

# Leadership 3.0 Discipleship Guide

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## Vision:

*From the beginning of Christianity, the natural overflow of being a disciple of Jesus has always been to make disciples of Jesus. "Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). This was a promise: Jesus would take His disciples and turn them into disciple makers. And this was a command: He called each of His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey Him (Matt. 28:19–20). From the start, God's design has been for every single disciple of Jesus to make disciples who make disciples until the gospel spreads to all peoples.*

*Yet we have subtly and tragically taken this costly command of Christ to go, baptize, and teach all nations and mutated it into a comfortable call for Christians to come, be baptized, and listen in one location. If you were to ask individual Christians today what it means to make disciples, you would likely get jumbled thoughts, ambiguous answers, and probably even some blank stares. In all our activity as Christians and with all our resources in the church, we are in danger of practically ignoring the commission of Christ. We view evangelism as a dreaded topic, we reduce discipleship to a canned program, and so many in the church end up sidelined in a spectator mentality that delegates disciple making to pastors and professionals, ministers, and missionaries.*

*But this is not the way it's supposed to be. Jesus has invited all of us to be a part of His plan. He has designed all of His people to know His joy as we share His love, spread His Word, and multiply His life among all of the peoples of the earth. This is the grand purpose for which we were created: to enjoy the grace of Christ as we spread the gospel of Christ from wherever we live to the ends of the earth. And this purpose is worth giving our lives to seeing it accomplished. It's worth it for billions of people who do not yet know the mercy and majesty of God in Christ. And it's worth it for you and me, because we were made to be disciples who make disciples until the day when we see the face of the One we follow, and together with all nations we experience His satisfaction for all of eternity.*

*-David Platt*

Discipleship 3.0 is a high calling. This experience is designed and tailored for those who have spent some time following Jesus as a disciple and have multiplied discipleship into the lives of others. It will challenge you and truly take your walk with God to the next level, plumbing the depths of what you believe and how your faith plays out in daily life. Discipleship 3.0 is all about cultivating aspects of our walks with Jesus; and true cultivation is distinct from dabbling in the soil. Cultivating crops involves great intentionality & planning, long-term investment of time, energy, and resources, and implementation of practices in a widespread way across a great deal of space.

This Discipleship experience will focus on cultivating a **heart for God** and His Word, a **heart for people** in our lives through relationships, a **heart for discipleship** and practicing following Jesus daily, and finally a **heart for God's mission** He has shared with us.

You will repeatedly ask and answer what God is showing you about Himself, about you, and about others, along with a practical sense of what you're going to do about it. You will practice ongoing spiritual self-feeding through time in God's Word, accompanied by strategic readings in materials that fuel those cultivated beliefs and practices.

### What is Discipleship at Parkway?

We launch gender-specific, closed groups of 3-5 followers of Christ or individual 1:1 meetings that gather on a regular basis for intentional spiritual transformation. After deep diving through our Mission Measure questions, disciples are ready and encouraged to provide the same experience for others, multiplying a lifestyle of following Jesus. 1.0 is perfect for newer believers or those exploring the faith, hungry for foundational basics about Christianity. 2.0 dives even deeper in a more extended experience of spiritual transformation for those growing in Christ. And 3.0 is a limited offering for high-level leaders who have experienced multiplication and are ready for the deepest challenges of discipleship.



**DISCIPLESHIP**

**1.0**

**DISCIPLESHIP**

**2.0**

**DISCIPLESHIP**

**3.0**

- 01** Are you in the Word?
- 02** Are you in the Family?
- 03** Are you in the Trenches?
- 04** Are you in the Field?



**DISCIPLE - MAKING  
& MULTIPLYING**



# How to Use This Guide

## Planning your sessions together:

### 1. LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

You want to hear how your disciple's lives has been since the last meeting and how God has been working in their life.

- From our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- From our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? What has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

This section helps the leader reinforce the truth that was taught in the last meeting and have loving accountability for the "Next step" that was made during the last meeting. It is crucial to have both "love" and "accountability." If you do not show love to your disciple when they fail to keep their "Next step" it can discourage them, and they might stop putting in the work. On the other hand, if you do not hold your disciple accountable then they are missing out on the opportunity to experience the full life that Jesus offers.

If your disciple does not fulfill their "Next step" from the previous session, a couple of questions you can ask are:

- What distractions kept you from accomplishing your "Next step" this week?
- How can I help you fulfill your commitments/goals this coming week? More than "I will pray for you," but actual action steps (texting reminders, emails, etc.)

### 2. LOOK UP:

**Group Study:** In this section, the leader will facilitate conversation, further study, and personal application based off the assignment for the week.

### 3. LOOK FORWARD:

#### **Next steps:**

The objective for this section is to guide your disciple(s) to take the knowledge they have received from this session and apply it to their life. Ask, "*From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?*"

#### **Prayer:**

Take time to pray for your disciple(s) next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### **Next week:**

After you finish praying give your disciple(s) the following session assignment. Briefly walk through the assignment so that it is clear on what is expected.

## **Phase 1 - Leaders cultivating a heart for God (Are you in the Word?)**

Session 1- Introductions, Overview, and Goals

Session 2- The Doctrine of Scripture

Session 3- The Doctrine of God

Session 4- The Doctrine of the Holiness of God

Session 5- The Doctrine of the Sovereignty of God

Session 6- The Doctrine of God's Omnipotence

Session 7- The Doctrine of Creation

Session 8- The Doctrine of the Image of God in Man

Session 9- The Doctrine of Sin

Session 10- The Doctrine of Justification

Session 11- The Doctrine of Sanctification

Session 12- The Doctrines of the Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints

Session 13- The Doctrine of Eternity

Resource: Paul Tripp – “Do You Believe”

Phase 1 focuses on your heart for God and His Word, developing an identify as a believer who knows the truth about God, mankind, and other critical and orthodox doctrines of the faith. You will practice spiritual nourishment and self-feeding through reading the first three chapters of Ephesians, where Paul unpacks our vertical relationship with God and the truth of who we are in the gospel. And the group reading and discussion through “Do You Believe” will focus on developing a systematic theology that retains practical application in everyday life. You will process through twelve central doctrines of the Christian faith with a view to how they integrate and impact your daily living, in other words theology with hands and feet. A goal by the end of this segment will be to experience an increased passion for seeing and hearing God more clearly through His Word + responding to it in everyday life.

# Session 1 – Introductions, Overview, and Goals

## INTRODUCTIONS:

### **Mutual Care:**

- Invite everyone to share their story. Leader goes first.
- Story elements:
  - Where did you grow up?
  - Family background
  - Church background
  - People of influence
  - Spiritual journey
  - Why did you join this group?

### **Overview:**

- Welcome to this experience of discipleship for leaders of leaders! This is going to be an experience of sharpening and refinement that will help us continue to grow together as disciple makers and disciple multipliers.
- We will track through four Phases:
  - I – Cultivating a Heart for God – Are you in the Word?
  - II – Cultivating a Heart for People – Are you in the Family?
  - III – Cultivating a Heart for Discipleship – Are you in the Trenches?
  - IV – Cultivating a Heart for Mission – Are you in the Field?
- Structurally we will accomplish this through multiple means:
  - Self-feeding – each of us digging deeply into God’s Word and continuing to grow in our practice of studying Scripture and applying it to our lives
  - Reading and study in a core text – each phase we will focus on a core piece of content for the sake of reading and processing between meetings
  - Mutual care for each other – sharing celebrations and challenges in life, and praying for one another
  - Accountability in love – holding one another accountable to the next steps and preparation we commit to making together as a group

## LOOK FORWARD:

### **Our Goals:**

- Grow further and deeper in our walks with Jesus
- Sharpen our skills for discipleship and disciple making
- Develop leadership that postures up for extended impact in God’s kingdom

### **Next step:**

- From the goals and expectations we discussed today, can you take the time before the next meeting to write some customized goals for yourself? What are some specific ways you hope God can show up and provide growth for you through this process? Write 3-5, prepared to share them next meeting

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 1:1-6 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 1 The Doctrine of Scripture & Chapter 2 Scripture in Everyday Life.

## Session 2 – The Doctrine of Scripture

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Scripture?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- Of the various functions of God's Word (Saving, Pointing, Teaching, Rescuing, Warning, Protecting, Encouraging, Motivating, Confronting, Convicting, Guiding), which of these mean even more to you, and why?
- How do we live in light of the inspiration, authority, and sufficiency of the word of God?
- How would you dialogue with someone who has a low view of Scripture (e.g. it's full of errors, it's outdated and irrelevant, it supports injustice like slavery or misogyny, etc.)?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 1:7-10 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 3 The Doctrine of God & Chapter 4 God in Everyday Life.



## Session 3 – The Doctrine of God

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of God?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- What aspects of God's existence and character have historically meant a lot to you as you've matured in faith?
- How would you dialogue with someone who struggled to accept the existence of God?
- How do we live in light of the existence & character of the one, true God?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 1:11-14 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 5 The Doctrine of the Holiness of God & Chapter 6 God's Holiness in Everyday Life.

## Session 4 – The Doctrine of the Holiness of God

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of the Holiness of God?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How does God's holiness lead you in the direction of weeping? How does it lead you in the direction of rejoicing?
- Why does the holiness of God impact some in a way that leads to shame or distancing from Him?
- How do we continue to live in light of the holiness of God?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 1:15-23 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 7 The Doctrine of God's Sovereignty & Chapter 8 God's Sovereignty in Everyday Life.

## Session 5 – The Doctrine of the Sovereignty of God

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of the Sovereignty of God?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How does surrendering to God's sovereignty and control typically go for you? Where is it simple and where is it difficult?
- How have you navigated the sovereignty of God vs. free will debate in your Christian life?
- How do we live in light of the total sovereignty of God?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 9 The Doctrine of God's Omnipotence & Chapter 10 God's Omnipotence in Everyday Life.

## Session 6 – The Doctrine of the Omnipotence of God

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of the Omnipotence of God?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- Where in your life have you historically struggled to doubt God's power? How has He shown Himself in those same areas?
- If God is all powerful, why doesn't He always apply that power to preventing evil or fixing things that are wrong or broken in His creation?
- How do we live in light of the omnipotence of God?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 2:4-10 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 11 The Doctrine of Creation & Chapter 12 Creation in Everyday Life.

## Session 7 – The Doctrine of Creation

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Creation?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How does the Doctrine of Creation lead you to a greater sense of: Purpose, Ownership, Authority, Worship, and Humility?
- Is there a place where you go to find yourself more readily connecting with God as ultimate Creator? What helps you lean into this aspect more easily?
- How do we live with respect to God's Creation?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 2:11-16 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 13 The Doctrine of the Image of God in Man & Chapter 14 The Image of God in Man in Everyday Life.

## Session 8 – The Doctrine of the Image of God in Man

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of the Image of God in Man?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How does the Doctrine of God's Image impact your understanding of your own identity and that of others?
- What are implications of the image of God with regard to people with limited physical or rational capacity, special needs, etc.?
- How do we live with respect to God's Image in Man?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 2:17-22 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 15 The Doctrine of Sin & Chapter 16 Sin in Everyday Life.

## Session 9 – The Doctrine of Sin

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Sin?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How has understanding the depths of your own sin affected your outlook on life, and how has God's redemptive work impacted this?
- How would you dialogue with someone who thinks the Christian concept of sin is abusive or manipulative, or maintains that humanity is fundamentally good?
- How do we live with respect to the reality of Sin?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 3:1-6 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 17 The Doctrine of Justification & Chapter 18 Justification in Everyday Life.

## Session 10 – The Doctrine of Justification

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Justification?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How do you wrestle with the "already / not yet" nature of being declared righteous, but not yet home with God in heaven?
- How does the concept of Justification speak against the premise of so many other belief systems where we contribute to our own salvation
- How do we live with respect to God's act of Justification?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 3:7-13 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 19 The Doctrine of Sanctification & Chapter 20 Sanctification in Everyday Life.



## Session 11 – The Doctrine of Sanctification

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Sanctification?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How active a role do we play in our own sanctification? What's the balance between "let go and let God" vs. legalistic performance like the Pharisees?
- What are some of the areas where you are most grateful for God's work of Sanctification in your life?
- How do we live with respect to God's work of Sanctification?

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians 3:14-21 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review previous verses for continuity and context.
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 21 The Doctrines of the Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints & Chapter 22 Perseverance and Glorification in Everyday Life.

## **Session 12 – The Doctrine of the Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints**

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Perseverance and Glorification of the Saints?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- How do these forward-looking Doctrines offer you: Motivation, Commitment, Hope, Confidence, Fearlessness, Sacrifice, and Perspective?
- How does this doctrine interact with the concept of losing our salvation if we're not living in full obedience?
- How do we live with respect to our Perseverance and future Glorification?

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Look back across the entirety of Ephesians Chapters 1, 2, and 3. What have been some of the greatest insights? How would you summarize the chapters or major sections? How has this Scriptural study complemented our theological learnings?
- In Do You Believe: Read Chapter 23 The Doctrine of Eternity & Chapter 24 Eternity in Everyday Life.

## Session 13 – The Doctrine of Eternity

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- What stood out to you about the Doctrine of Eternity?
- Why does this Doctrine matter so much?
- If eternity is real, why are so many of us living in the moment, living for this world and this life? How do you combat this?
- What does it look like to live eschatologically, wait actively, and embrace God's promise?
- How do we live well with Eternity in mind?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- This concludes the first phase of this Discipleship process. Celebrations are in order!
- Next we are moving into a phase of Cultivating a Heart for People, and we will be lightening the reading load, moving into "Resolving Everyday Conflict" by Ken Sande. Focus on chapter 4: Glorify God (pp. 45-56) but scan / read as much of previous chapters as you have time
- Discuss your meeting rhythms, and for next time read Ephesians ch. 4, bringing observations, insights, and applications

## **Phase 2 - Leaders cultivating a heart for People (Are you in the Family?)**

Session 14- Glorifying God in Relationships

Session 15- Get the Log Out of Your Eye

Session 16- Gently Restore

Session 17- Go and Be Reconciled

Resource: Ken Sande – “Resolving Everyday Conflict”

Phase 2 focuses on your heart for others and the people that God has put in your life through relationships. You will practice spiritual nourishment and self-feeding through reading the final three chapters of Ephesians, where Paul unpacks our horizontal relationships with each other and how we ought to live together as a body of believers. And the group reading and discussion through “Resolving Everyday Conflict” will focus on equipping you with skills to approach relationships at their most difficult stage: in conflict. You will be able to see a path forward through difficult relationship challenges and a way to pursue and champion fostering peace. A goal by the end of this segment will be to experience healthier and more authentic relationships, together with an increased sense of inter-dependence on and with others for their good and your growth.

## Session 14 – Glorifying God in Relationships

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

- How have you caught yourself in a "horizontal problem" where you've lost track of God in relational challenges?
- How do you practice trusting God enough to follow Him wherever He leads you, even if the path looks difficult?
- Can you share an example of a time you chose to overlook an issue, deciding it wasn't worth fighting over? How did this lead to more glory for God?

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians ch. 5 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review ch. 4 for continuity and context.
- In Resolving Everyday Conflict: Read Chapter 5 Get the Log Out.

## Session 15 – Get the Log Out of Your Eye

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

- How are you at owning your part of conflicts typically? Are there particular areas where it's easier or more challenging for you to practice this?
- What does God say about owning and confessing your own parts in problems? Where there any Scriptures that spoke to you on this topic?
- Of the Seven A's from this chapter, which one or two do you struggle the most with? How have you seen others practice these with you in a meaningful way?

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Ephesians ch. 6 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time. Review ch. 4 for continuity and context.
- In Resolving Everyday Conflict: Read Chapter 6 Gently Restore.

## Session 16 – Gently Restore

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- Do you tend to lean toward fairly readily overcorrecting people on all of their issues...or reluctance to confront others in their sin? Why do you think?
- Why is it important in God's eyes - and for your own good & growth - to initiate the first step to seek peace?
- Practically speaking, what has worked well in your experience of approaching someone about wrong done? Going to them in person, going with others, etc. Share about what you've learned works well in your style?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Look back across the entirety of Ephesians Chapters 4, 5, and 6. What have been some of the greatest insights? How would you summarize the chapters or major sections? How has this Scriptural study complemented our learnings about relationships?
- In Resolving Everyday Conflict: Read Chapter 7 Go and Be Reconciled.

## Session 17 – Go and Be Reconciled

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- How do you personally define and think of *forgiveness*? What is the relationship between forgetting and forgiving?
- What is the impact of our forgiveness by God on how we forgive others? Do you practice extending the same kind of forgiveness God has offered you to others?
- Review the four promises of forgiveness. Where are the sticky points for yourself, where you might get held up and stuck?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- This concludes the second phase of this Discipleship process. Celebrate arriving at the halfway point!
- Next we are moving into a phase of Cultivating a Heart for Discipleship, and we will be using some tried and true material familiar to some as "DWAP: Discipleship With a Purpose." You will find an in-advance assignment of preparatory work following this session. Prepare the assignment in a journal or your own notes before your next meeting.
- Discuss your meeting rhythms moving forward.





## **Phase 3 - Leaders cultivating a heart for Discipleship (Are you in the Trenches?)**

### Part One – Discipleship: The Call of a Leader

- Session 1- The call to discipleship
- Session 2- Characteristics of a disciple
- Session 3- Purpose of a disciple
- Session 4- Personalizing your purpose
- Session 5- Developing an eternal perspective

### Part Two – Servant Leadership: The Attitude of a Leader

- Session 6- The contrast of spiritual leadership
- Session 7- Developing and reproducing a servant's spirit
- Session 8- Implementing servant leadership

### Part Three – Modeling Christ: The Character of a Leader

- Session 9- Modeling Christlikeness
- Session 10- Personalizing Christlikeness
- Session 11- Reproducing Christlikeness

Resource: Discipleship With a Purpose content

Phase 3 focuses on your heart for practicing and growing in Discipleship. Continue to practice spiritual nourishment and self-feeding through your own time in God's Word, but we won't prescribe specific Spiritual reading. The major group work will be through traditional content that's been used for years in Hill Country Association churches called "Discipleship with a Purpose," which has been modified for this usage. There will be an increased workload of preparation between one session and the next here, with an emphasis on Scripture study & memorization. Get ready to put in some serious work! A goal by the end of this segment will be to experience an increased passion for following Jesus every day and helping others to catch that same vision. Truly, to have an eternal impact in the lives of others requires us to be following Christ to the utmost extent.

## Session 1 – The Call to Discipleship

*Discipleship, the foremost call of a leader. If we are to say to others as Paul did in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ,” and if we are to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, we must first be true disciples ourselves.*

*What is a disciple? With many descriptions available of discipleship and a variety of examples of discipleship, both good and bad, in the Church, our goal in this session is to search the Scripture for God’s definition and picture of discipleship. In examining a biblical definition, we also want to cultivate a personal commitment to the pursuit of discipleship and to identify elements that may block our development as disciples.*

### Preparation Work – Before you meet

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#### **Scripture Memory: Luke 9:23-24**

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

=====

1. Luke 9:23-24. These two verses contain incredible, concentrated insight into true discipleship. Make 35 observations about discipleship (what it is, what one does, the cost, etc.) from these verses.

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What are your impressions or conclusions in light of Luke 9:23-24?

- 2. Luke 14:25-35. Jesus has a rather large crowd becoming impressed with His ministry. What do you think was the attraction to Jesus? They may have considered themselves disciples. Do you see any parallels today with those who may consider themselves disciples? Elaborate.

In this passage Jesus clarifies a picture of true discipleship. List at least 10 traits or commitments of someone who wants to truly follow Jesus according to these verses.

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- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

What would this standard for discipleship look like today? In other words, what would believers be like today if they lived according to this description of discipleship?

What do you personally find to be the most convicting challenge in this passage?

3. Mark 7:1-8. In our efforts to pursue discipleship, frequently we confuse it with religion, tradition, habits, or some kind of legalism. Jesus addressed one of these situations in this passage.

What conclusions can you make about tradition, religion, and legalism from this passage? Is tradition bad? What is Jesus' real point?

In what ways do you see religious tradition as a help or a hindrance in your personal spiritual growth? (cf. 2 Thess 2:13-17, Col. 2:8-23)

Compare Mark 7:6-7 with Paul's warning to the church in 2 Tim. 3:1-5. Do you see any similarities between Jesus' warning and Paul's? How would this apply to the Church today? Do you see any need for personal changes?

4. John 15:1-13. As you read through the final passage of this week's assignments, what stands out as the distinguishing characteristics of a disciple?

Write out a prayer that reflects your desires for these characteristics to be reflected in your life.

5. Review the four passages we've concentrated on in this session. What conclusions can you make about the call to discipleship and your relationship to that call?

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- What has God been up to that you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- What challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

Next steps:

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 2 – The Characteristics of a Disciple

*Biblical discipleship stands in stark contrast to today’s cultural and religious views of discipleship. A leader will constantly face the pressure and temptation to dilute the true meaning of “disciple” for himself and for those he is leading. Commitment to Christ, to our responsibility as leaders, and to Scripture demands that we hold firmly to the pure intent Jesus has for those who dare to call themselves a “disciple.” In Session 2, we will draw a conceptual picture of a true disciple, examine the qualities that make this picture, and discover the motivation that Jesus expects of His disciples.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: Luke 9:62**

Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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1. Luke 9:18-27 and Luke 18:18-23. Focus on these passages to begin to draw a true and vivid picture of a disciple. Picture yourself as being close by and experiencing what those who heard Jesus’ expectations must have experienced. Make 25 observations from each passage that would make up a “word collage” of a disciple. Be as specific and dramatic as the passages suggest.

Luke 9:18-27

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
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Luke 18:18-23

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2. In order to gain insights into these characteristics, look at them from a different angle by putting them in the form of questions. From the concepts you gained from the above passages, write out 10 questions for others that would help them determine if they really want to be a disciple.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
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3. Motivation plays a key role in the characteristics of a disciple. From the above passages, what is the motivation Jesus is looking for in those who would follow Him? In light of Jesus' discussion with his disciples and the rich young ruler, evaluate your own motivation in following Christ. What would a biblical motivation for discipleship look like in the lives of leaders in the Church?

4. Reviewing the "word collage" of a disciple, the questions you developed for someone considering discipleship, and the motivation of a disciple, what are some specific areas in your own life that are challenges for you as you press forward in following Jesus?

5. If you were a part of a group of disciples and the success of the group was dependent upon every member's meeting the expectations defined by Jesus, what would you do if one of the members failed to follow through?
  
6. As we prepare to look at the purpose of a disciple in the material for the next two weeks, study the following "Discipleship With a Purpose" sheet.
  - a. Read the passages for the general and specific purposes of your life and state your own purpose in one sentence in the provided space.
  - b. Notice in the 2<sup>nd</sup> section that there are two parts to accomplishing your purpose which must be pursued: the first is personal holiness and the second is personal ministry. In other words, we must focus on God and focus on people. Read the biblical challenges in both these areas.
  - c. Finally, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section examine the process by which we address these two areas. Note the objective, the power, and the method in both goals. How does "Focus on God" affect "Focus on People" and vice versa?

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

##### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

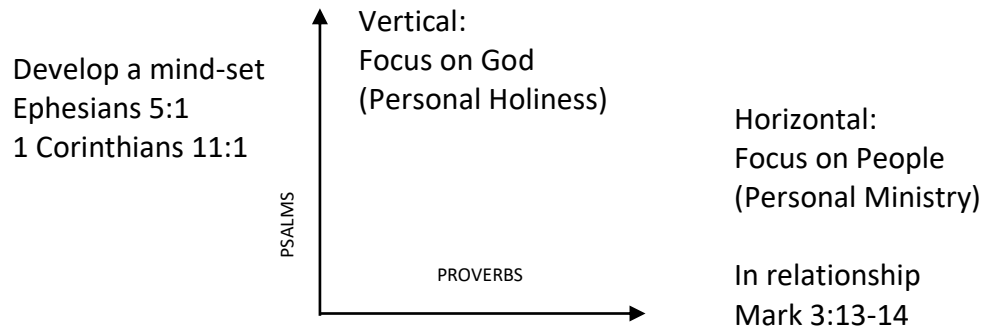
# Discipleship With a Purpose

## 1. My Purpose for Living

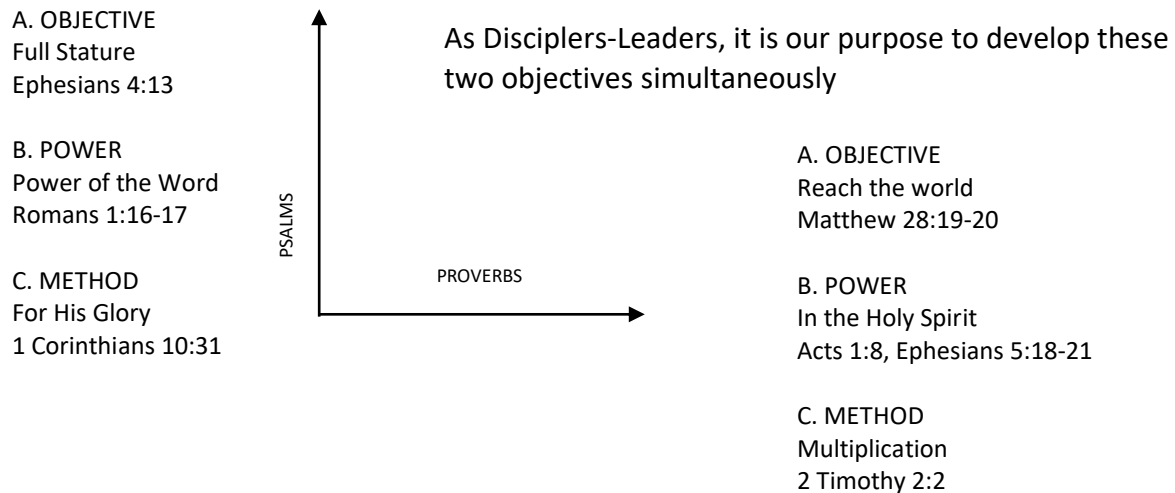
- A. General: Genesis 1:26-28    1 Corinthians 6:19-20    Isaiah 43:7
- B. Specific: John 17:1-4 – focus on how Jesus glorified the Father

State your purpose in one sentence:

## 2. The Structure for Accomplishing My Purpose



## 3. The Means By Which I Will Accomplish My Purpose



## Session 3 – The Purpose of a Disciple

*Jesus' challenging call to commitment as a disciple was purposeful. In other words, the high biblical standards of commitment for a true disciple are set in order to accomplish the incredibly high purpose that God has for our lives as His followers. The more we think in terms of discipleship, the greater our need to understand our purpose as a disciple. As our vision for purposeful discipleship develops, our vision as leaders for what we desire to reproduce in those we personally disciple also becomes clear. In this lesson, we will study the Scriptural purposes for a disciple and develop our ability to see circumstances and people through the lens of our purpose. First, we will overview some of the many passages that speak to the general purpose of a disciple. Then, we will look specifically at the vertical focus of a disciple (personal holiness) and the horizontal focus of a disciple (personal ministry) in achieving God's purpose for each disciple.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20**

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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### **A Look at Our Purpose**

1. A vast amount of Scripture addresses the purpose of a follower of Jesus Christ. In order to get a taste for God's desire in using our lives purposefully, read through the following passages to glean truths regarding our purpose, and write out a simple sentence for each one that helps define your purpose as a disciple and leader.
  - a. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Genesis 1:27
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Isaiah 43:7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. 1 Peter 2:18-25
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - e. Philippians 2:1-11
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - f. John 21:15-17

g. Romans 12:1-2

h. John 20:30-31

i. Colossians 1:28-29

j. 1 Peter 4:10

k. Acts 1:8

2. What conclusions can you make as a leader about our goals and expectations for the church?

3. What do you want for your own life?

**A Look at the Vertical Focus – Personal Holiness**

4. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. A key focus in fulfilling our purpose as a disciple is our character or personal holiness. This is truly a vertical focus, looking at who we are when we are alone before God. Make five insights as you can from this passage that bear on our goal of personal holiness.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

Also, count the pronouns in this passage and consider the “person” of each pronoun. What conclusions can you make?

In order to build a clearer picture of glorifying God with our bodies, read all of 1 Corinthians 6:9-20. Make five more insights about the character or personal holiness of a disciple.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Luke 6:17-38. List five more character qualities of a disciple.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

Continue reading Luke 6:39-49. What is personal holiness so critical to personal ministry and fulfilling the purpose of God for our lives?

6. Bringing the light of God's Word to bear in your own life, in what specific areas of personal holiness is God challenging you to grow?

**A Look at the Horizontal Focus – Personal Ministry**

7. John 21:15-17 and Matthew 28:18-20. The other key focus in fulfilling our purpose as a disciple is personal ministry or reproducing purposeful discipleship in the lives of others. The emphasis here is horizontal, looking at our responsibility to build into the lives of people and help them take steps toward discipleship. From these two passages, what are Christ's directives for us in personal ministry?

From John 21:15-17

From Matthew 28:18-20

8. Luke 6:8. We find here an interesting phrase that describes one reason Jesus was so effective as a disciple-maker. The phrase, “but He knew what they were thinking,” tells us a tremendous amount about leadership in disciple-making. Why do you think it is important for a spiritual leader to “know what they are thinking” as he relates to those with whom he has been entrusted?
  
9. 2 Timothy 2:2. How does this passage add to the concept of “knowing” those you lead?

What significance does the principle of “knowing” have for you as a husband, parent, and leader?

10. We define personal ministry as “getting to know someone personally, finding out where they are spiritually, and helping them take their next step.” What do you believe is the “thinking” of those you are leading or influencing? In other words, where are they personally and spiritually?



How does your study of true & purposeful discipleship, particularly the extensive observations you've made of Luke 6, 9, and 18, equip you to help those you are leading take the next step?

## **Meeting Time**

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 4 – Personalizing Your Purpose

*We all commit ourselves to do that which is important to us. Our lives reflect our true purpose. Foggy lives are a product of a foggy purpose. Confused lives are a result of a confused purpose. Unbiblical lives come from an unbiblical purpose. In order for a disciple to live a distinctly biblical life, he must commit to a clear and distinctly biblical purpose. His clarity of commitment will lead to confidence and effectiveness in his day-to-day living. In this lesson, we will solidify our biblical purpose in our minds and understand how our purpose statement as a church family expresses this biblical purpose. We will also apply our overall purpose to specific areas of our lives, looking at more detailed direction in each of those areas.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: LUKE 14:26**

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

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1. In order to solidify God's purpose for you, memorize and be able to reproduce for your group the "Discipleship With a Purpose" sheet, including applicable Scripture references (general content and verse, not word-for-word memorization). Remember this is only a starter to help you structure your thinking and give you focus on the two major aspects of accomplishing that purpose (personal holiness and personal ministry). Also, review and be ready to recite all memory verses to this point.
2. One of the most exciting aspects of personal bible study is the fresh understanding, clarification, and insight the Holy Spirit gives you regarding God's purpose for your life. As we look into Scripture, we will continually be amazed at how often it addresses "purpose." Through the use of an online concordance and/or recollection from your personal study, try to identify 10 more passages that reinforce, clarify, or describe your purpose as a disciple.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
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- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
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9) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Now look at God's purpose for more specific areas of your life. In the following section, using the biblical references listed and adding any others that come to mind, write a brief description of how God's purpose for you is played out in that particular area.
4. What difference does it make for you to have your purpose firmly in mind? What questions does it answer? What difference does it make in your relationship to those you disciple? What differences does it make in your leadership?
5. As a leader, how would you evaluate the people in our church today in relationship to purpose? Do you think they have an idea of God's purpose for them? How do you see your answer exemplified?
6. What is your responsibility as a leader to the church in this area, and how do you go about fulfilling it?

**My Life in Light of My Purpose:**

A. My view of Scripture (Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

B. My time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

C. My budget (Psalm 24:1, Mark 12:41-44, 1 Corinthians 4:2)

D. My relationship with my spouse (Ephesians 5:22-33, 1 Peter 3:1-7)

E. My relationship with my children (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4, Proverbs 22:6)

F. My job or vocation (Colossians 3:23-24)

G. My hobbies (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17)

H. My ministry (Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Colossians 1:28-29, Matthew 25:14-30)

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

**LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

**LOOK FORWARD:**

Next steps:

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 5 – Developing an Eternal Perspective

*One of Jesus' primary goals in developing leadership in His disciples was to look at the present in the context of the eternal plan of the Father. As they watched Him face public scrutiny, demands, conflict, judgment, criticism, and ultimately His trial and crucifixion, His disciples saw Him do what was required for leadership because of the scope of His eternal perspective. He placed the immediate circumstances of life into the context of the eternal. As spiritual leaders, our eternal perspective must have that scope; it must permeate every area of our lives. We must help those we influence and lead to view their circumstances and responsibilities through the lens of God's eternal plan as revealed in His Word. In this lesson, we will search Scripture for God's perspective on life and see how this perspective is woven throughout the Word. And we will develop the ability to contrast temporal values with eternal ones and apply those values to life.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8**

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

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1. Continue internalizing and reviewing the “Discipleship With a Purpose” sheet
2. Luke 6:20-26. Return to Luke 6 and look at vv. 20-26 in the context of the whole chapter. What is the larger structure of these seven verses? Which verse stands out as the key verse in the passage and why?

Why would Jesus draw such a sharp contrast between temporal things and eternal things?

Why is it important to draw this same contrast in your own life today?

3. In making observations about this passage, list “blessings” and “woes,” making note of the tense of the verbs.

*Blessings:*

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*Woes:*

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4. For each of Jesus’ “blessings” or “woes,” give a contemporary example of issues believers struggle with today and note the eternal perspective on that issue.

*Example:*

*v. 20 Materialism, financial struggles    Perspective: invest in eternal treasures  
true riches await in heaven*

5. 2 Peter 1:2-4. This passage also provides us with an eternal perspective. List five truths from this passage that give us God’s perspective on life.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

How do these truths apply to your ability to be a spiritual leader?

6. 2 Peter 1:5-11. Continue with the next few verses. Few passages speak more clearly about the magnitude and impact an eternal perspective has in the life of the disciple than this entire passage about life and godliness. If truly “everything we need” for these is found in the extension of God’s grace, then this allows each of us to participate in the “divine nature” through spiritual birth. The impact of this supernatural work on our character and lives is outlined as you read vv. 5-11.

There are at least seven character qualities that are a direct result of developing an eternal perspective of our participation in the divine nature. List each character quality and beside each note a specific area of your own life to which it applies or challenges.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)



7. How closely tied is a person's perspective to his or her character and conduct? What are the implications for your life and the lives of those you shepherd?

8. Continue searching Scripture for eternal perspective by reading the passages below. Note the eternal nature of each passage and make a few observations and one practical application.

James 1:2-6

Observations:

Application:

Romans 8:28-30

Observations:

Application:

1 Peter 2:18-24

Observations:

Application:

9. The importance of eternal perspective in leadership cannot be exaggerated. Reviewing this lesson, write a one sentence definition of "eternal perspective."

Looking back at our previous lessons regarding discipleship and our purpose, why is cultivation an eternal perspective so very essential in light of our purpose and discipleship in general?

What kind of resistance should a leader expect as he or she teaches eternal perspective, which is essential for following Christ?

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

##### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 6 – The Contrast of Spiritual Leadership

*True spiritual leadership does not come naturally. When stepping from the foundation of a disciple to the platform of a leader, one enters a whole new dimension in his spiritual walk with God. He becomes more than a learner; he now enters into the sphere of servanthood. The spiritual leader begins to taste and feel what Jesus experienced as the One who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Servant leadership is antithetical to the world’s concept of leadership. In the world’s model, the majority of benefits flow to the leader from those he leads. In contrast, the benefits and blessings flow from the biblical servant-leader to those he is leading. In this lesson, we will examine Jesus’ perspective on leadership, identifying the attitudes and responses that characterize a biblical leader. We will also consider the value of an eternal perspective to one who serves as a spiritual leader, search the Scriptures for insight into serving, and contrast the spiritual and secular views of leadership.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: MATTHEW 20:26-28**

It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

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1. Matthew 20:20-28. Make eight observations from this passage regarding greatness and leadership.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Luke 6:27-38. As we return to Luke 6, notice how Jesus moves from eternal perspective in the previous verses to relating to people in this section. Select one verse that you feel reflects the main thought of the paragraph. Why did you choose this verse?

How far do you take these commands? What are the parameters in the passage?

How does 1 Peter 2:18-23 relate to this passage from Luke and to your memory verse in Matthew 20? What are the implications for servanthood?

Verse 36 of Luke 6 refers to mercy. How would you define mercy? Give two examples.

List as many imperatives in the form of principles as you can from Luke 6:27-38. Beside each principle, identify a personal challenge you have in light of the command.

3. Jesus began his sermon in the preceding section of Luke 6 focusing on eternal perspective. In this section, he transitions to the concept of servanthood. What is the significance of this order or his juxtaposition of teaching? How do the two issues relate?

What are the implications of the order and relationship of these two issues for your own life? (as an employee/employer, husband, wife, father, mother, friend, leader, etc.)

4. What character qualities in Luke 6:27-38 do you want to see in the church?
  
5. How would obedience to Luke 6:27-38 affect specific attitudes & actions in marriage?
  
6. Scripture is loaded with the concept of servanthood, yet we easily miss this emphasis in our everyday lives as believers, let alone as spiritual leaders. Through the use of an online concordance, trace the word “serve” or “servant.” Select 12 of the most dramatic and descriptive passages you discover. What are the personal implications of these passages? Put your observations in the form of principles.

Passage 1:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 2:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 3:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 4:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 5:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 6:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 7:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 8:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 9:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 10:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 11:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage 12:

Principle: \_\_\_\_\_

7. The whole concept of servanthood is all but extinct in spiritual leadership today. Why do you think this is true?

We must be diligent to think biblically regarding servant leadership, alert to the contradictions thrown at us from the world. Read again through Luke 6:27-38, Matthew 20:26-28, and 1 Peter 2:18-23. Identify examples of marketing, articles, movies, business traits, or cultural attitudes which most flagrantly contrast to the imperatives regarding a servant's spirit.

What is our responsibility regarding these contradictions (as individuals, as husbands/wives, fathers/mothers, and as spiritual leaders)?

To what extent has the world's perspective influenced your thinking and experience? List specific examples.

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

##### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 7 – Developing and Reproducing a Servant’s Spirit

*One of the most obvious distinctions of true spiritual leadership is a servant’s spirit. Willingness to be a servant to those you shepherd may be the greatest litmus test of spiritual maturity and qualification in a leader. As we continue to study Biblical servanthood, the contrast between God’s manner of leadership and the world’s becomes increasingly stark as well as sobering and challenging to those aspiring to lead. Clearly, developing a servant’s spirit is not only unnatural to our human nature but impossible apart from God’s grace and power in each of our lives. Nevertheless, one of the most encouraging, exciting, and rewarding privileges of being a child of God is the fact that He has given us the ability, **through the power of His Holy Spirit who dwells in us**, to develop the same spirit of serving that Christ Himself modeled.*

*As we grow in His grace, intent on the purpose for which He has called us, and focused on an eternal perspective, we will discover a unique joy in serving our Heavenly Father and His people. In this lesson, we want to look objectively into our own lives through the lens of Scripture, which portrays a servant’s spirit, and recognize opportunities to cultivate and demonstrate a servant’s spirit in our present sphere of influence. Additionally, we want to focus on the source of our ability to serve and let the example of Christ as a Servant permeate our hearts and transform us into His image.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus

=====

1. Philippians 2:1-11. List at least 15 qualities of a servant leader from your observations in this passage.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_



- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think is the significance of the conditional clause in the first verse of this passage as it relates to the imperatives in the following verses?

- 2. Luke 6:27-38. As we go back to our core section of Scripture, Luke 6, read verses 27-38 again and list 10 specific areas in your own life in which you find it difficult to reflect a servant's spirit.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Frequently we gloss over a passage and miss not only its cutting thrust but also the application to our own lives. Since as leaders we cannot give to others what we do not possess, we must take special care to stop and allow Scripture to confront our spirit and will. We need to honestly face the conflict that Scripture presents to our personal and cultural norms. In the context of Philippians 2:1-11 and Luke 6:27-38, what are you learning about yourself?

4. A significant word is somewhat hidden in Luke 6:27-38 and implied in Philippians 2:1-11 which is crucial to being a servant: "*Forgive.*" From these two passages, how does forgiveness fit into the scheme of servanthood?

What are some examples of forgiveness that you need to cultivate in your own life in order to be a Biblical servant?

In what ways would forgiveness affect your ability to take the initiative to serve/lead in specific areas?

5. Servanthood is not simply a leadership trait that can be taught; spiritual servanthood is a product of divine empowerment of the heart and mind as we are transformed into the image of Christ. Serving is not a task but an attitude that permeates the mind of the servant of God. We can see the progression of this mindset of Jesus as revealed by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 49:1-5 & Isaiah 53. What is the mind of the servant reflected in these Scriptures?

6. **True spiritual leadership** concerns itself with helping others to develop the servant spirit of Christ in their lives so they in turn impact the lives of those around them. We serve others by helping them learn to imitate Christ. We have not led spiritually until we bring those we shepherd into the sphere of servanthood with us. Through encouragement, accountability, and modeling of spiritual leaders, children of God can develop a spirit of serving which initially fights with

their human nature. You have read and meditated on Luke 6:27-38, thinking of personal challenges. Now as you meditate and examine this passage again, broaden your application to those you lead or influence spiritually. List each of the imperatives, and beside each give specific examples of how you would like to see it reflected in the lives of those you care for spiritually.

For example: "Love your enemies" – They would deal kindly and speak gently to those who oppose them or have conflict with them.

7. In developing a servant's spirit, would you appreciate someone serving you by helping you grow in applying these principles? How would you want them to approach you? What would draw positive and negative responses?
  
8. As a leader, you will encounter people who are going to "protect their space," who hold grudges when wronged, who struggle with a servant's spirit. Write out a step-by-step process in confronting these situations as a servant leader. Be brief by specific. Consider 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 as well as Galatians 6:1-6.
  
9. Hebrews 10:23-25. Make five observations from this passage regarding reproducing a servant's spirit in others.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Time**

**LOOK BACK:**

**Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

**Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

**LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

**LOOK FORWARD:**

Next steps:

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 8 – Implementing Servant Leadership

*An unavoidable principle for discipleship and leadership flowed from the pen of the apostle John when he wrote, “We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) Here we discover another of the many facets of God’s divine wisdom. Because of the initiative God has taken, we have the capacity to reproduce what He demonstrated in His love toward us. From this truth, we can derive a broader principle of ministry: **by taking the initiative, the leader gives others the capacity to reproduce what he has first demonstrated to them.** Perhaps no other trait of leadership lends itself better to this principle than that of servanthood. The often repeated truth that “we cannot impart that which we do not possess” certainly applies to the spirit of a servant. Thankfully, if we are truly partakers of the divine nature, we have all we need to give as leaders. If we are truly to be like Jesus, we will be servants.*

*Nevertheless, taking the initiative and implementing servanthood will be one of the most challenging disciplines we will experience as a disciple – challenging yet critical, since we can never expect to build a servant’s spirit into our disciples (our children, those in ministry with us, new believers) unless we possess it and experience it ourselves. In this lesson, we will begin to practice from our hearts what we know to be true in our heads concerning servanthood by identifying central areas in our lives in which we must cultivate a servant’s spirit and by taking specific steps that will demonstrate the reality of servanthood in our lives.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: 1 PETER 4:10**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace

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1. Review all memory work – verses and “Discipleship With a Purpose” sheet. Be ready to partner up and say ALL memory verses to each other.
2. 1 Peter 4:7-11. Study this passage to gain the context of your memory verse this week. To create a practical picture of servanthood in action, quickly list all the commands in this passage. Now underline all the words that focus on the underlying attitude of a servant and circle all the words that are the actual actions of a servant.
3. Taking into consideration all that we have studied regarding servanthood, the above memory verse, and your role as a disciple of Jesus, think about yourself

as a servant to your spouse, children, to your ministry and church, and to those with whom you work.

How would your spouse and children evaluate your demonstration of servanthood?

How would your fellow workers evaluate your demonstration of servanthood?

How would your co-laborers in ministry evaluate your demonstration of servanthood?

List some of your most common barriers to exemplifying a servant's spirit.

4. This week we will focus on specific areas of applying servant leadership. Then, we will take specific action steps to "live for others."
  - a. First list the main relational spheres of life in which you have the opportunity and/or responsibility to demonstrate servanthood. These would include your family, ministry areas, work, church, etc.
  
  - b. Now take each of the above spheres of leadership/influence and list at least five ways for each you could or should demonstrate servanthood.

Sphere #1: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

Sphere #2: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

Sphere #3: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

Sphere #4: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

Sphere #5: \_\_\_\_\_

- a)
- b)

- c)
  - d)
  - e)
- c. Now select one of those spheres of leadership/influence for the **development of an action plan**. Your action plan will take your ideas and implement them into the routine and schedule of your life. After selecting the area of focus, read and pray through the list of ideas you had for demonstrating servanthood. Would they be best implemented daily, weekly, or monthly? Write out your plan for implementation, itemizing those actions that you will take on monthly, weekly, and daily basis. Then, consider adding these items to a planner, calendar, or however you organize your life. Also, in your group time of discussion, list and note any action items that others bring up that God may lead you to implement as well. See next page for Action Plan.

*Note: Though developing an action plan for only one sphere is the assignment for this lesson, obviously an action plan for each area would be profitable. Feel free to expand this as you have time.*

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

##### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.



**ACTION PLAN** for \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. my workplace / my family / etc.)

Monthly Action items:

Weekly Action items:

Daily Action items:

## Session 9 – Modeling Christ-Likeness

Someone once said, “You will never lead a calvary charge if you think you look funny on a horse.” Nothing could be truer in the position of spiritual leadership. In 2 Peter, he encourages us to “make every effort” to develop righteous character since God has provided the spiritual resources to do so (2 Peter 1:5-9). In fact in v. 8, he indicates that character development is key to our effectiveness and productiveness. Indeed, the Christ-likeness we hope to lead others to develop must first be a reality in our own lives. The degree to which the spiritual leader himself pursues the image and likeness of Christ will be the degree to which he will model not only His character but the very purpose for which Christ came into the world. In these final lessons we will focus on Christ’s exhortation for His disciples to “imitate” or “model” what He lived as He accomplished the work the Father had for Him to do on earth. In this context, a model is more than something simply to stare at but is to be an example to emulate and see duplicated in those people who are to be called His disciples. We all model something, and our modeling is duplicated in some form. The question is what (or who) are you modeling?

### Preparation Work – Before you meet

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#### **Scripture Memory: LUKE 6:40**

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

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1. Luke 6:39-45. After reading this passage, summarize in one original sentence what these verses say about spiritual leadership.
2. Luke 6:40. Focusing in on our memory verse from the above passage, make 25 observations based on v. 40 as it relates to a disciple, discipler, expectations, standards, and principles of discipleship.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) \_\_\_\_\_

What should be a fundamental concern of a spiritual leader?

- 3. Luke 6:39-45. Jesus speaks of a blind man and a person with a speck in his eye. What does that have to do with the tree and fruit, a person's heart and mouth, and personal modeling in spiritual leadership?
  
- 4. What are some key passages either that we have considered in past sessions or that you can think of which give a more specific understanding of what it is to

model the Savior? Write a brief explanation, phrase, or sentence after each passage. Limit yourself to no more than 30 minutes for this exercise.

For example: Galatians 2:20 – Christ is manifested in my life to the degree that I consider myself crucified with Him.

5. Through the use of an online concordance, trace words like “imitate, image, likeness,” and other synonyms which reflect the modeling process in Scripture.

Imitate: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Image: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Likeness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Now after isolating your attention to Scripture as it relates to your identity in Christ and modeling His character, write some of your thoughts and perceptions of what you personally communicate to others.
  
7. Summarize in a paragraph how a leader's perception of who he or she is and what they model define the kind of leader they will be.

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

##### **Next steps:**

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 10 – Personalizing Christ-Likeness

*One of the foundational criteria for a spiritual leader exercising a positive and lasting influence on his followers is the credibility of his walk with God. What he says, does, and thinks reflects not only who he is (character) but also to whom or what he is committed. Personalizing Christ-likeness in our character and commitment does not mean binding ourselves to a set of religious rules but rather presenting an authentic model of life-change to emulate and reproduce in the lives of those we serve and lead.*

*In the Old Testament Law, God gave the imperative to “be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” (Leviticus 19:2) Nevertheless, we have a clear, historical record of man’s inability to “be holy” through laws and rules. The same call to holiness is repeated in the New Testament when Jesus told those who wanted to follow Him, “You are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48) Even then the ability to reflect holiness was a constant struggle as seen in the experience of the disciples. A part of the miracle of Christianity lies in the freedom which came at Pentecost when Jesus ascended to the Father and send His Holy Spirit to not simply be “with” the disciples but rather to “indwell” them for the purpose of reflecting His image in holiness. As the church grew, Paul exhorted believers to “be imitators of God as beloved children.” (Ephesians 5:1) He later gave the means by which this fundamental command could be obeyed in Ephesians 5:18 when he said, “And do not be drunk with wine for that is dissipation but be filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

*Clearly, God intends to build holiness into the lives of His people. Holiness (Christ-likeness) is the supernatural outworking of the genuine life-changing relationship we have with Jesus Christ. It is not an option, especially for those who desire to personally grow and lead His people. As leaders, we have the unique privilege of modeling our Savior to our spouses, children, and followers as the Holy Spirit develops us in authentic, Christ-like character. In this lesson, we examine the pursuit of holiness in order to lead others effectively to holiness*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: EPHESIANS 5:1-2**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

=====

1. Ephesians 4:25-5:7. Read our memory verse in light of its context and list out a description of what the life of an imitator of God would look like.
  
2. To what degree is a person expected to meet the challenge to be holy as defined in Leviticus 19:1-2 and Matthew 5:48?

What do you think God would see as the acceptable minimum in light of these Scriptures?

3. Understanding the progressive work of the Holy Spirit as He enables us to reflect God's holiness is important in becoming a model of Christ-likeness.
  - a. John 14:11-12, 25-26. From these verses, how does the Holy Spirit work in our lives to progress our personal holiness?
  
  - b. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How does this passage fit into the context of modeling Christ-likeness?
  
  - c. John 17. What was the basic theme of Jesus' prayer for His disciples in this chapter, and how did it reveal His purpose for and expectations of His disciples?
  
  - d. Acts 1:8-11. From these verses, what enables a person to live a life that would model the character of Christ?
  
  - e. Reviewing Leviticus 19:1-2 and Matthew 5:48, how are we to model the Savior? What understanding do you gain regarding our ability to model Christ and the factors that affect our ability from the following verses: Acts 5:1-2, 2 Peter 1:4, Acts 1:8, and Philippians 4:13?

4. Matthew 7:15-20 and James 3:1-18. In the introduction, the crucial connection between personal, authentic holiness and effective leadership was pointed out. As you work through these two passages, write out seven questions that could help determine qualification for spiritual leadership.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Luke 6:39-45. Read and picture the personal outworking of this passage in light of your purpose sheet. Crucial observations can be made about a spiritual leader as it relates to one's purpose from this Scripture. What are some of those observations?

Through the lens of Luke 6:39-45, what observations can be made of a person's life over a period of time that reflect his potential for leadership? Answer this question from the viewpoint of an observer who will select a future leader and of a potential leader looking at himself.

*Observer:*

*Potential Leader:*



What key word from this Luke 6 passage represents the real test of modeling Christ's character? Why did you select this word?

6. What insight do you gain from Proverbs 4:23 and 27:19 regarding the importance of authenticity in modeling Christ?

In Proverbs 23:6-8, we see the picture of a host offering nourishment to another. What happens to the nourishment provided when the host's heart is hypocritical? What are the implications for our ministry as we offer spiritual nourishment to others? How does your response to that passage relate to passages like Matthew 7:16-20, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, etc.?

7. Through our emphasis on personalizing and modeling Christ-likeness, what are you learning about yourself and your desire as a spiritual leader?

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

##### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

#### **LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

#### **LOOK FORWARD:**

Next steps:

- From what we have discovered during your prep work or our time together, what is one thing you can apply?
- Spend time in God's Word this week, and feel free to bring any important learnings or insights.
- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

## Session 11 – Reproducing Christ-Likeness

*Modeling Christ was never meant to happen in isolation. Many times we consider the imperatives to “imitate Christ” and “reflect His character” as something we do to please God and meet His qualifications for leadership. This view limits our effectiveness as spiritual leaders. The scope of modeling Christ is bigger than our personal relationship with God. A true spiritual leader must ask not only **what** am I modeling, but also **who** is observing and imitating my life. Up to this point in this section of our study, we have focused on application to our own lives. However, the spiritual leader must concern himself with more than personalizing biblical principles. He has the responsibility of modeling the Savior contagiously, creating a desire in the heart of his disciples to become like Christ. An important measure of the effectiveness of the spiritual leader is his ability to influence and equip his disciples to model Christ in their own lives. We must reproduce Christ-likeness in future leaders. In this lesson we will shift our focus from personal spiritual growth to the reproduction of Christ-likeness in others.*

### **Preparation Work – Before you meet**

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#### **Scripture Memory: EPHESIANS 4:11-13**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

=====

1. Review your “Discipleship With a Purpose” sheet, noting the vertical relationship with God and how that is accomplished. Also examine the horizontal relationship and re-read John 21 explaining our responsibility toward others.

How does modeling Christ-likeness fit into the picture of the vertical and horizontal growth in your life?

Too frequently we view discipleship in the context of cultivating our vertical relationship with God at the expense of developing our horizontal relationship with others, especially those who have yet to place their trust in Christ. We wind up addressing discipleship in isolation. From your point of view, what is the solution? Include some specific and personal examples.

2. Matthew 9:35-38. What is happening in this passage that links the horizontal with the vertical? List characteristics of the Discipler (Jesus) and characteristics of the Disciple in this passage.

*Discipler:*

*Disciple:*

How do you evaluate your own life and ministry as a disciple of Christ in light of your review of the purpose sheet, John 21, and the concept of discipleship in isolation?

3. Luke 6:39-45. Back to our study's central passage, identify and describe the relationships between a teacher and a student. What are the expectations in those relationships?

From these descriptions and expectations, list as many leadership traits as you can, and beside each one write a brief self-evaluation.

*Leadership Trait:*

*Self-Evaluation:*

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Ephesians 4:11-13 and Colossians 1:24-29. Examine the discipler/teacher role at our church in light of these passages. Write out seven principles from these passages that would serve as a mandate to spiritual leadership in the church.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. 2 Corinthians 3:2-3. Make five observations from this passage regarding Paul's perspective and commitment to modeling Christ.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Consider the more common or “traditional” models of church leadership and shepherding. Who is supposed to do the “works of service / ministry” according to the principles you just outlined? What is the role of the paid staff or a church? Based on these principles, what is the ministry and involvement responsibility of the lay person?

What are reasons why the lay person may not be able to fulfill their leadership role, based on these principles?

What will happen if ministry is left only in the hands of the paid staff?

7. What is the greatest contribution you can make to see the principles you discovered in these passage become a reality?

### **Meeting Time**

#### **LOOK BACK:**

##### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

**Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in Scripture this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture memory assignment?

**LOOK UP:**

- Spend time reviewing the passages and questions from this week's assignment

**LOOK FORWARD:**

Next steps:

- This concludes the third phase of this Discipleship process. Only one more to go!
- Next we are moving into a phase of Cultivating a Heart for Mission, and we will be reading the B.L.E.S.S. book by Dave Ferguson & Jon Ferguson. Focus on Chapter 3: Begin with Prayer + Chapter 4: Listen, but feel free to peruse chapters 1-2 as you have time.
- Discuss your meeting rhythms moving forward, and in preparation for next meeting, read Acts ch. 1-2, bringing observations, insights, and applications.

## **Phase 4 - Leaders cultivating a heart for Mission (Are you in the Field?)**

Session 12- Begin with Prayer + Listen

Session 13- Eat + Serve

Session 14- Story + B.L.E.S.S.ing strategy

Session 15- Conclusion and ongoing coaching

Resource: Dave Ferguson & Jon Ferguson – “B.L.E.S.S.”

Phase 4 focuses on your heart for those around you that are far from God and joining God on mission right where He has you. You will practice spiritual nourishment and self-feeding while reading some early chapters in the book of Acts, where God builds His church and sends them out on mission to forever impact and change the world. And the group reading and discussion through “B.L.E.S.S.” will simultaneously build your heart for living on mission and reaching out to those who are far from God as well as give you practical tools to tackle that lostness with confidence. A goal by the end of this segment will be to feel a deeper sense of ownership and accountability for those that are living far from God and perishing without hope, as well as a greater confidence of knowing how to actively engage with others as a true blessing in the likeness of Christ.



## Session 12 – B: Begin with Prayer + L: Listen

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?

### LOOK UP:

- How do you understand from your reading that prayer isn't just for those you're praying for, but also for you? How does prayer truly change you?
- What barriers keep you from praying more? Or more effectively?
- Can you share an experience of not really listening effectively to someone, or not feeling heard because someone wasn't really listening well to you?
- What does Jesus' example of listening well have to teach us?

### LOOK FORWARD:

Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Acts 3-4 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time.
- In B.L.E.S.S.: Read Chapter 5 E: Eat + Chapter 6 S: Serve.

## Session 13 – E: Eat + S: Serve

### LOOK BACK:

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### LOOK UP:

- Why is there so much power in eating together with others? Why do you think it was such an effective device in Scripture?
- What excuse tends to crop up the most in your life to prevent you from making time to eat with others, particularly those far from God?
- What do you learn from the example of Jesus serving His disciples? How can this be effective with those far from God?
- Instead of exclusively focusing on serving others, can you explain the power of allowing others to serve you? Where is the impact of receiving service?

### LOOK FORWARD:

#### Next step:

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### Prayer:

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### Preparation for next meeting:

- In the Word: Read Acts 5-6 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time.
- In B.L.E.S.S.: Read Chapter 7 S: Story + Chapters 8 & 9.

## **Session 14 – S: Story + BLESSing Every Day + Strategy to Change the World**

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

- What causes reluctance in your heart to share your story and God's story with people who are far from God?
- How would you share your story & God's story if you had just a moment, like an elevator ride? What if you had longer, like waiting in a grocery line? What about the span of an airplane trip?
- What environments in your life can you see the BLESS strategy truly impacting, e.g. the small group illustration?
- How might BLESS lead the people of our church community to create a widespread and deeply impactful influence in our neighborhoods, area, city, and beyond? How has this study widened your missional perspective?

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### **Next step:**

- From what we have discovered during our time, what is one thing you can apply?

#### **Prayer:**

- Take time to pray for each other's next step and ask for requests for the upcoming week.

#### **Preparation for next meeting:**

- In the Word: Read Acts 7-8 and bring observations, insights, and applications next time.
- Next session will be our conclusion! Get ready! We'll be focusing on the future and next steps as our Discipleship time wraps up.

## **Session 15 – Conclusion & Ongoing Coaching**

### **LOOK BACK:**

#### **Mutual Care:**

- Since our last meeting what do you want to celebrate from your life? Or what has been the best part of your week?
- Since our last meeting what challenges have you been experiencing in your life? Or what has been the most challenging or difficult part of your week?

#### **Accountability in Love:**

- What did God show you in His Word in general this week?
- How did you do in completing this week's Scripture assignment?
- How did you do with your next step from last week?

### **LOOK UP:**

#### **Celebration:**

- We are concluding a monumental effort and a tremendous investment of time, care, hard work, and relational ministry!
- Take a few minutes to share Big Picture celebrations, remember moments of critical life-change or perspective shifts, and thank one another for the growth you've experienced together
- Some groups have planned out a chance to get away together (e.g. a weekend retreat or overnighter) for intentional time to reflect, celebrate, and enjoy each other's company. This is by no means required, but consider special ways you might celebrate this completion.
- Most importantly, take the time to go the Father in prayer. Thank Him for the good growth He has produced in you and through this time. Praise God!

### **LOOK FORWARD:**

#### **Ongoing Coaching Beyond our Meetings:**

- Take the time to discuss bigger next steps – not just one week to the next, but where is God leading you in next steps of discipleship? Is your next step to begin a discipleship group of your own?
- How will the learnings and growth of this experience continue to settle and become established in your life, so they don't fall away from disuse?
- What will your approach be to continued sharpening, accountability, and coaching with one another? Will you attempt to gather together occasionally (e.g. quarterly)? How will you communicate with one another when there are future needs for support, prayer, or brainstorming solutions to discipleship challenges?

#### **Close in Prayer & Go Celebrate!**