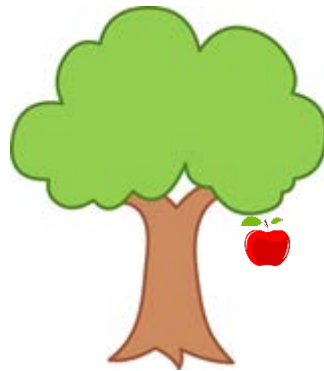


# Kingdom Discipleship

## Phase 1: **Being A Disciple**



*Turning Disciples into Disciple Makers*

by

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# Prelude

Jesus invites us to follow him. A Disciple is a follower of Jesus. Being a disciple is a life-long adventure of following Jesus. It begins by surrendering our will to his will. The Kingdom Discipleship Series will help you fall more in love with Jesus, and to join him in his mission to draw the world to the Father through his Spirit. We invite you to embrace your calling to be on mission with God locally and globally.

Kingdom Discipleship covers eight weeks with five lessons per week. Each lesson takes about 15 minutes. Kingdom Discipleship works best one-on-one with a friend. You can also use the material in small groups. Meeting once a week one-on-one or in a small group enables you to discuss and apply Kingdom Discipleship with others. We encourage you to use these two questions when you meet with others one-on-one.

1. What did you learn this week?
2. What is Your Next Step?

Kingdom Discipleship consists of four sections:

## Section One: Being A Disciple

### Basic Discipleship

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 ESV

Basic Discipleship uses 1 John 2:12-14 as a template for spiritual growth and development. This passage outlines the process of moving from being a child in the faith, to growing as a spiritual youth, to maturity as a parent to others in their journey with Jesus.

### Walking in Freedom

"So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 ESV

Walking in Freedom continues to unpack 1 John 2:12-14 by looking at what it means to overcome the evil one and to be strong in moral character. Walking in Freedom deals with our hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Untangling ourselves from hinderances empowers us to fulfill our life calling.

## Section 2 - Making Disciples

### The Roman Road

“Go Make Disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19 ESV

The Roman Road examines the book of Romans as a practical guide of moving from Being a Disciple to Making Disciples. The first half of Romans outlines the life of Being a Disciple and the second half focuses on Making Disciples. Those whom God rescues become rescuers of others.

## Section 3 - Multiplying Disciples

### Acts of Love

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” Acts 1:8 (ESV)

*God desires for you to be fruitful and multiply!* The book of Acts provides a model for moving beyond Being a Disciple and Making Disciples to Multiplying Disciples, Leaders, Churches, and Movements. The book of Acts tells how mobile apostolic training teams push the kingdom from local impact to global impact. Understanding our gifting and the importance of teams, empowers us to live the book of Acts once again.

The Kingdom Discipleship process moves one from being a disciple, to making disciples, to multiplying disciples, leaders, churches and movements. At times, growth seems slow. It is important to remember, “Progress in the process equals success.” Discipleship is a life-long journey of following Jesus. Take Your Next Step.

### Benefits of Kingdom Discipleship include learning

- How to be a disciple
- How to share your faith with others
- How to study and apply the Bible individually and in community
- How to engage meaningfully in prayer
- How to discern God’s will

- How to overcome hurts, habits and hang-ups
- How to make disciples
- How to multiply disciples, leaders, churches, and movements

## Things you will need for this study

1. A Bible
2. A Journal
3. A Set of Colored Pencils with yellow, green, blue, red, and brown.

# Week 1 - Day 1

## Introduction

### An Apple

If you have an apple, place it in front of you, if not - imagine an apple in front of you.

**“What do you see?” Write it down?**

**What else do you see? Write down more details.**

**Look again. What is the apple’s potential? Write down what comes to mind.**

Some may say, “An apple.” Others might add, “A red apple or a green apple.” Someone might say, “A tree;” another might add, “An orchard.”

An orchard, hmm, or “orchards.” An apple is a package of seeds with the potential to reproduce orchards. Kingdom Discipleship is a package of seeds. Our desire is for you to plant these seeds and reproduce trees, and orchards until Jesus comes back. God’s desire is to multiply disciples, leaders, churches and movements until Jesus Christ returns in the fulness of his Kingdom.

*The goal of this material is to help you join Gob by taking Your Next Step in Multiplying Disciples, Multiplying Leaders, Multiplying Churches, and Multiplying Movements over a lifetime.*

The Key Word is **MULTIPLY**.

We want to join God in multiplying disciples, leaders, churches, and movements both locally and globally. Both/And thinking rather than Either/Or thinking is needed to move beyond localism.

Remember, Discipleship is a life-long Journey...

When we become followers of Jesus, he accepts us where we are, but he does not leave us where he found us. He places his Spirit within us to help us grow and mature. He desires to move us from being disciples to making disciples. The goal of this is to join God by "Turning Disciples into Disciple Makers."

Kingdom Discipleship is uniquely designed to serve three purposes. It is a:

1. Relational Model of Discipleship able to reach entire families and friend groups
2. Sticky Model easily memorized using symbols, illustrations, and stories
3. Local and Global Model, Both (Local)/And (Global) not Either (Local)/Or (Global).

## Relational

Jesus' training of the 12 Disciples in the New Testament was relational training. He called Peter and Andrew; they were related as brothers. He called James and John; they also were brothers. Nathaniel was from same hometown as Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Jesus referred to his closest followers as his friends.

Jesus' relational approach is our example. We too desire to follow a relational approach as we journey together as friends. This is why it is important to connect with someone one-on-one, a friend, as you go through this material together. This material is not designed to be done alone.

## Sticky

The following content uses illustrations to help you learn. The apple was our first example. This study will use colors, symbols, and diagrams as "learning hooks" to help you grasp the main points of Kingdom Discipleship. Our team's goal is for you to be able to reproduce these lessons on a napkin at Starbucks. Once you have learned the key illustrations, you could literally reproduce each lesson on a napkin at a coffee shop.



## Local and Global

Jesus' desire is for the world to know him. This includes your family, friends, neighbors, and the whole earth. God promises global impact in the following two verses.

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14 NASB

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses **both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, **and** even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8 NASB

The original audience for the second verse was Jews in Jerusalem. Notice the progression of Acts 1:8. The verse begins where the disciples were but moved out from there to include the ends of the earth. The movement was from local to global.

Today, we introduced the overall vision of Kingdom Discipleship. Tomorrow, we will examine four key sections of Scripture where Jesus defines for us what is required to be his follower, his disciple. Ask God to give you a heart to learn and obey him.

## Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

# Week 1 - Day 2

## A Disciple Is...

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

*"And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

*18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Jesus' final command to his disciples was to *"make disciples"*. The process is to include going, baptizing, and teaching. But what is a disciple? How does Jesus define discipleship?

According to Jesus, a disciple is a lover, learner, loser, and leader.

### A Disciple is:

#### 1. A Lover: Has a desire to love others

*"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*  
John 13:35 ESV

Draw a picture of what it means to love others.

#### 2. A Learner: Has a hunger for the Word of God

*"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" John 8:31-32*  
ESV

Draw a picture of what it means to abide in God's word.

### 3. A Loser: Has a willingness to leave lesser things

“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.” Luke 14:26 ESV

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33 ESV

Draw a picture of what it means to let go of lesser things.

### 4. A Leader: Has a heart to lead others to Jesus

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15:8 ESV

Draw a picture representing bearing much fruit.

Of the four (Lover, Learner, Loser, Leader), which causes you the most trouble? Take a few moments and pray through each of the Scriptures listed under each of the headings. Talk with Father about your relationship with him. Be honest about where you are struggling.

## Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

If you have not already done so, you will need to purchase a set of colored pencils for tomorrow. Be sure your pencil set includes yellow, green, blue, red, and brown.

# Week 1 - Day 3

## The Color Code

The following five colors and symbols will help you to identify major themes and patterns throughout the Bible.

Yellow

Green

Blue

Red

Brown

Your Next Step's Mission Statement is:

- Bring them in
- Build them up
- Send them out
- Publicly and House to House

For someone to become a follower of Jesus, a disciple, the Holy Spirit must draw them to the Father through the Son - Jesus Christ. As disciples, we are to tell others. God uses the process of telling others as his primary way of bringing people into the kingdom. This process is known as evangelism.

### Bring them in

Bring to the Father (Bring people into the kingdom)

Yellow Sun



This symbol and color represent bringing others into the light.

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (ESV)*  
*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)*

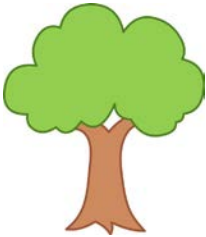
Take your colored pencils, highlight the two verses above in yellow. Then draw the symbol of the sun under each verse.

We are to bring people into the light of God's love. The Bible uses the metaphor of "walking with God" through the pages of Scripture. We are called by God to help others walk in the light.

## Build them up

**Build in the Son (Build them up, or grow them up in the Kingdom)**

Green Tree



*For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV)*

I live in a city and we think of building; however, my father was a farmer. Paul uses both ideas of growing and building. Therefore, I use build and grow interchangeably. The desire is to spread out, to build, to grow, to multiply.

*And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)*

Highlight the two verses above in green. Then draw the symbol of the tree under each.

## Send them out

**Send in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the kingdom**

Blue Sky with a crown. The crown represents the kingdom. The cloud signifies we are to go outside into the world to declare the kingdom.



*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)*

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)*

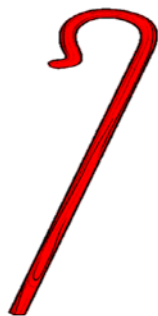
Highlight these two passages in blue. Then draw the symbol of the crown and the cloud under each passage.

God gifted each of us to accomplish His mission in and through us. He sends us out as gifted people to serve Him and others. As we go out, may He give us blue skies. In America, we use a phrase, "The sky is the limit," meaning we are to reach out as far as possible. We are to reach out beyond our people group to multiply disciples, leaders and churches around the world.

## Publicly

### Publicly

#### Red Shepherd's Staff



*How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable and teaching you in public and from house to house. Acts 20:20 (ESV)*

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. John 10:11 (ESV)*

In 2008 I traveled to India for the first time. I met a man who quoted a couple of mission statements from large churches in the United States. He asked me my mission statement. I said, "Bring them in, Build them up, Send them out, Publicly and House to House." He said he like it. Then I asked him for his. I was unprepared for his answer. He said, "Greater love has no one than this, Jesus died for me, and I will die for him." In 2017, he and his wife both died. Jesus said a good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. In honor of my friend who was a good shepherd, I use red as the color for the shepherd's staff.

Leadership is both private and public. The metaphor of shepherd is used throughout Scripture to refer to leaders. A shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep, willing to shed his or her blood to protect the sheep. God is calling you to be leaders who will lay down your dreams, agendas, desires, and very lives if necessary.

## House to House

House to House  
Brown Home




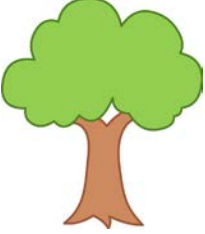



*How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable and teaching you in public and from house to house. Acts 20:20 (ESV)*

Use brown to highlight “house to house.” Now draw two houses symbolizing using your home as a center for ministry and a second home indicating multiplication by other homes becoming ministry outposts as well.

Leadership starts at home. The home is where we begin making disciples. I married Joan in 1986. Joan and I began using our home as a base for ministry from the beginning. The home is a place where we cannot hide who we really are.

*“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’” Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV)*

*The mission is to: Bring them in, Build them up, Send them out Publicly, and House to House. The following chart gives examples of how to highlight your Bible according to these themes.*

 <p><u>Bring them in</u></p>	<p><u>EVANGELISM</u></p> <p><u>God is Loving and is in Charge</u></p>	<p><u>God as Father</u>  <u>Love, Grace, Reconciliation, Sin, Salvation, Sovereignty, Creator, Sacrifice, Atonement, Redemption, Baptism, Justification, Missions</u></p>
 <p><u>Build them up</u></p>	<p><u>DISCIPLESHIP</u></p> <p><u>He has a Kingdom</u></p>	<p><u>God as Son,</u>  <u>Revelation, The Word, Sanctification, Suffering, Growth, Money, Kingdom, Spiritual Warfare (Kingdoms in conflict), Personal Prayer, Health, Time Management, Sexuality, The Second Coming, Judgment</u></p>
 <p><u>Send them out</u></p>	<p><u>MINISTRY</u></p> <p><u>His Kingdom Expands through His People (Both Israel and the Church)</u></p>	<p><u>God the Holy Spirit,</u>  <u>Gifting, Talents, Abilities, Israel as a People, the Church, Service, Helping the Poor, Caring for Our Planet</u></p>
 <p><u>Publicly</u></p>	<p><u>WORSHIP (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC)</u></p> <p><u>God's People Need Leaders</u></p>	<p><u>Leaders</u>  <u>Public prayer, Worship, giving, leaders, leadership, Roles of Men and Women, Hearing God's Voice</u></p>
 <p><u>House to House</u></p>	<p><u>FELLOWSHIP</u></p> <p><u>Leadership starts in the home</u></p>	<p><u>Families</u>  <u>Homes as Places for Ministry, Meals, Family, Husband and Wife, Children</u></p>



## Let's practice highlighting.

Read through the passage below. With your colored pencils highlight the themes you observe. Two examples are provided for you.

Example 1 -Verse 43 has blue because signs and wonders are an indication of the Holy Spirit's activity when the kingdom expands as people are sent out.

Example 2 - Verse 47 points to people being brought into a right relationship with the Father.

### Acts 2:42-47 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

<sup>44</sup> And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

<sup>45</sup> and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

<sup>46</sup> Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.



## Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

# Week 1 - Day 4

## The Key Passage

### The Key Passage

*12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. 1 John 2:12-14*

We observe a progression of maturity in 1 John 2:12-14

1. *Children - Have been brought into the light*



What two characteristics do children have according to this passage?

Answers

- Sins forgiven
- They know the Father

2. *Spiritual Youth - Have been built up*



## What three things characterize young men, spiritual adolescents?

### Answers

- Overcome the evil one
- They are strong, *moral character*
- They know the word

3. *Spiritual parents - Have been sent out*



## What one thing characterizes the fathers, spiritual parents, and what one thing is not mentioned but is implied?

- They know him who is from the beginning (Jesus), longevity of relationship with God
- They reproduce (*Implied*).

The Bring Build Send model is lived out in **public and private contexts**. Another way of viewing this is in **large (Public) and small groups (House to House)**. "Publicly" includes our large group gatherings of the church, but also our life out in the world. "House to House" means **both our family and the importance of using our home as a base for ministry**. Houses rather than buildings were used for the first couple hundred years of the church. **The New Testament church met "Publicly and House to House."** We are advocating a return to this New testament model of a **two-winged church**: A large group wing and a small group wing. The two-winged church will fly.<sup>1</sup>

*Children, Youth and Parents live out their faith in two environments -*

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<sup>1</sup> I learned about the Two-Winged Church concept from Bill Beckham's Book, *The Second Reformation*.

## *Publicly and House to House*



In the section on Multiplying Disciples, we will develop the concepts of Publicly and House to House.

### 3 Key Illustrations

- The Three Trees
- The 10 Periods (5 Pairs)
- The Stop, Look and Listen Chart

Tomorrow, we will look at the first of our three key illustrations based on John 2:12-14 -The Three Trees.

### Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

## Week 1 - Day 5

### The Three Trees

Read 1 John 2:12-14. With your yellow pencil, highlight and sections of the passage mentioning spiritual children.

Bring them in

1 John 2:12-14

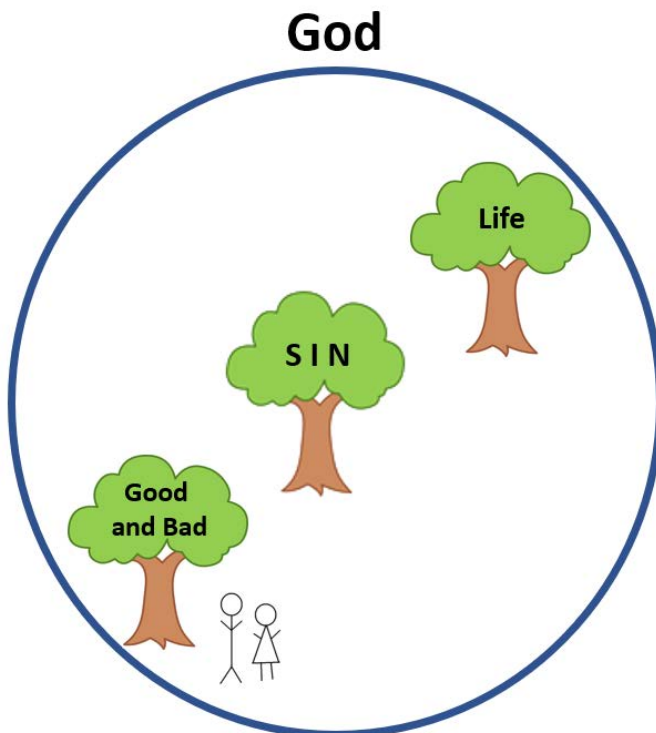
*Spiritual Children*  
Sins forgiven  
They know the Father



This is a story about three trees.

John 3:16 NASB

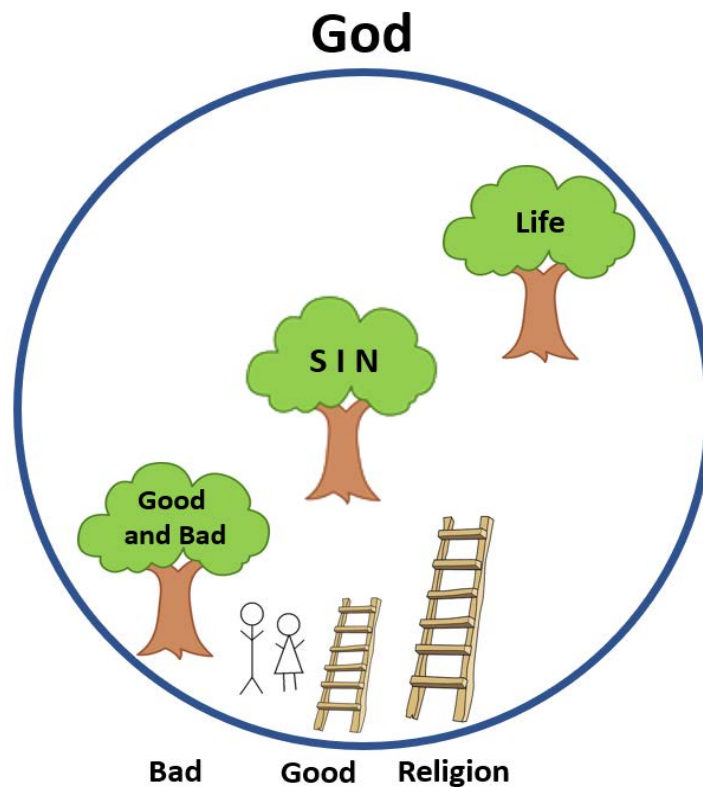
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”.



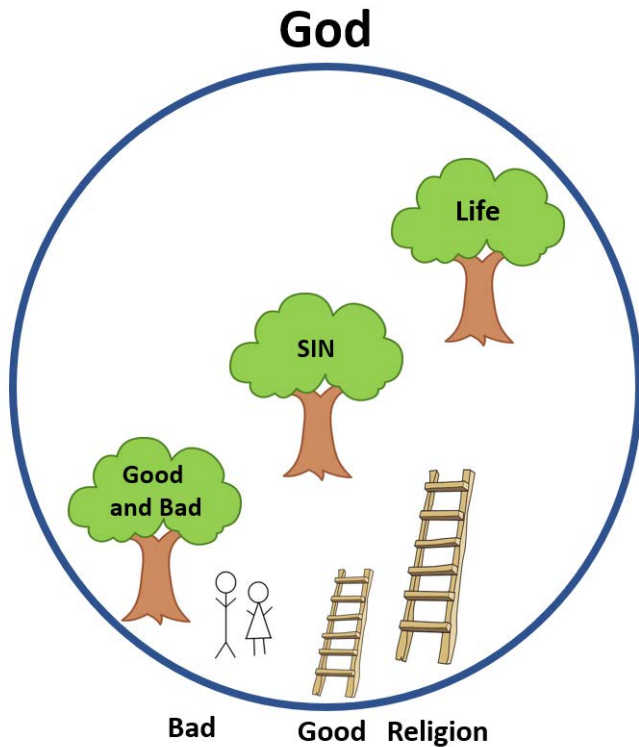
Write this verse in your journal.

Well actually, it is about one God, two people and three trees.

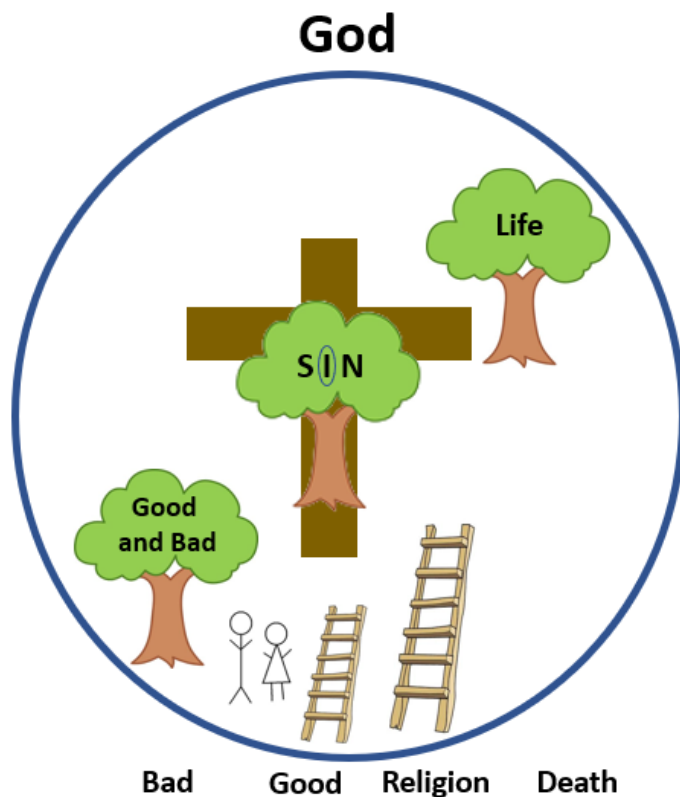
When God created the world, he placed Adam and Eve in the middle of a garden. This story is found in Genesis 1-3. God gave Adam and Eve tremendous freedom. They could eat from any tree in the garden except one - the tree of the knowledge of good and bad, but instead of obeying God, Adam and Eve chose to eat from the tree they were told not to. Their bad decision of disobedience created chaos in the world.



Humanity responded to the ensuing chaos by seeking to establish their own measures of goodness; they created a ladder (tower) trying to reach the heavens based on their own goodness. The details can be found in Genesis 4-11. The remainder of the book of Genesis (and the rest of the Old Testament) shows humanity's various religious attempts (a taller ladder) for trying to establish their own standards of righteousness. All three approaches: Bad, Good (Ladder), and Religious (Ladder) fell short of God's standards. All three approaches are based on self. The bad seek their own way. The good seek their own way. The religious seek their own way by following self-made rules.



In God's mercy, he introduces a second tree. It is a tree that becomes a cross on which God demonstrates his love. S-"I"-N is living life with "I" in the middle. God placed our sin on his Son. "For God so loved..." He sent his Son who took humanity's sin and nailed it to the cross. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us this story. Jesus died on a cross, three days later he rose from the dead. He ascended to the Father and promises to return. Because God's wrath was placed on his Son on the cross, we can receive his resurrected life; this life is a life of overflow to others, and results in his kingdom reign becoming our present reality.



The bad, the good, and the religious all fail to reach God. However, those who believe in God's provisional righteousness by trusting in the Son can eat of third tree, the tree of life. The tree of life is introduced in the first chapter of the Bible and reintroduced in Revelation 22, the last chapter of the Bible. Those who reject the tree of life face death, separation from God eternally. To receive God's offer of life, here is a simple prayer of response.

*God, I give everything I know about me, the good, the bad and the ugly, to everything I know about you.*

## Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

Write John 3:16 in your journal if you've not already done so. Practice reproducing The Three Trees illustration.

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

## Week 2 - Day 1

### The Listening Room

*Spiritual adolescents*  
Overcome the evil one  
They are strong  
They know the Word

Turn to 1 John 2:12-14. Notice the three characteristics John uses to identify spiritual youth. Take your green pencil and highlight the three things that characterize youth. One of the qualities John mentions regarding spiritual youth is, "they are strong." Prayer is one of the keys to spiritual strength. Developing a daily prayer pattern is essential for growing in your personal walk with God. Prayer is a two-way street. Prayer is not just you **talking to God**; it is also you **listening to his voice**. Here is a template for developing a consistent and meaningful prayer life.

### Make an appointment with God

1. Set a **time** to meet daily with God.
2. Set a **place** to meet daily.



3. Spend some time reading through a passage of **Scripture** and ask God to speak to you.
4. Write down in a **journal** impression He places in your heart or mind.
5. **Pray** for the things on your heart and mind.

Jesus said,

<sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way:

<sup>9</sup> 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

<sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'] Matthew 6:9-13 NASB

Perhaps you have prayed this prayer before. It is often called The Lord's Prayer. You can use The Lord's Prayer as an outline, or model for prayer as well.

#### 1. **Worship, praise and thanksgiving**

"Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name."

#### 2. **Ask for His rule and reign in matters that concern you**

"Your kingdom come."

#### 3. **Ask for His will in your circumstances**

"Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

#### 4. **Ask for daily needs to be met**

"Give us this day our daily bread."

#### 5. **Ask forgiveness for thoughts, words or deeds not honoring to Him**

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

#### 6. **Ask for protection from the evil one**

"And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil."

## 7. Close by declaring His kingdom

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

## Journal Time

In your journal, rewrite this prayer by personalizing it in your own words...

My rewrite...

"Father, you are the Head of our family, help us honor your name, seek your kingdom and do your will. Give us what we need to do these three things today. Forgive us when we fail to obey and let us extend forgiving grace to others. Don't let us fail - deliver us from the evil one. Yours is the kingdom, empower us to bring you glory."  
Douglas Dorman

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

# Week 2 - Day 2

## God's Word

### How to Study the Bible

So far, we have talked about how spiritual children know their sins are forgiven and how they know the father. Then we covered how spiritual adolescents find strength through prayer. Now we turn to another characteristic of spiritual youth. **They know the Word of God.**

### Build

Turn again to 1 John 2:12-14. You may have noticed we did not yet cover "Overcome the evil one." We will take all of week three to deal with this.

### Children

Sins forgiven, They know the Father

### Spiritual adolescents

Overcome the evil one, They are strong, They know the Word

### Spiritual parents

They know him who is from the beginning

They reproduce (*Implied*)

God is looking for a heart of obedience motivated by grace. The religious leaders of Jesus' day sought to gain merit with God by reading their Bibles. Jesus confronts them by saying the Scriptures point to him.

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, John 5:39 ESV*

The goal of biblical instruction is obedience not knowledge.

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 NLT*

Becoming a believer in Jesus is the beginning of a journey that involves growing in our faith through the reading of God's word, prayer and being disciplined in the local church.

## The Books of the BIBLE

(66 Books)

<p><u><a href="#">OLD TESTEMANT</a></u></p> <p>Creation - Return to Jerusalem</p>	<p>400 Years of Silence</p>	<p><u><a href="#">NEW TESTEMANT</a></u></p> <p>Jesus birth - Revelation 95 years</p>
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<p><u><a href="#">39 Old Testament Books</a></u></p> <p>5 Books of the Law 12 Books of History 5 Poetical/Wisdom 5 Major Prophets 12 Minor Prophets</p>	<p><u><a href="#">27 New Testament Books</a></u></p> <p>4 Gospels 1 History 22 Letters to individuals and churches</p>
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## Start your Bible reading by asking...

*What is the intended meaning of the original writers? In what context did they write?*

I once heard pastor Charles Simpson quote an old preacher as saying, *"The Bible sheds a lot of light on the commentaries."* His point was the Bible is inspired not what others say about the Bible.

Here are some clues to effectively studying the Bible

### 1. Text

What does the text say?

Is it descriptive or prescriptive? If it is poetry, approach it as such. If it is history, read it accordingly. If it is describing a phenomenon, read it that way (In Joshua chapter 10 the Bible says the sun stood still. This is how it appeared to the viewer. We use similar language when we say the sun rose and the sun set). The author is describing an event as the phenomenon appeared. This is descriptive. Other passages, like Matthew 28:19-20 tell us to "make disciples." Matthew is prescribing how we are to act, not simply describing an event.

### 2. Context

What is the context of what is said (By reading 10 verses before and 10 verses after a given section of Scripture, you gain a broader understanding of the context of the passage)?

Rather than pick an isolated chapter here or there or a verse here or there, read the Bible as it was written, in books. For example, read Matthew or Luke or the Psalms systematically, straight through. If you are reading a given verse or verses within a given book, it is important to remember its broader context. What sentences are immediately before it, what follows.

An example of failing to read the context would be claiming there is no God based on Psalm 14:1 which says that "there is no God." Without reading the context, one could claim that the Bible teaches that "there is no God." However, if you look at the context, the verse actually says,

*The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." Psalm 14:1 ESV*

Context is important.

### 3. Supporting Texts

When you come across a topic of interest, look to see if there are other places in the Bible where the topic is addressed. Then compare the passages for greater clarity. This keeps us from simply proof texting to support a myopic view. For example, you may want to look up what the Bible says about giving or baptism.

When we read verses in isolation without looking at other verses on the same topic, we can end up with partial understanding. One example would be looking at verses on poverty.

*A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man. (Proverbs 24:33-34 ESV)*

This verse highlights that sometimes poverty can be the result of laziness. But the Bible contains many other verses that discuss the causes of poverty, such as oppression, injustice, violence, greed and the overall broken state of the world.

I like to ask two questions when I read the Bible.

1. **What:** What does the passage say?
2. **Now What:** Now what is God saying I need to do about it?

Prayer

*Father cause me to hunger and thirst for you and your word. I need you. Fill me Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Journal Time

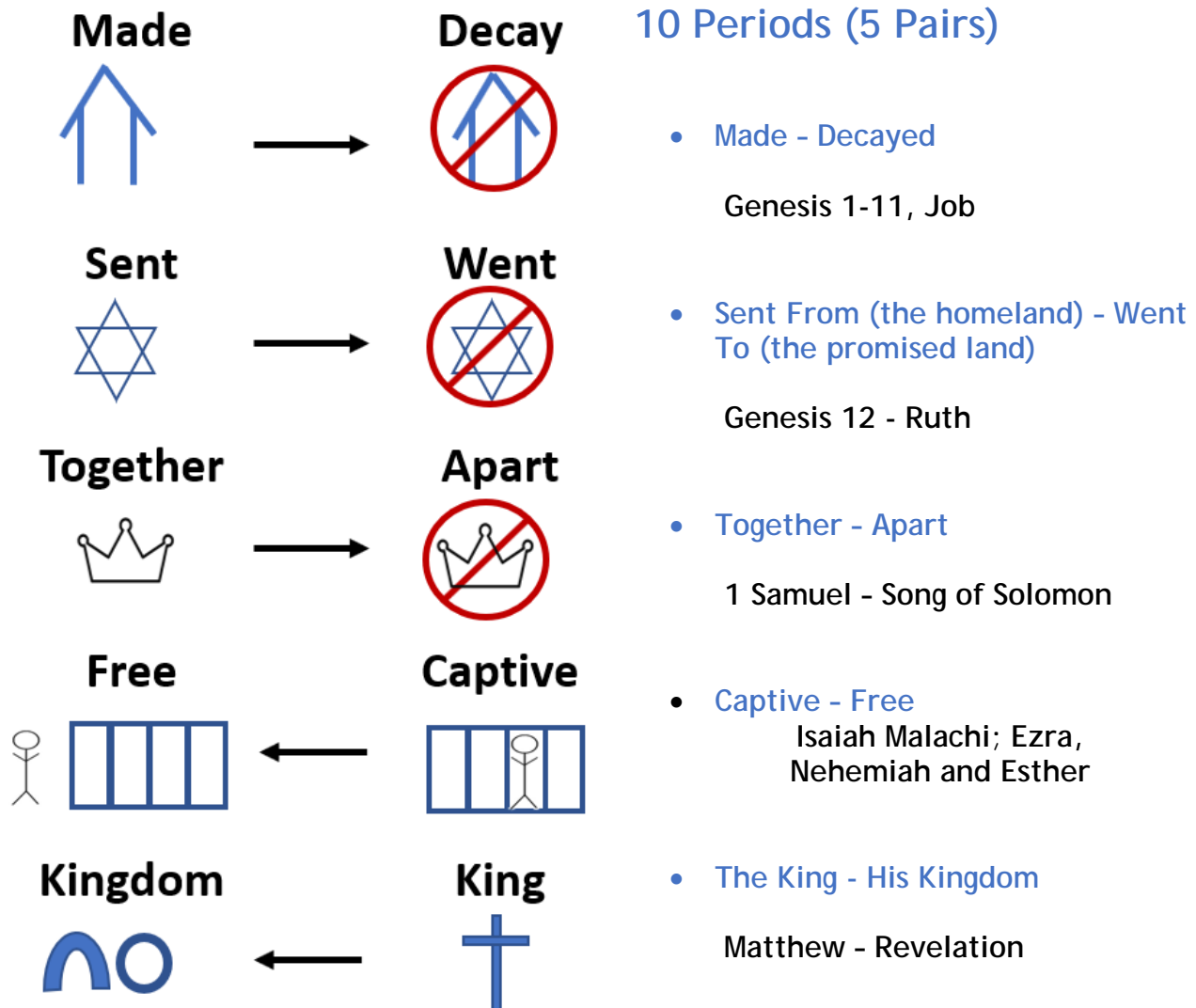
Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

# Week 2 - Day 3

## 10 Periods

Notice the 10 periods are made up of 5 pairs. The outline gives a loose overview of the Bible.



## Journal Time

Reproduce the 10 Periods (5 Pairs)

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

## Week 2 - Day 4

# The Main Theme - The Kingdom

The Bible has one unifying theme - The Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom refers to the Rule and Reign of God. In Zambia, one of the pastors described the kingdom as "The Village of God." When we proclaim the kingdom, we are declaring the ultimate renewal of all things. "The Kingdom is the good news of renewal."

Our responsibility is to seek the kingdom and to proclaim the kingdom; God's responsibility is to expand the kingdom and establish the kingdom.

The kingdom in the Bible is accompanied by three things.

### 1. Salvation

Salvation is an event and a process. We are saved. We are being saved. We will be saved.

### 2. Healing

When the kingdom is proclaimed in the Bible, signs and wonders follow.

### 3. Deliverance

When the kingdom is declared, people are set free.

### 4. "Already" and "Not Yet"

The kingdom is both "already" present and "not yet" complete.

We are to proclaim the message: The King of Kings is present. The manifestation of the kingdom began with Jesus first coming. It will reach its fulfillment when he comes again. When Jesus returns, his kingdom will manifest in all of its fullness. Until then, we ask for his kingdom to come and we expect the future to break into our current reality and experience.



The Kingdom Chart...Get into groups of two and read through the verses showing the kingdom.

<b>10 Periods (5 Pairs)</b>	<b>Kingdom</b>
<b>Made: Adam &amp; Eve</b>	Gen. 1:14 Signs Gen. 1:27-28 Image, Dominion
<b>Decayed: Serpent</b>	Gen. 3:15 Seed Gen. 9:9 Covenant Gen. 9:13 Rainbow...sign
<b>Sent- From Ur: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob</b>	Gen. 14:18 Melchizedek, Heb. 7:2 king of righteousness, Gen. 17:1-14 Covenant of circumcision, kings, 17:15-17 Sign... Child, Gen. 35:11 Jacob kings shall come
<b>Went-To (The promised land): Israel...the Nation</b>	Ex. 3:1-12 Burning Bush, sign obedience Ex. 7:3 Signs and Wonders
<b>Together: David</b>	2 Sam. 7:1-17 Establish your kingdom, Covenant relationship
<b>Apart: Elijah and Elisha</b>	Elijah & Elisha men of miracles, Elijah...starting in 1 Kings 17ff, Drought, Widow, Raising son 2 Kings 2 Elisha started his ministry with Signs and Wonders
<b>Captive: Daniel</b>	Dan, 2:44 God in heaven will set up a kingdom, 4: 2-3, 17, 25, 32 Kingdom and Signs and Wonders, Dan. 5:18, 21-22; 6:25- 28, 14, 18; 7:22, 27,
<b>Free: Ezra &amp; Nehemiah</b>	Ezra 1:1-4 Jeremiah prophesied of Cyrus,
<b>King: Jesus</b>	Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17 Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand,
<b>Kingdom: Paul</b>	Rom. 14:17 Righteousness, peace and joy, Rom. 15:19 Power of signs and wonders Rev. 5:9-10 A kingdom of priests...they shall reign

## Four characteristics of life in the kingdom include...

### 1. Life in the Kingdom is Relational - We BRING people to the Father

"Enoch walked with God..." Genesis 5:24 ESV

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 ESV

### 2. Life in the Kingdom is Fruitful - We BUILD people in the Son

God designed us to live fruitful lives. The first command he gave was "Be fruitful and multiply..." Genesis 1:28 ESV

Jesus said, By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:8 ESV

### 3. Life in the Kingdom is Global - We SEND people to the World

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..." Genesis 1:28





"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

### 4. Life in the Kingdom is "Already" & "Not Yet" - Publicly & House to House

**The Already...**God's presence is manifest, and people come to saving faith in Jesus, or people are healed, delivered or touched by God as we live out the kingdom in large (public) and small (house to house) settings.

**The Not Yet...**We live between the first and second coming of Jesus. Because of this, the full manifestation of God's rule and reign are awaiting His return. The evil one opposes the message of the kingdom. His kingdom ultimately loses. The manifestation of the fullness of God's kingdom is "not yet" but it is coming, because he is coming again. So, we pray... "Your Kingdom come" Matthew 6:10... "And do not bring us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Matthew 6:13 HCSB

This chart shows life in the Kingdom.

10 Periods	Life in the Kingdom is RELATIONAL 	Life in the Kingdom is FRUITFUL 	Life in the Kingdom is GLOBAL 	Life in the Kingdom is "ALREADY" and "NOT YET" 
<b>Made:</b> Adam & Eve	Gen. 3:8 God walking	Gen. 1:26-28 Be fruitful and multiply	Genesis 1:26 All the earth	Gen. 3:1 Serpent
<b>Decayed:</b> Serpent	Gen. 5:22 Enoch walked with God, Gen. 6:9 Noah walked with God	Gen. 8:17, 9:1, 7 Be fruitful and multiply	Gen. 3:15 Seed, Gen. 10:31, 11:9 languages, nations dispersed	Gen. 3:1 Did God say? Gen. 3:8-19 Shame, fear, guilt
<b>Sent- From Ur:</b> Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	Gen. 17:1, Abram...walk before me Gen. 24:40 Isaac...I have walked	Gen. 35:11 Jacob...be fruitful and multiply	Gen. 12:1-3 All the families of the earth, Gen. 18:18 Isaac...all the nations	Gen. 16:1-6 Hagar
<b>Went-To (The promised land):</b> Israel...the Nation	Deut. 5:33 Walk in all the ways	Lev. 26:9 make you fruitful and multiply you	Ex. 7:5 The Egyptians will know Ex. 12:38 A mixed multitude	Ex. 7:4 Pharaoh will not listen
<b>Together:</b> David	1 Kings 2:4 To walk before me, Psalm 56:13 I may walk before God in the light of life	2 Sam. 7:12 I will raise up your offspring	1 Sam. 17:46 That the world may know 1 Kings 8:43, 60	1 Sam. 18:12 Saul feared David 2 Sam. 11
<b>Apart:</b> Elijah and Elisha	1 Kings 22:41 Jehoshaphat walked, Is. 2:5 Let us walk	2 Kings 4:17 She bore a son	1 Kings 17 Gentile widow, 1 Kings 20:13, you shall know, 2 Kings 5 Naaman- Gentile	1 Kings 18 Ahab and Jezebel
<b>Captive:</b> Daniel	Dan. 9: 10 Repentance...Not Walked, Dan. 6:4 He was faithful, Dan. 9:23, 10: 19 Greatly loved	Jer. 29:7 Seek Welfare of the city, Dan. 2:48-49 Honor	Dan. 6:25 All the peoples, nations and languages	Dan. 6 Lion's Den
<b>Free:</b> Ezra & Nehemiah	Ezra 7:10 Study, do and teach Neh. 5:9 Walk in fear of the Lord	Neh. 9:23 Multi-plied children Ezra 7:6, 28; 8:28, 8:18, The hand of the Lord, Neh. 1:10 Strong hand	Neh. 6:15-16 All the nations	Neh. 2:10 Sanballat and Tobiah
<b>King:</b> Jesus	John 8:12 Not walk in darkness	John 15 Bear fruit, bear more fruit, bear much fruit	Matt. 28:16-20 All nations	Matt. 4:1-11 The devil tempts Jesus
<b>Kingdom:</b> Paul	Rom. 8:4 Walk according to the Spirit	Gal. 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit	Rom. 1:5 Among all the nations, Rev. 5:9-10 Every tribe, and language and nation	2 Cor. 10:4 Strongholds, Eph. 6:10 Stand against the schemes of the devil

## Journal Time

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?

## Week 2 - Day 5

# Spiritual Parents - Knowing God's Will

How to Know God's Will

1 John 2:12-14

### Children

Sins forgiven

They know the Father

### Spiritual adolescents

Overcome the evil one

They are strong, *moral character*

They know the Word

### Spiritual parents




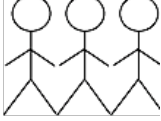

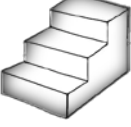
They know him who is from the beginning, longevity of relationship with Jesus

They reproduce (*Implied*).

Turn once again to 1 John 2:12-14. This time take your blue pencil and highlight spiritual parents. Spiritual parents know how to hear from God.

Draw the Following Chart in your journal. When making a major decision - or to discover God's will in a situation - the following chart may be helpful. In each column, jot down information in over a period of days, weeks or even months. Over time, patterns often emerge, and God's reveals His will.

Read Exodus 3 and 4. See if you can find evidence Moses followed a similar pattern.

Bible	Prayer	Circumstance	The Church	Desires	Action
 Stop- What Bible passage(s) is God applying to you and your situation?	 Look- Look to God. What is He saying through prayer?	 Listen- What is He saying through circumstances?	 Trusted Others- What are others, you know and trust saying?	 Heart- What is placing in your heart?	 Your Next Step- What action step do you need to take?

## Journal Time

Reproduce the six steps of the Stop, Look and Listen Model with a drawing in your journal. Fill in the columns as you are able and discuss the chart with your friend this week in your one-on-one session.

Use your journal to write down:

1. What did you learn today?
2. What is Your Next Step?