

MENTORING

God's Plan For Kingdom Growth

The Decision | Commitment | Discipline
Growth | Character Development | Serving
Mentoring | Training | Empowering | Releasing

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

Part 3 - REACHING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST

THE CHURCH IN ACTS

Acts 2:42-47 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers... Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The explosive birth of the Church all began with the original disciples and 120 believers in the Upper Room with Jesus no longer physically present. They were unsure and possibly frightened but all that changed as the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost!

1. Acts referred to the growth of the church as a _____ of disciples.
2. Reaching the lost was the driving _____ of the early church, and an integral part of each believer's life. People were transformed and became active disciples. God added people to the church as they were saved. Then, immediately following salvation they became an active part of a living, vibrant community of believers.
3. What has been commonly called evangelism is only _____ of the Great Commission.

A. Decisions without discipleship is actually incomplete obedience to Christ's Great Commission. Because we have personally experienced Christ's salvation, we are to be witnesses of that salvation to others (Acts 1:8). This is evangelism, the sharing of the Good News to others. However, many churches have developed a model that is heavily focused on "getting people saved" with very little activity in discipling new converts to be strong, dedicated followers of Christ.



B. _____ AND _____ are two equal aspects of the Great Commission. One without the other is incomplete like a bicycle missing a wheel.

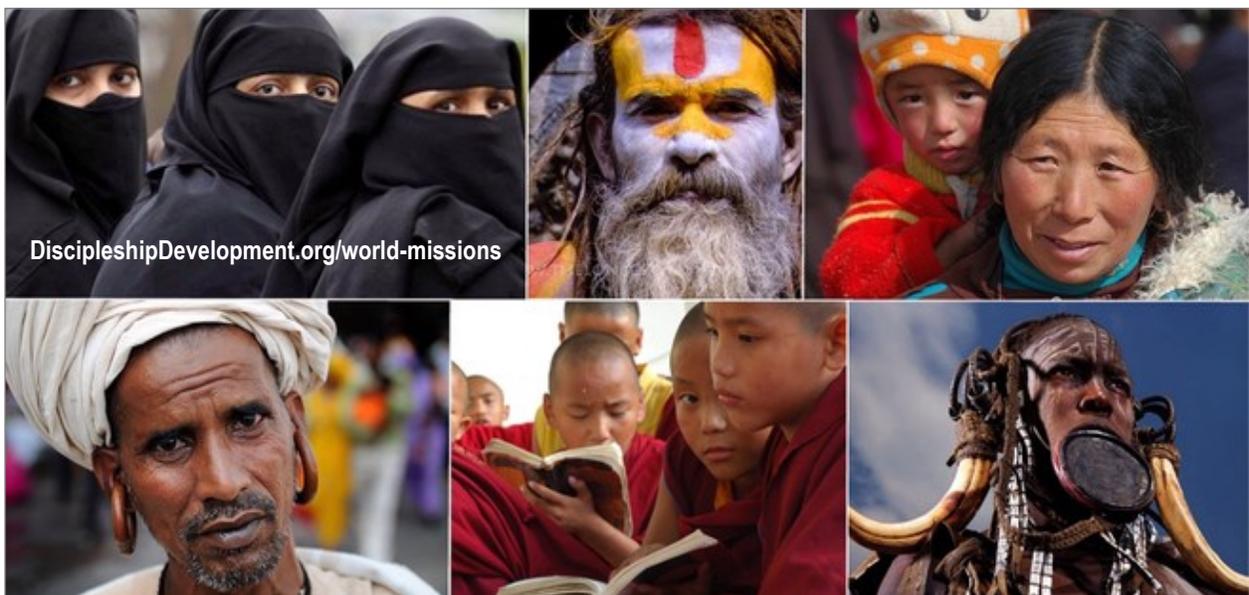
THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS (Acts 1:8)

1. The promise and outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church (Acts 1-2)
2. The gospel spreads among the Jews (Acts 2 - 9)
3. The church reaches to Gentiles (Acts 10 - 12)
4. Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13 - 14)
5. Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 15:36 - 18:22)
6. Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:23 - 21:17)
7. Paul's journey to Rome (Acts 21 - 28)



THE ROLE OF EVANGELISM IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. A disciple's lifestyle will include _____ with others.
 - A. Matthew 9:37-38 *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Luke 10:2; John 4:35)
 - B. Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature..."*
 - C. Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*



- D. The destiny of men and of nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear the full responsibility for the next one; but we do have our present generation. God will hold us responsible as to how we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities.
— Billy Graham

REFLECTION

1. Why is it difficult for most of us (for you) to share our faith with others?
2. How important is the role of prayer in evangelism?
3. Why is lifestyle evangelism more important than an evangelistic program?
4. What part of evangelism is God's responsibility and what part is yours?

SHARING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Many of us need tools to help us share the Gospel with someone who is open and willing to make the life-changing step of following Christ. Below are two ways we can easily remember basic Gospel message. The first is a simple method using your hand to share the important elements of the Gospel. The other is the well-known method called "The Roman Road."

1. The Gospel Hand

- A. Thumb — Heaven is a free gift. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- B. Index (pointing) finger — However, man is a sinner and separated from God. He cannot save himself. (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23)
- C. Tallest finger — God is just and merciful and must judge sin. (Exodus 34:6-7; 1 John 4:10)
- D. Ring finger — Jesus Christ, as God and man, died for our sins, rose again and purchased a place in Heaven for us. (Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1,14; 3:16; 14:1-3)
- E. Little finger — It requires "little" faith, trusting in Jesus Christ alone. (John 6:47; Acts 16:30-31)

2. The Roman Road. The book of Romans clearly defines...

- A. Who needs salvation... (Romans 3:23)
- B. Why we need to be saved... (Romans 6:23)
- C. How God provides this salvation for us... (Romans 5:8)
- D. What we must do to receive salvation... (Romans 10:9-10, 13)
- E. The results of believing the Gospel. (Romans 6:23b; 8:1; 8:38-39)

LEARN TO BE A _____ WITNESS

Sharing the Gospel **MUST** be a Spirit-led activity. Otherwise, we are simply collecting decision cards without discipleship. A decision to follow Christ *must* come from the heart.

Read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch from Acts 8:26-40, a great example of Spirit-led evangelism that could not be followed up.



1. Philip was directed by the Holy Spirit to a special person with a special need and purpose in God's Kingdom. (26)
 - A. The Lesson: Be _____ for the Holy Spirit to use you in the salvation of others.
 - B. Has the Holy Spirit ever directed you to share the Gospel? Were you available?
2. The Ethiopian eunuch was searching for truth. (27-28)
 - A. The Lesson: Allow God to show you people who are _____ for the truth.
 - B. In what ways do you see people around you searching for truth?
3. When the time was right, the Holy Spirit said, "Go." (29)
 - A. The Lesson: Because God sees the future, wait for the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. How do you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you?
4. Philip _____ the eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah. (30)
 - A. The Lesson: Watch what people are doing and listen to what they are saying.
 - B. Is someone you know searching for truth? What are they saying or doing?
5. Philip _____ the eunuch what he was reading. (30)
 - A. The Lesson: Ask the person what they want or what they are searching for.
 - B. Be relevant to their need. Can you discern their genuine need?
6. When Philip realized the Eunuch's need, he presented the salvation of Jesus. (35)
 - A. The Lesson: Wait for people to give you permission to alter their lives then introduce them to the Living Person of Jesus Christ.

- B. Can you condense the Gospel message in your own words without compromising the integrity of the plan of salvation? (Use the methods in this lesson)
7. The Eunuch made a decision himself. Don't hurry them into a pre-mature decision. (36-38)
 - A. The Lesson: Lead people to a decisive action *if* they are ready and willing.
 - B. What happens in Heaven when someone accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? (Luke 15:10; Philippians 4:3)
 8. How would history have been affected if Philip would have hesitated? How is the account in Mark 5:1-20 of the demoniac who was delivered and saved similar? How is it different?

EVANGELISM AND THE HARVEST PRINCIPLE

John 4:35-38 *Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the **sower** and the **reaper** may be glad together. Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.*



1. Not everyone is _____ ready to receive Christ. When we pick fruit from a fruit tree, any resistance may mean the fruit has not yet ripened. In the same way, when focusing on evangelism we must think in seasons and ripeness.
2. Notice the principle of sowing and reaping and of the harvest in Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
 - A. We reap what we sow (if we don't give up).
 - B. We reap according to our sowing. (2 Corinthians 9:6)
 - C. We reap in a _____ season. (Genesis 50:19-21)
 - D. We reap in multiples. (Luke 6:38, 8:8)
3. The process of effective evangelism — (Although the steps below are effective in bringing people into the Kingdom, God may choose to use a completely different method.)
 - A. Pray and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lay specific people on your heart and pray for them regularly, asking God to prepare their heart for the Gospel. Write their names in a special prayer journal.
 - B. Watch for _____ opportunities. Be attentive to times that you may be God's blessing during difficult times in their life.

- C. When given such an opportunity, share God's love in a way that is relevant to their situation. Because they may never have had any Bible teaching, be "normal" and speaking in terms they understand.
- D. This is a life altering decision. Give them time to _____ new information.
- E. Gently follow up on them. Pray with them when they are ready to make a personal response to Christ.
- F. When they have received Christ as their Savior and their Lord, begin a season of assisting and mentoring them. Be prepared to be involved in their lives.
- G. Always help them to be actively engaged with Christ _____. Teach them to turn to Him from the very beginning.

A SAMPLE PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear Jesus, I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness for going my own way. I believe that you shed Your blood and died on the cross for me and I believe that you rose from the grave in victory! I receive You into my life as my personal Savior. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can serve you with my whole heart and be the Lord of my life. Thank You for giving me Eternal Life! Amen.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW UP

As was mentioned earlier in the notes, to lead someone to Christ and not following up is incomplete obedience to the Great Commission. Jesus commanded us to make disciples, not just win converts. If the Holy Spirit uses us to lead someone to Christ we are then expected to help them grow in this new relationship. If it impossible to do that ourselves then we are to place them in the tender care of people who will shepherd them as we would. Here are a few things to consider after leading someone to a relationship with Christ...

1. Celebrate with them about this most important decision!
 - A. Luke 15:10 *"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*
2. Lead them into water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - A. Acts 2:38-39 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*
3. Teach them to talk to God in prayer. Teach them to use the _____ Prayer Pattern (commonly called the Lord's Prayer) in Mathew 6:9-13.

- A. *1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*
4. Help them to read God's Word, the Bible.
 - A. *1 Peter 2:2 ...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,...*
 - B. Start with the book of Luke followed by the book of Acts written by the same author, Luke. Then encourage them to read the historical Old Testament books, especially the book of Genesis.
 5. Invite them to regularly attend church and to be involved in the Lord's work.
 - A. *Hebrews 10:25 ...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*
 6. Give them the assurance of salvation when our enemy, the devil, begins to challenge them.
 - A. *1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
 - B. *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*
 - C. *Hebrews 13:5 Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*

HOMEWORK

1. Use the Weekly Time Sheet and check what you do each day. This will show you where you may need to focus a little more time and energy.
2. Read the accounts of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:1-42 and Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. Journal your observations on the back of the Time Sheet.
 - A. How the are the accounts different?
 - B. How are they similar?
3. Continue to memorize Acts 2:42-47.
4. Use the half sheet on class mentoring and meet with your accountability team.

DECISIONS OR DISCIPLING?

Notice the long-term difference if you were to win one soul to Christ every day (without discipling) vs. bringing one person to Christ per year AND discipling that person who in turn discipless one person per year. The conversions outnumber the discipling until the 11th and 12th years, then discipling far outnumbers the conversions. This was the multiplying effect of the Church in Acts.

Winning one person...

Year	
1	365
2	730
3	1,095
4	1,460
5	1,825
6	2,190
7	2,555
8	2,920
9	3,285
10	3,650
11	4,015
12	4,380
13	4,745
14	5,110
15	5,475
16	5,840
17	6,205
18	6,570
19	6,935
20	7,300

Mentoring one person...

Year	
1	1
2	3
3	7
4	15
5	31
6	63
7	127
8	255
9	511
10	1,023
11	2,047
12	4,095
13	8,191
14	16,383
15	32,767
16	65,535
17	131,071
18	262,143
19	524,287
20	1,048,575

Acts 2:42-47 ... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

ANSWERS — EVANGELISM

multiplication
purpose
part
evangelism
discipleship

sharing Christ.

SPIRIT-LED

available
searching
heard
asked

equally
different season
natural

process
themselves
Disciple's