSIDE OF GROUP TIME:

1. Who in your life are you praying for?
2. Practice sharing your story 2-3 times this week. Share with your family or a friend. Ask someone to help you with your “homework” this week.

NEXT WEEK:

Make sure you bring your Bible or app. We will be using them to become prepared to share the gospel.

SHARE - WEEK 3

Share The Good News

Be Prepared: Share God's Story:

1 Peter 3:15-16: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

We have been helping each other be prepared to share our faith and reach out to those who do not yet follow Jesus.

We have talked about living a life with Jesus as Lord, living in a way that builds bridges and reflects hope. Building a relationship with someone - sharing our life with them - is key. Meeting needs is a way to do that. We recognize that part of being prepared is becoming aware of what questions and roadblocks people in our own world have in believing and following Jesus. We want to listen to their stories with genuine interest and curiosity.

Last week we worked on being prepared by sharing our own story of how we chose to follow Jesus and the difference it has made in our lives.

Today, we get to work on being prepared by walking through a tangible way of sharing God's story.

- Who, in your world, needs to be reached out to?
- What are you learning about them?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?

THE GOSPEL:

There are many different ways to share the gospel, the good news, the true story of how God wants a relationship with people. The gospel shares God's story of love, our need, and redemption. He loves each person so much that He paid the price to get rid of the sin, judgment, guilt, and condemnation that stands between Him and us. This break in relationship came because we chose to live life on our own. He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay this price. He offers a new beginning to those who humble themselves to accept what He offers.

We are going to walk through how to share the core of this story. Recognize that you need to meet a person where they are at, and they may have questions or roadblocks that you may need to address before they have ears to hear and respond to the core of the gospel story.

This week we are going to go over and practice how to share how to share the gospel.

DISCUSS: Do you already have a preferred way to share the gospel?

Lets take out our Bibles and walk through telling God's core story.

The Gospel consists of both good news and bad news. The gospel becomes active in a person's life when there is a response to it.

John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

DISCUSS: What is the good news, and what is the bad news in it?

Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.*

DISCUSS: What is the good news, and what is the bad news?

The tool we are going to practice is called the *Roman Road* because it walks through the book of Romans to tell the core of what God has done for us.

First, let's walk through it as a group. Then, we will pair up and practice. You are going to need about 25 minutes to practice.

THE ROMANS ROAD:

You may start with something like this:

We've been getting to know each other, and you know I am a Christian. Oftentimes, Christians are guilty of never sharing their faith with others. I don't want to be that guy. Would you allow me to share what the Bible says about Jesus, and why I'm a Christian?"

Be conversational, ask questions and remember that you are called to be a disciple maker!

THE PROBLEM:

Romans 3:23: *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*
(This is a universal problem)

Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
(The consequences are eternal)

NOTE: A question you might encounter is “What is sin?” How would you explain/define sin? You are helping a person recognize that all have sinned. All are in need of being saved from the penalty of sin. And none of us can do that on our own.

GOD’S RESPONSE: GOOD NEWS

Romans 5:8: *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

(God’s dilemma: He loves us, yet He has to judge sin! Here you are talking about God’s heart, His desire to be in relationship and how He solved our dilemma).

OUR RESPONSE:

Romans 10:9-10: *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

(God tells us what we must do)

Romans 10:13: *For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

(Confirmation that this is available to everyone. This is where you explain that each of us gets to respond to what Jesus has done for us. You want to ask them if they are ready to respond to what Jesus offers them).

WHAT HAPPENS

Romans 5:1: *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(This is the amazing result!)

Romans 8:1: *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

(We have been set free in Christ! At this point you are reassuring the person that God’s grace is just that good and big.)

NOW WHAT?

Romans 12:1-2: *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

(We now live life differently because of who we have become through Jesus. Here you are telling them who they have become, how Jesus is a part of their daily life, and you are encouraging them to respond publicly through baptism).

TIPS:

If you are a paper/physical Bible person, write these verses in the front of your Bible. You might write the page number for Romans 3:23. Then go to where Romans 3:23 is in your Bible and highlight the verse. Then write the scripture reference and page number for the next verse (Romans 6:23) in the margin. Repeat that for the remaining scriptures.

When you share: Have the person read each text aloud from the Bible, and ask them what it means.

Remember, when you share, you have to start with where they are at. This is why you become curious about their story, their questions, and their roadblocks.

In the Appendix, there are some additional ways to share the gospel and some online resources.

PRACTICE SHARING:

Now we get to practice together! You will need a time keeper.

Pair up. In the pairs, have one person share. Take 10 minutes to walk through the Roman Road and give 2 minutes for the listener to give feedback, encouragement, and constructive comments.

Then switch roles.

The Roman Road

- **Romans 3:23 - Our problem is universal!**

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- **Romans 6:23 - The consequences are eternal!**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Romans 5:8 - God's dilemma: He loves us yet He has to judge sin!**

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- **Romans 10:9-10 - God tells us what we must do!**

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

- **Romans 10:13 - Confirmation that this is available to everyone!**

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

- **Romans 5:1 - The amazing result!**

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

- **Romans 8:1 - We have been set free in Christ!**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- **Romans 12:1-2 - We now live differently because of who we have become through Jesus**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

OUTSIDE OF GROUP TIME:

During the week, go over this tool or your preferred tool for sharing the gospel 2-3 times. Ask some people to listen to you walk through it. Look for opportunities to share your story, to hear someone's story, or to share God's story.

PRAYER

SHARE - WEEK 4

FOLLOW-THROUGH & FOLLOW-UP

Did you get an opportunity to share your story or the gospel this week? Share about this experience.

BE PREPARED:

We have been helping each other be prepared to share our faith and reach out to those who do not yet follow Jesus.

We've talked about living a life with Jesus as Lord, living in a way that builds bridges and reflects hope. We want to build a relationship and share our lives. Meeting needs is a way to do that. We become aware of what questions and roadblocks people in our own world have to believing and following Jesus. We want to listen to their stories with genuine interest and curiosity.

We've prepared our own story of how we chose to follow Jesus and the difference it has made in life.

We have practiced how to use a tool for sharing the good news, bad news, and to ask people for a response.

Today, we are going to talk about follow-through and follow-up.

FOLLOW-THROUGH:

No one wants to feel like a project. That is why we began with building relationships by serving, by meeting needs, and by being genuinely interested in hearing our friend's heart and story. We keep loving, sharing, and serving regardless of how they respond.

Someone's next step may be that they need time to consider what you have shared with them. If they are not ready to respond to Jesus, continue in relationship with them, continue praying for them, continue serving them, and continue loving them. Share what Jesus is doing in your life - as a friend - not preaching! When it is appropriate, probe where they are at in their journey. Ask some curious questions like:

- What are you struggling with?

- Is there a specific reason why you are not ready to ask Jesus to save you and be your Lord?

Listen to them as they answer. When they express a desire and readiness to accept Christ, Lead them to ask for God's forgiveness and salvation.

FOLLOW-UP:

So they said, “Yes!” They chose to accept God’s gift and to surrender their self-willed life to follow Jesus. Recognize that much rejoicing has happened in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10). Celebrate with them. Encourage and challenge them to move toward baptism (Acts 2:38).

Now what? A spiritual baby has been born, and they need some help to get rooted and grounded in this new life.

***John 3:3:** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”*

***Colossians 2:6-7:** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

1. What do you think they might need?
2. What did you need when you came to Christ?
3. What was helpful to you?

NEXT STEPS:

1. Share your life - Ever had buyer’s remorse or wonder what you had done, not because you regretted something, but because it was so new?

Think about how a brand new follower of Christ might be feeling. What would they need from you?

What might that look like?

Continue your relationship with them, but you will need to increase your frequency and intentionality for a time. They are new. Make sure you call, text, and meet with them. Listen to them, let them ask questions, ask them questions, and guide them. Make time for one-on-one time together to help them get rooted. Don’t forget to have fun and enjoy real life with them too!

2. Continue to Share Truth

They will have questions about this new life. And you will get to walk with them!

Some common Questions:

- i. How do I know I am saved?
 - ii. What does my new relationship with Jesus look like?
 - iii. What do I do when I sin?
 - iv. Where do I start in the Bible?
3. Below are some scriptures to begin to answer questions. Choose 3 to go over as a community group, and discuss how you would share them with a new believer.

Assurance of Salvation:

- Salvation - Ephesians 2:8-9
- Forgiven - Hebrews 10:12-14
- Child of God - John 1:12-13
- Christ will not leave you - Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:38-29
- You have a new life - 2 Corinthians 5:17
- You have eternal life - 1 John 5:11-13
- Answered prayer - John 16:24
- Forgiveness when we fall - 1 John 1:9
- Guidance - Proverbs 3:5-6

4. Help the get connected

i. Connect with God

What do you think would be helpful to encourage a new believer to begin to connect with God?

What might they need from you?

Model and encourage the healthy habits of:

Prayer - conversation with God
Bible Reading - start simple, a few minutes a day

ii. Connect with Others

What do you think a new follower would need to begin to connect with others?

What might they need from you?

Invite and encourage the healthy habits of:

Church
Community Group

Think about people you can introduce to them.

Consider what other opportunities or resources would be helpful for them - Men's or Women's groups, Bible Study, Discipleship

iii. Connect with New Purpose

Re-affirm them of their new identity:

A child of God - 1 John 3:1

A new creation, an ambassador for Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Model and coach them on our new purpose as followers of Jesus:

Loving God

Loving Others - Matthew 22:37-39

WRAP-UP:

Wow! we have covered a lot in the last few weeks. Now:

- What is your next step in being prepared and sharing your faith?
- How can you help each other in your community group?

This might be a consistent prayer for those in your life as you build relationships with them. It might be practicing sharing your story and the gospel and looking for opportunities to share. It might be understanding the questions people have, and finding answers. We all need to abide with Jesus and to live a life that shines hope and Christ-like character.

Let's be bold, brave, compassionate, and intentional. Eternity is at stake, and what we do matters!

APPENDIX

31 PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT YET FOLLOW JESUS

1. God draws them to Himself - John 6:44
2. They would seek to know God - Deuteronomy 4:29; Acts 17:27
3. They would believe God's Word - Romans 10:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
4. Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth - Matthew 13:19; 2 Corinthians 4:4
5. The Holy Spirit would convict them - John 16:8
6. God would send someone to share Christ with them - Matthew 9:37-38
7. They would believe in Jesus as Savior - John 1:12; 5:24
8. They would turn from sin and living a self directed life - Acts 3:19; 17:30-32
9. That they would confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead - Romans 10:9-10
10. They would yield all to follow Jesus - 2 Corinthians 5:15; Philippians 3:7-8
11. They would take root and grow in Christ - Colossians 2:6-7
12. The cross would be powerful not foolish to them - 1 Corinthians 1:18
13. Jesus would not be a stumbling block, but life - 1 Corinthians 1:23-24
14. They understand that God choose Jesus and He is wisdom. They would long for righteousness, holiness, and redemption - 1 Corinthians 1:30
15. Their faith would not rest on men's wisdom, but God's power - 1 Corinthians 2:14
16. God would reveal Himself to them through the Holy Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:10
17. The Holy Spirit would give discernment and acceptance of spiritual things - 1 Corinthians 2:14
18. God would give increase t the seeds planted in their lives - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7
19. They would fear God with an awe and respect - Psalm 85:9
20. God's kindness would bring them to repentance - Romans 2:4

APPENDIX

21. They may know that Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins - Luke 5:25
22. They would be drawn towards repentance - readying their hearts to acknowledge God's way is right - Luke 7:29
23. Hear and understand God's grace in all its truth - Colossians 1:16
24. They would be convicted of ignorance and unbelief, realize how their own way is far from God, and ready to receive mercy, grace, faith, and love in Jesus - 1 Timothy 1:13-14
25. Seek wisdom and find life in God's wisdom - Proverbs 8:33-36
26. God would have mercy on them - Romans 9:16
27. They would pursue a righteousness from faith not from works - Romans 9:30-31
28. Faith in Jesus alone would not be a stumbling block - Romans 9:32
29. Someone would proclaim the word of Jesus to them; they would hear, have faith, believe on Christ and call on the name of the Lord - Romans 10:13-17
30. They would have zeal based on true knowledge of God - Romans 10:2
31. They would transfer their trust from self or false gods to Jesus Christ - Romans 10:11

RESOURCES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

BOOKS:

1. More Than A Carpenter - Josh McDowell
2. A Case for a Creator - Lee Strobel
3. A Case for Christ - Lee Strobel
4. Mere Christianity - C.S. Lewis
5. Know Who You Believe - Paul Little
6. Know What You Believe - Paul Little

APPENDIX

7. Know Why You Believe - Paul Little
8. Prepare to Answer - A Defense of the Christian Faith - Rubel Shelly
9. Knowing God - J.I. Packer

QUESTIONS TO INVITE SOMEONE TO SHARE THEIR STORY:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died, where would you go? If heaven, why?
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

THE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS/PRINCIPLES :

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life (John 3:16, 10:10)
2. Humanity is tainted by sin and is therefore separated from God. As a result, we cannot know God's wonderful plan for our lives. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Jesus Christ, we can have our sins forgiven and restore a right relationship with God. (Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 14:6)
4. We must each place our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior in order to receive the gift of salvation and know God's wonderful plan for our lives. (John 1:12; Acts 16:13; Ephesians 2:8-9)

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

What is sin?

Definition: To miss the mark, to go against God's will.

Biblical Definition: 1 John 2:15; James 4:4

Who has sinned?

Romans 3:23

APPENDIX

What are the wages of sin?

Romans 6:23

What kind of death?

Revelation 20:14

Once we have sinned, can we ever be sinless?

1 John 1:8

What did God do to help us?

John 3:16

What must we do to accept this gift?

1. Faith - John 3:16; Romans 1:5, 10:9; James 2
2. Repentance - Luke 13:3-5; Matthew 21:28-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10
3. Confession - Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10
4. Baptism - Jesus taught it, Peter taught it - Acts 2:38, 22:16; Romans 6:1-4; 1 Peter 3:21