

# Discipleship Handbook

Making disciples who make disciples,  
while teaching them to obey all Jesus commanded



An adaptation of George Patterson's 7 Commands of Christ\*

# The “Sword” Bible Study Method

Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

This picture of a sword helps us to teach any passage of the Bible. When we think of a sword we think of four parts of the sword and six questions we need to ask.

The tip points up to the heavens:

**What do we learn about God? Jesus? Holy Spirit?**

The handle is held by people:

**What do we learn about people?**

Use the acronym “SPEC” to help remember 4 questions on the blades:

Left Blade:

**Is there a sin to avoid? (S)**

**Is there a promise to believe? (P)**

Right Blade:

**Is there an example to follow? (E)**

**Is there a command to obey? ©**



## Instructions:

During the “Look Up” part of the 3/3’s meeting, you can tell the Bible story, then read the story from the Bible. After telling and reading the story, first pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach everyone how to understand and obey this passage (John 14:26). Next, ask these questions one at a time. The questions are open for anyone to answer from the Bible. As people answer from scripture, the Holy Spirit will teach everyone how to understand and obey God and His Word. **As the facilitator**, keep the group focused on the specific story or passage you are studying. If there are seasoned believers in the group, they may intimidate new believers by jumping around from passage to passage. We do not want new believers to think that simply “knowing” a lot equals maturity. However, each week as believers learn more scripture, while obeying it, God will mature them in His timing. It’s always better to let people discover the truth for themselves than for the teacher to tell them. Trust the work and power of the Holy Spirit! Also, make sure all the answers come from the Bible, not simply someone’s opinion or “what I think this means to me.”

# Command of Christ # 1 - Repent & Believe

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying Jesus and sharing Jesus. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’ By obeying & sharing Jesus, God will continue maturing us to look more like Jesus, so we can advance His mission together.”

## Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read The Command:** In Mark 1:15 Jesus says...

**Tell The Story:** The Sinful Woman from Luke 7:36-50

**Retell the story together** from Luke 7:36-50.

**Read the story aloud** from Luke 7:36-50.

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Luke 7:36-50) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or the 3-Circles

### Explore More:

1. What does “Repent” mean?  
Repent means turning from sin and following Jesus.
2. What does “Believe” mean?  
Believe means choosing to trust Jesus as Lord.
3. Why should we repent?  
Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9
4. Who should repent?  
Acts 2:38-41 - Everyone must repent for forgiveness.
5. What is assurance?  
1 John 1:8-9 says when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us  
John 10:28 says our salvation belongs to Jesus.



## Look Forward

### Set Goals:

- Confess your sins before the Lord. Turn from them and live a new life.
- “How will you obey Jesus this coming week?” (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in Mark, and pray daily)
- “Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?” (If you have not been trained to share your story and Jesus’ story, ask your trainer to equip you in the 3 Circles gospel tool).

**Pray:** “Jesus I want to leave my old life of sin and follow You. I believe in You, become my Lord.”



## Command of Christ # 2 - Be Baptized

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story** of Phillip and the New Believer from Acts 8:26-39

**Retell the story together.**

**Read the story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Acts 8:26-39) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. What is "Baptism"?  
Romans 6:3-4 -Baptism is a symbol of our life, death and resurrection.  
It also means that we have died to our old life and been raised to a new life with Jesus.
2. Why should we be baptized?  
Matthew 3:13-15 - Jesus received baptism, so should we. Receiving baptism means we have identified Jesus as our Lord.
3. Who should be baptized?  
Acts 2:38 - Everyone who repents and believes.
4. How should we be baptized?  
Matthew 3:16 - Jesus went down into the water.



### Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Go down into the water and receive baptism
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in Luke, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord give me the strength to identify my life with you through the symbol of baptism."



## Command of Christ # 3 - Pray

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** in Matthew 6: 9-13, Jesus says...

**Tell the story:** Jesus teaches about Prayer in Matthew 6: 5-15

**Retell the story together.**

**Read the story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Matthew 6:5-15) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or 3-circles

**Explore More:**

1. Why do we pray?

Matthew 6: 9-13 - God hears us. We desire His will to be done on earth.

2. How do we pray?

By simply talking with God.

"Our Father..." = God is your heavenly father

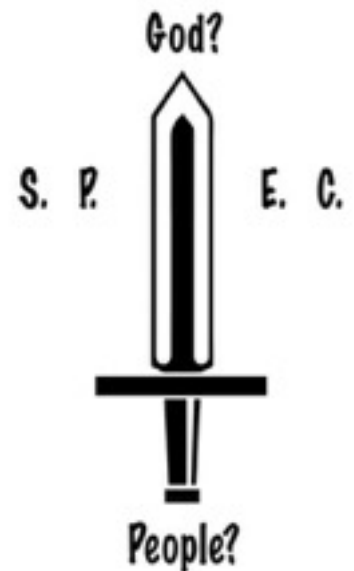
"Hallowed be your name..." = Ask for God to glorify himself through your life

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done..." = Surrender to God's kingdom and will being done in and through your life

"Give us today our daily bread..." = Ask for your needs

"Forgive us our debts..." = Ask for forgiveness of any sin

"Deliver us from the evil one..." = Pray for the deliverance when you face temptation

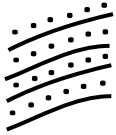


### Look Forward

**Set Goals**

- Make a commitment to pray daily for a certain amount of time. Pray for the lost and more laborers! (Luke 10:2)
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Continue reading 2-4 chapters a day in Luke, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Pray:** "Lord, teach us to pray. Give us pure motives. May your will be done in us."



## Command of Christ #4 - Go...Make Disciples

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** The Samaritan Woman from John 4:4-42

**Retell the story together.**

**Read the story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (John 4:4-42) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. Who should we share with?  
John 4:16 - our families, friends & neighbors
2. What should we say?  
John 4:29 - The woman shared her story and Jesus' story (the gospel)
3. Who is qualified to go?  
John 4 - The Samaritan woman was! Every believer.
4. How should we go?  
Luke 10:1-11 - In groups of 2 or 3 throughout our neighborhood and city: 1) praying, 2) sharing, and 3) looking for "Persons of Peace" to disciple in the very same things we are learning here.



### Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Learn how to share My Story and God's Story
- Set up a time to go out 2x2 into your neighborhood or community to find persons of peace (Luke 10:1-11), and share with them your story and Jesus' story.
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in John, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Pray:** "Lord, make me bold to share what You have done in my life. Give me Your Words to share in my community."

# Command of Christ # 5 - Persevere

## Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

## Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 10:22, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** The persecuted believers from Acts 5:27-42

**Retell the story together.**

**Read the story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Acts 5:27-42) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or the 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. Who will be persecuted?  
Matthew 10:16-33 - Every disciple of Jesus can expect persecution.
2. What is our hope amidst persecution?  
2 Corinthians 4:5-18 - Our eternity is secure in Heaven.  
Hebrews 12:1-2 - Fixing our eyes on Jesus, who faced persecution for us.
3. How can we persevere when persecuted?  
Matthew 5:11-12 - Don't fear, but rejoice!  
Matthew 24:13-14 - Keep proclaiming the Gospel until the end!



## Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Google search "voice of the martyrs" and read the stories of persecuted believers around the world. Pray for them.
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Continue reading 2-4 chapters a day in John, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, should I ever have the privilege to be persecuted for you, please give me boldness to persevere by forgiving, loving and sharing your good news with those who persecute me."



## Command of Christ # 6 - Love

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** The Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37

**Retell the story together.**

**Read the story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Luke 10:25-37) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or the 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

4. What is "love"?  
John 15:13 and 1 Corinthians 13
5. Why do we Love?  
John 13:34-45, Because Jesus loved us first. Love teaches the world about Jesus.
6. Who do we love?  
Matthew 22:37-39 - First we need to love God, then we need to love our neighbors.
7. How do we love?  
John 14:15 - Loving Jesus means we obey Him.  
John 21:17- Loving others means telling them what God has done for you.



### Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Take time each day to intentionally show love by helping your family, friends, or neighbors.
- Reconcile with anyone you have not shown love to OR anyone you may be holding bitterness towards.
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in Matthew, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, help me to love you by obeying you. Lord, help me to love others so that they might learn that you love them also."





## Command of Christ #7 - Lord's Supper

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 26:26-28, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** Jesus' Last Supper from Luke 22:7-20

**Retell the Story together.**

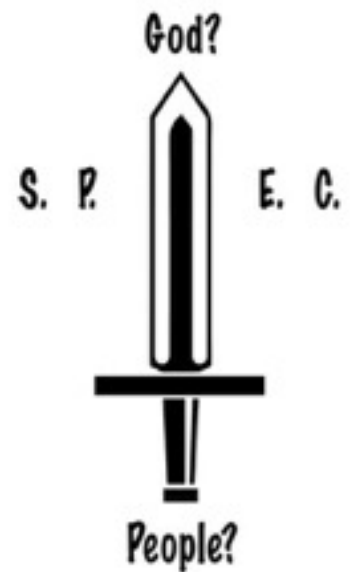
**Read the Story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Luke 22:7-20) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. What is the Lord's Supper?  
1 Corinthians 11:26 - a symbol of the Lord's death
2. Why do we eat the Lord's Supper?  
1 Corinthians 11:26 - His body was broken and His blood was spilt.
3. How do we receive the Lord's Supper?  
1 Corinthians 11:27-29 - We must examine ourselves, confess our sins to God and remember Jesus died to give us forgiveness.
4. Who should receive the Lord's Supper?  
Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 - Baptized disciples devoted to Jesus.



### Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Confess your sins to the Lord, remember the good news (gospel) that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the grave. Receive the Lord's Supper. (the simplest way is to pass 1 Cup with 1 Piece of bread, allow each person to break a piece of bread and dip it in the cup)
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Continue reading 2-4 chapters a day in Matthew, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, show me the sins I have committed. Forgive them. Thank you for giving your body and blood for me."



## Command of Christ #8 - Give

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Read Acts 2:36-47** to cast vision for being church together.

**Read the Command:** In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** The Widow Gives from Mark 12:41-44

**Retell the Story together.**

**Read the Story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Mark 12:41-44) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or the 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. What should we give to God?  
Our money, time and our lives.
2. Why should we give to God?  
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - Give generously, and we will receive generously. God loves a cheerful giver.
3. How do we give to God?  
2 Corinthians 9:7 - Cheerfully, not under compulsion  
Matthew 6:1-4 - Secretly, not for recognition
4. Who do we give to?  
Acts 4:34-35 - The church gave to all who had need.  
2 Corinthians 9 - A collection was given to a church.

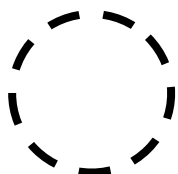


### Look Forward

**Grow & Go Assignments:**

- Decide this week with your family an amount of time and money you will give for the work of the church each week.
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in Acts, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, everything I have is Yours. Teach me to give. Show me needs that I can help with my time and money."



## Command of Christ #9 - Gather

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week.)

### Look Up

**Read the Command:** In Hebrews 10:24-25, Jesus says...

**Tell the Story:** The first church from Acts 2:36-47

**Retell the Story together.**

**Read the Story aloud.**

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story (Acts 2:36-47) and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice** retelling the story or the 3-Circles

**Explore More:**

1. Who is the church?  
Acts 2:41 - Baptized believers in Jesus
2. What does a church gathering do?  
Acts 2:36-41 - Proclaim the gospel & make disciples; baptize believers, obey God's Word, take Lord's Supper, Pray, Love and fellowship together, give to each other's needs, Praise and Worship God.
3. When does a church gather?  
Acts 2:46, Hebrews 10:24-25 - Regularly.
4. Where does a church gather?  
Acts 2:46, 5:42, 17:5-7, 18:7, 19:9, 20:20; Romans 16:1-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:1-2 - Homes
5. Why does the church gather?  
1 Corinthians 10:31, Hebrews 10:24-25 - Glorify God, encourage, and hold one another accountable.

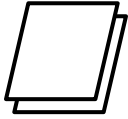


### Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- Appoint leaders if you have not done so already. Look for those whose character are like the elders Paul describes in Titus 1:5-9; Pray and fast, then appoint them to lead this church by laying your hands on them in approval.
- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Begin reading 2-4 chapters a day in Acts, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** "Lord, we are your church! Please enable us to to advance your kingdom mission from this city to the nations for your Glory!"



## #10 - Begin long-term discipleship

### Look Back

**Care** - "How are you doing?" (Share brief update, listen, pray, encourage)

**Worship, Lord's Supper, #NoPlaceLeft Vision**

**Loving Accountability** - "Did you obey Jesus last week? Did you share Jesus with anyone?" (Each person gives account of their goals from the previous week)

### Look Up

**Tell the Story:** The Wise & Foolish Builder from Matthew 7:24-27

**Retell the Story together.** Matthew 7:24-27

**Read the Story aloud.** Matthew 7:24-27

\*As you continue with LT Discipleship it may become difficult to story NT Letters. In this case read the text aloud and have each person read it several times silently.

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the scripture passage and reveal its meaning for our lives.

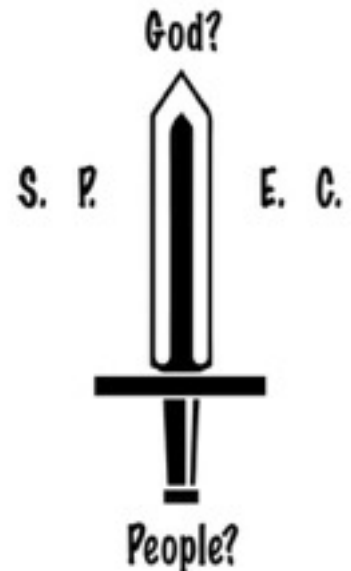
**Practice** retelling 3-Circles, My Story, or One of the previous 9 stories

### Look Forward

#### Set Goals:

- "How will you obey Jesus this coming week?" (Continue reading 2-4 chapters a day in Acts, and pray daily)
- "Who will you share Jesus with this coming week?"

**Prayer:** Pray as the Lord directs you too, but remember to continue praying for boldness and wisdom to share the Gospel and make disciples. Also continue praying for all those who are far from God on your relationship map. Pray for 4th generation disciples and churches. Pray for Laborers. Pray God would accomplish His mission in and through your gathering until there is #NoPlaceLeft and Christ returns.



## Long-Term Discipleship Continued

Now that you have completed the short-term discipleship (Commands of Christ), continue on to “Long-term discipleship” using the T4T Format (next page) and the Sword Bible Study Method as your Bible discovery tool. The “New Lesson” will be passages from the Bible and we suggest starting in Mark’s gospel using the schedule listed below.

1. Mark 1:1-8	19. Mark 5:1-20	37. Mark 9:1-8	55. Mark 12:28-34
2. Mark 1:9-15	20. Mark 5:21-24, 35-43	38. Mark 9:9-13	56. Mark 12:35-40
3. Mark 1:16-20	21. Mark 5:35-34	39. Mark 9:14-29	57. Mark 12:41-44
4. Mark 1:21-28	22. Mark 6:1-6	40. Mark 9:33-37	58. Mark 13:1-8
5. Mark 1:29-34	23. Mark 6:7-13	41. Mark 9:38-50	59. Mark 13:9-13
6. Mark 1:35-40	24. Mark 6:14-29	42. Mark 10:1-12	60. Mark 13:14-27
7. Mark 2:1-12	25. Mark 6:30-32	43. Mark 10:13-16	61. Mark 13:28-37
8. Mark 2:13-17	26. Mark 6:33-44	44. Mark 10:17-31	62. Mark 14:1-10
9. Mark 2:18-28	27. Mark 6:45-52	45. Mark 10:32-34	63. Mark 14:11-21
10. Mark 3:1-12	28. Mark 6:53-56	46. Mark 10:35-45	64. Mark 14:22-26
11. Mark 3:13-19	29. Mark 7:1-13	47. Mark 10:46-52	65. Mark 14:27-31
12. Mark 3:20-30	30. Mark 7:14-23	48. Mark 11:1-11	66. Mark 14:32-42
13. Mark 3:31-35	31. Mark 7:24-30	49. Mark 11:12-18	67. Mark 14:43-52
14. Mark 4:1-20	32. Mark 7:31-37	50. Mark 11:19-26	68. Mark 14:53-65
15. Mark 4:21-25	33. Mark 8:1-10	51. Mark 11:27-33	69. Mark 14:66-72
16. Mark 4:26-29	34. Mark 8:11-21	52. Mark 12:1-12	70. Mark 15:1-15
17. Mark 4:30-34	35. Mark 8:22-26	53. Mark 12:13-17	71. Mark 15:16-47
18. Mark 4: 35-41	36. Mark 8:27-38; 9:30-32	54. Mark 12:18-27	72. Mark 16:1-20

## Discipleship Meeting Format - Pattern of Care (3/3's)

"Teach them to obey my commands" -Jesus in Matthew 28:20

In joining God on His mission to reconcile the world, Jesus makes clear that we must teach disciples to obey all His commands (Matthew 28:20). To do this, there are three elements of this meeting format worth pointing out: Loving Accountability, Practice, and Goal Setting. These three elements are essential to making disciples who obey Jesus and multiply. Without loving accountability and goal setting, the gathering will become a content-heavy meeting with little to no obedience. Without practicing what is taught (and teaching something simple enough to be practiced) it is hard to expect disciples to reproduce what they are learning. We see all three of these elements throughout Jesus' ministry in the Gospels. To study just one example, read Matthew 9-10. In chapter 9, Jesus models how to advance the kingdom by praying, healing, casting out demons, and proclaiming the good news. Then, He gives his disciples authority and instructs them to do the exact same thing in chapter 10 (Also Luke 9-10). After going to the towns where Jesus sent them, they were accountable to report back to Him. Jesus was teaching and modeling a pattern of discipleship, which His disciples were able to practice throughout the Gospels, and continue reproducing in Acts. Jesus multiplied himself by teaching his disciples and having them do likewise; He taught them to know Him and obey what He said. In the same way, we can teach simple biblical tools and stories which every disciple can practice and obey. Each week there will be a new command of Jesus, and new story that illustrates this command. In the practice portion, each person will practice retelling the story to someone in the group. Through practicing, disciples will begin to build confidence and competence to obey Jesus, share him, and continue the pattern of making more disciples. Without practicing, it is difficult to expect disciples to multiply. So each time you connect for individual discipleship, group discipleship, church gathering or leadership training, if you are short on time, don't skip: **Accountability, Practice, & Goal Setting**. In order to get through the study and prevent one person from dominating the time encourage your group to speak in bullet points and not lengthy paragraphs if possible.



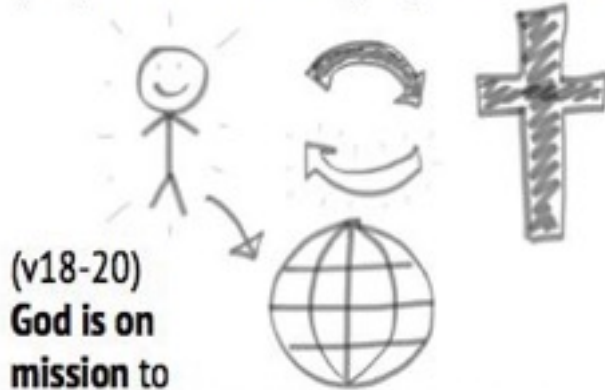
This discipleship format (known as T4T or the 3/3's process) has been field-tested all over the world in most contexts and provides what is necessary to prompt Gospel-based obedience discipleship which can multiply healthy disciples, groups and churches. When you gather with your disciples, commit to using the following "three-thirds" format\* \*The [T4T](#) "three-thirds" or "3/3's" format created by Ying & Grace Kai

# Level 1 Training

*Why?* - Mission of God!

[2 Corinthians 5:17-21]

(v17) **New Creation!** (v21) **Jesus' Exchange!**

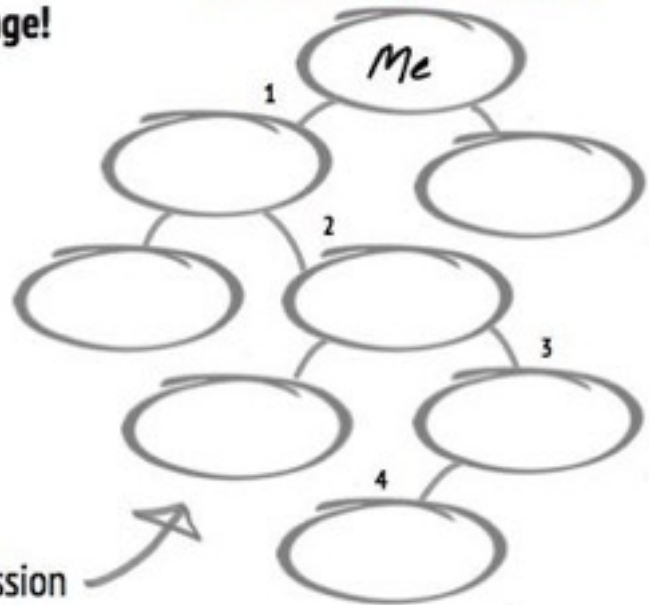


(v18-20)  
**God is on mission to reconcile the World... #NoPlaceLeft**  
and I \_\_\_\_\_

am His Ambassador to accomplish His Mission

*Who?* - Everyone I know!

[John 17:20, 2 Tim. 2:2]

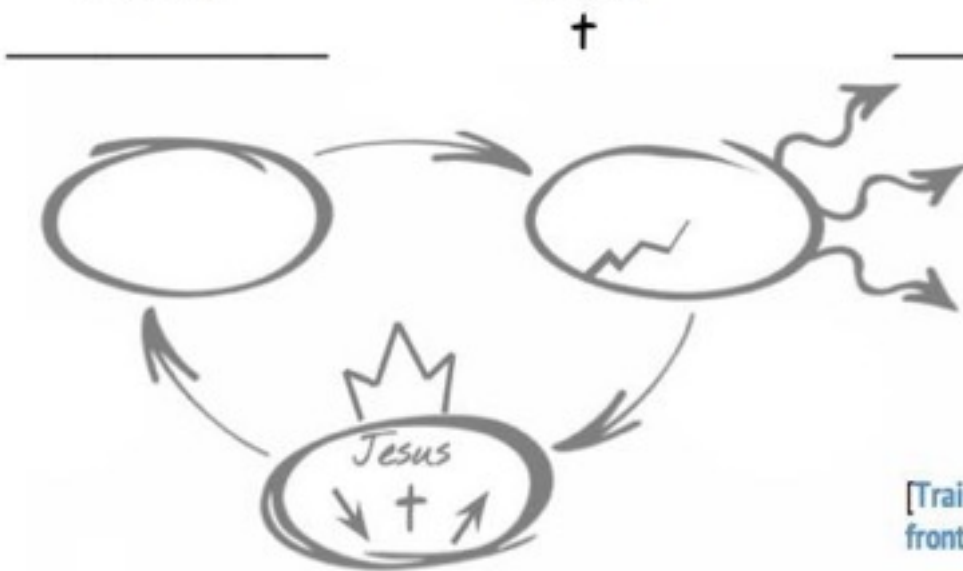


*What to say?* - My story and Jesus' story [John 4:29]

< Before

JESUS

Now >



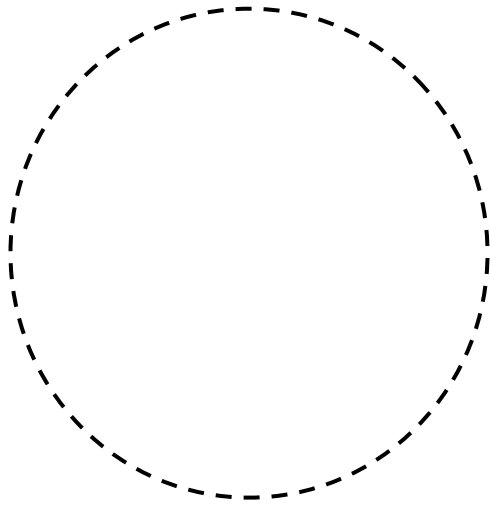
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*Follow Up?*

1. **When** meet?
2. **Where** meet?
3. **Who** will you invite?

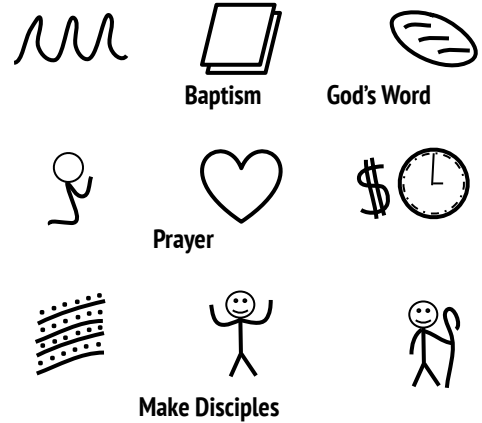
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# Church Circle

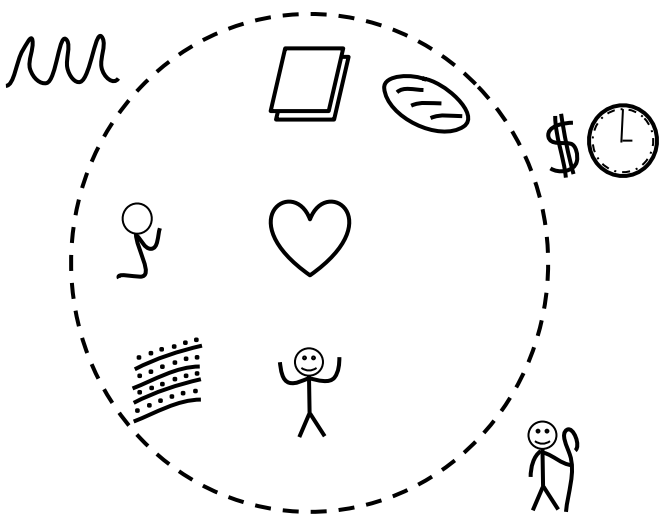
First, draw a dashed circle. This dashed circle represents a gathering of believers.



These symbols represent 9 basic functions of a church we see in Acts 2:36-47. Some of these functions have already been studied in the 9 lessons, others have simply been practiced week to week without studying a specific lesson

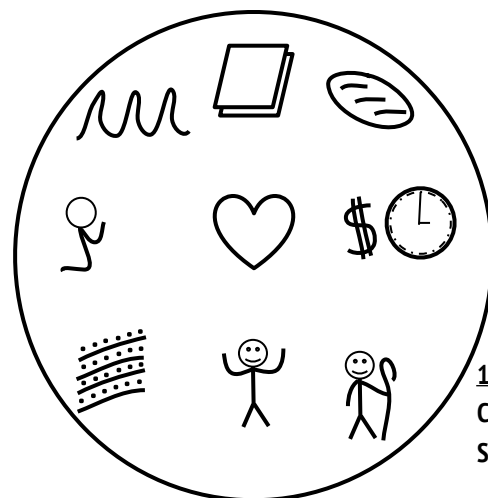


Second, draw each of the functions which your gathering is consistently practicing **inside** the circle. Draw the functions which your gathering has not yet practiced **outside** the circle.



In this example above, the gathering has practiced some very important functions of a church. However, there are a few functions that have yet to be practiced. If your church has yet to practice all the functions, make an action plan to

Finally, if a gathering has identified itself as a "church", then you may make the dashed line **solid**. The goal is to have a church become healthy and practicing all the functions as modeled by



10 / 10 / 10  
City, State:  
Start Date:

Also, for record keeping it will be helpful to identify:

#Attendees / #Believers / #Baptized

You may also wish record the location, start date, and leader(s)



# The Commands of Christ Overview

An Adaptation of George Patterson's Seven Commands

<p><b>1. Repent &amp; Believe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matt 4:17</li><li>- Story: Luke 7:36-50 (Sinful Woman)</li><li>- Additional: Romans 3:23, 6:23 &amp; 10:9-10</li></ul> <p><b>2. Be Baptized</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command-Matthew 28:19</li><li>- Story: Acts 8:26-39 (Philip &amp; Ethiopian Official)</li><li>- Additional: Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 3:13-16, Acts 2:38</li></ul> <p><b>3. Pray</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 6:9-13</li><li>- Story: Matthew 6:9-13 (Jesus Teaches About Prayer)</li><li>- Additional: Luke 10:2</li></ul> <p><b>4. Go...Make Disciples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 28:19-20</li><li>- Story: John 4:4-42 (Samaritan Woman at the Well)</li><li>- Additional: Luke 10:1-11</li></ul> <p><b>5. Persevere</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 10:22</li><li>- Story: Acts 5:27-42 (The Persecuted Believers)</li><li>- Additional: Matthew 10:16-33, 2 Corinthians 4:5-18 Hebrews 12:1-2, Matthew 5:11-12, Matthew 24:13-14</li></ul>	<p><b>6. Love</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 22:37-39</li><li>- Story: Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan)</li><li>- Additional: John 15:13, 1 Cor. 13, John 13:34-35, Matt. 22:37-39, John 14:15, 21:17</li></ul> <p><b>7. Lord's Supper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 26:26-28</li><li>- Story: Luke 22:7-20 (Jesus' Last Supper)</li><li>- Additional: 1 Cor. 11:26-29, Acts 2:42</li></ul> <p><b>8. Give</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Matthew 6:1-4</li><li>- Story: Mark 12:41-44 (The Widow Gives)</li><li>- Additional: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Matt 6:1-4, Acts 4:34-35</li></ul> <p><b>9. Gather</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Command: Hebrews 10:24-25</li><li>- Story: Acts 2:36-447 (The First Church)</li><li>- Additional: 5:42, 17:5-7, 18:7, 19:9, 20:20; Romans 16:1-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 10:31</li></ul> <p><b>10. Begin Long Term Discipleship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gospel of Mark (8-10 verses per week)</li><li>- Continue 3/3's meeting format</li></ul>
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## Appendix A& B: Discover Bible Study For Those Far From God

We recommend beginning with The Story and moving to Stories of Hope if no one has believed, but they desire to continue seeking Jesus. If they believe during The Story, finish the 5 weeks and move to Commands of Christ.

- A. The Story: Adapted from resources at <http://viewthestory.com>
- B. Stories of Hope by Jeff Sundell

# The Story - Creation: How Did It All Begin?

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying God’s Word and sharing God’s Word. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’

## Look Up

**Tell The Story:** God Creates the World Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, 15-17

**Retell the story together** from Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, 15-17

**Read the story aloud** from Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-3, 15-17

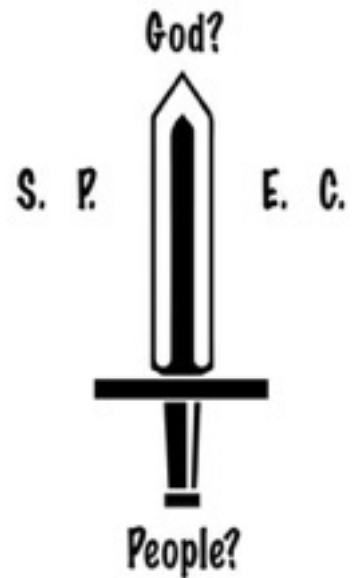
**Summarize Story:** God, Creation, Harmony

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice:** Share 3 Circles or your story (You could also draw the circle corresponding to the story each week. By week 5 you will have finished 3 Circles.) & Memorize Story summary: God, Creation, Harmony

**Explore More:** (Use these if these points were not made during SWORD)

1. Who is the Bible primarily about? God (Gen. 1:1)
2. How did God create, and why is this significant? By His Word and it is powerful and authoritative (Gen. 1:3)
3. What is significant about the repeated phrase “And God saw that it was good?” Highlights God’s perfection and His original design for the world. (1:12)
4. What is God’s purpose for the world & for humanity? To glorify/reflect Him (Psalm 19:1, Isa. 42: 12, 43:7)
5. What makes humans distinct from the rest of creation? Created in God’s image/likeness. (Gen. 1:26) Discuss some ways we are like God and the rest of creation is not. (We can know Him with our mind,s love Him with our hearts, obey Him with our wills) We can have a relationship with God in a way the rest of creation cannot.
6. How do we glorify God? By loving Him above all else and joyfully obeying His commands. (Dt. 7:9)
7. What did God mean when He declared that the finished creation was “very good?” Everything worked the way it was supposed to work. There was perfect peace between God-People, People-People, & People-Creation, People-Self. We all long to live in this perfect world free of evil, pain, and death (Gen. 1:31)



## Look Forward

**Set Goals:**

- “If this is God’s Word how will you love & obey Him this coming week?”
- “Who will you share this story with this coming week?” Invite them to join the group next week.

**Pray:** God help me to love you, obey your Word and be grateful for your creation of the world and me.

# The Story - Fall: What Went Wrong?

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying God’s Word and sharing God’s Word. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’

## Look Up

**Tell The Story:** The Fall of Humanity from Genesis 3:1-24

**Retell the story together** from Genesis 3:1-24

**Read the story aloud** from Genesis 3:1-24

**Summarize Story:** Disobedience, Consequence, Need

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice:** Share 3 Circles or your story & Memorize story summary: Disobedience, Consequence, Need

### Explore More:

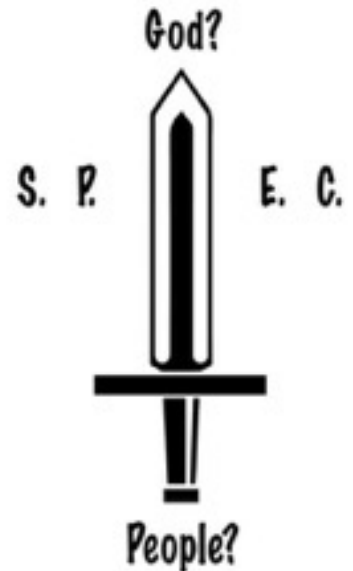
1. What is sin? Rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being who or doing what he requires, in his law/commands. (Gen. 3:1-6,)
2. What is the consequence of sin? Death (Spiritual, Physical, and Eternal). Separation from God and brokenness (Gen. 3:7, 21, 24, Rom. 6:23a, 2 Thes. 1:9)
3. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God and cover themselves with fig leaves and why was this an insufficient remedy to their problem? Their relationship with God had been broken and they were filled with fear, guilt, shame and the desire to make things right again (beginning of works based religion). The penalty for sin is death, therefore no attempt by man to remedy sin through good works, or covering it up, is sufficient. (Gen. 3:7-8)
4. What does Adam and Eve’s sin mean for us? That we are all born in sin and guilt, unable to perfectly love God and keep His law. (Psalm 51:5, Rom. 3:26,5:12)
5. What is our greatest need? For God to save us from Satan, sin, and death and restore us to himself. (Gen. 3:15, Ephesians 2:1-3)
6. Discuss evidences of brokenness in the world and in your life today? Keep in mind the 4 relationships we have: God, other people, the world, and within ourselves.

## Look Forward

### Set Goals:

- “If this is God’s Word how will you love & obey Him this coming week?”
- “Who will you share this story with this coming week?” Invite them to join the group next week.
- Re-read Genesis 3 and look for good news. Are there any signs of hope?

**Pray:** God help me to love you, obey your Word, and hate sin and brokenness.



# The Story - Rescue: Is There Any Hope? 1

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying God’s Word and sharing God’s Word. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’ Was there any good news in Gen. 3? V9: God’s pursuit & plan for rescue, 15: Promise of a Rescuer & Satan’s end, 21: Sacrifice & Substitution

## Look Up

**Setup:** (Gen. 4-21) From sin’s entrance into the world death and destruction permeate every aspect of creation.

God destroys the earth with a flood and graciously preserves and starts over with a man named Noah & his family through whom the Rescuer will come. Once again death and destruction run rampant through every aspect of creation. God’s plan unfolds through His choosing of an idol worshipping old man named, Abram. He promises to give him a son through whom people from every nation will be blessed/rescued.

**Tell The Story:** God rescues Isaac: Genesis 22:1-18

**Retell the story together** from Genesis 22:1-18

**Read the story aloud** from Genesis 22:1-18

**Summarize Story:** Promise Made

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story and reveal its meaning for our lives. Helps: Sin? Idolatry V2, Promise? V18, Example/Command? Faith in God’s promised Rescuer who would come from Abraham’s family. V5,14,16

**Practice:** Share 3 Circles or your story & Memorize story summary: Promise Made

## Explore More:

1. What additional promises concerning the Rescuer do we see in the following texts? 2 Sam. 7:8-16. Son of David, Sovereign King who brings eternal peace. Isa. 53:1-12 A suffering servant who will live a sinless life, die a sacrificial death, and defeat death. \*If possible briefly story through the OT pausing to answer this question at these 2 texts. (Isaac, Jacob/Israel, 12 sons/tribes, Enter Egypt via Joseph, Exodus, Law, Wandering in the wilderness, Tabernacle through Moses, promised land through Joshua, the judges, The kings: Saul, David, Solomon, Kingdom divided (10 northern tribes Israel, 2 southern tribes Judah), Exile, Prophets, Return to land, 400 years of waiting.)

## Look Forward

### Set Goals:

- “If this is God’s Word how will you love & obey Him this coming week?”
- “Who will you share this story with this coming week?” Invite them to join the group next week.

**Pray:** God help me to love you, obey your Word, and be grateful that you came to our rescue.



# The Story - Rescue: Is There Any Hope? 2

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying God’s Word and sharing God’s Word. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’

## Look Up

**Setup:** Over 2000 years had passed since Abraham’s death and God had not yet sent the Rescuer. Israel was awaiting the Rescuer, but their expectations were incomplete and self-serving. They looked for a conquering king who would crush their enemies (mainly Rome) and exalt them to political prominence in the world. The Rescuer God would send would be far better than this.

**What** were the three clues we remembered from last week about the Rescuer? Son of David, Abraham, suffering servant. Read Matthew 1:1

**What** do you know about Jesus? Began his ministry around the age of 30. He proved that He was truly God by living a sinless life, teaching with great wisdom and power, healing the sick, walking on water, calming storms, casting out demons, knowing men’s hearts, and raising the dead. He proved that He was truly human because He wept, laughed, ate, grew tired, bled, and was sorrowful. After 3 years of ministry...

**Tell The Story:** Mark 15:1-16:8 God rescues humanity from sin & death

**Retell the story together** from Mark 15:1-16:8

**Read the story aloud** from Mark 15:1-16:8

**Summarize Story:** Promise Kept

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice:** Share 3 Circles or your story & Memorize story summary: Promise Made

### Explore More:

1. Who is Jesus? Truly human & truly God. (Heb. 1:1-3, 2:14-18 Philippians 2:5-11)
2. Why is Jesus’ sinless life good news? He did what Adam, and the rest of us, could/would not do. (Heb. 4:15, JN 8:29, 2 Pt. 2:22)
3. Why is Jesus’ death good news? Jesus has conquered sin. He willingly died the death we deserve in order to save us from the power and penalty of sin, and bring us to God. (2 Cor. 5:21, Col. 1:21-22, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18)
4. Why is Jesus’ resurrection good news? Jesus has conquered death and offers us eternal life with God that we do not deserve. (JN 6:40, 11:25, Rom. 6:4, 1 Pt. 1:3)
5. What should our response to this good news be? Repent/Turn, Believe, & Follow Jesus (Mk. 1:15-18, JN 14:15)

## Look Forward

### Set Goals:

- “If this is God’s Word how will you love & obey Him this coming week?”
- “Who will you share this story with this coming week?” Invite them to join the group next week.
- Read Galatians 3:7-14 and think about God’s rescue plan and our response to it.

**Pray:** God help me to love you, obey your Word, and respond rightly to the good news of rescue in Jesus.



# The Story -Restoration: What Will The Future Hold?

## Look Back

**Care** for each other by giving a brief life update & cast vision for **loving accountability**:

“Each week we all will make specific goals at the conclusion of our meeting. We will set goals in two areas: obeying God’s Word and sharing God’s Word. Then, on the following week, we lovingly hold one another accountable by asking ‘How did you do last week with your goals?’

## Look Up

**Setup:** After Jesus’ resurrection, He remained with his disciples 40 days before ascending to heaven. His final command was for his followers to make disciples of all people and He promised to provide them with His power & presence to guarantee the missions success. He did this by sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of them. As the disciples preached the good news of Jesus and loved loudly thousands of others decided to follow Jesus. This gathering of Jesus’ followers was called the Church. For over two thousand year now the Church has grown throughout the world as Jesus’ followers love Him and obey His commands. This will continue until the good news is proclaimed throughout the whole world, and then the end will come.



**Tell The Story:** Revelation 20:10-21:1-8

**Retell the story together** from Revelation 20:10-21:1-8

**Read the story aloud** from Revelation 20:10-21:1-8

**Summarize Story:** Judgment, All Things New, Forever With God

**Discover:** Pray then use the Sword Bible Study method to discuss the story and reveal its meaning for our lives.

**Practice:** Share 3 Circles or your story & Memorize story summary:

### Explore More:

1. Does God desire for anyone to go to hell? No, He has provided a way for us to dwell with Him peacefully for all of eternity. (JN 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:3-4)
2. What type of people will hell be filled with? Sinners who have rejected God’s free gift of salvation in Jesus. (Rev. 21:8)
3. What type of people will heaven be filled with? Those from every nation who love God more than anything else. (Rev. 7:9-10)
4. Discuss this quote: “The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?” - John Piper

## Look Forward

### Set Goals:

- “If this is God’s Word how will you love & obey Him this coming week?”
- “Who will you share this story with this coming week?” Invite them to join the group next week.

**Pray:** God help me to love you, obey your Word, and rejoice that, for those in Christ, you will one day make all things new.

## Stories Of Hope

Can I use different stories or change the order of the current stories? Yes. The process is much more important than the content. So feel free to experiment with different stories or the order as the Holy Spirit leads you. We recommend sticking to stories of Jesus from the Gospels that contrast Jesus with man. **We do not recommend changing the 3 thirds process.**

What if everyone in my group accepts Jesus before we finish? If this happens, disciple them; teach them to obey the commandments of Jesus with the Commands of Christ study.

The Stories of Hope: A Discovery Bible study to lead with people who are far from God

- 1) Hope for the Rejected: The Sinful Woman - Luke 7:36-50
- 2) Hope for the Non-Religious: (Pharisee & Tax Collector) - Luke 18:9-17
- 3) Hope Changes things: (Zacchaeus) - Luke 19:1-10
- 4) Hope Forgives: (Unforgiving Servant) - Matthew 18:21-35
- 5) Hope Through Death: (Thieves on the Cross) - Luke 22:66 - 23:25
- 6) Hope Rose from the Dead: (Resurrection) - Luke 24:1-20
- 7) Hope is Pursuing You: (The Great Banquet) - Luke 14:12-33
- 8) Hope is Waiting for You: (Prodigal Son) - Luke 15:11-32