



THE DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
THE SEVEN CORE VALUES OF A DISCIPLE

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Published by LifeSource Christian Church
382 Eastern Valley Way
Chatswood NSW 2067
AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

The greatest decision a person can make is giving one's life to Christ. The Bible calls this event being born again (John 3.3). It is certainly a momentous event.

However, conversion is not the end of the journey but simply the beginning. Once we have been converted, the next phase of our journey is discipleship. Many people don't come into maturity because they fail to understand the difference between conversion and discipleship. Allow me to explain the difference. Conversion focuses more on BELIEVING in Jesus while discipleship focuses more on BECOMING like Jesus.



Jesus command to us is given in Matthew 28:19-20.

“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”.



Conversion is “me” focused while discipleship is “others focused.

Conversion focuses on dealing with my sins, my salvation, me going to heaven. Jesus is seen as my Saviour, my rescuer, my redeemer, my bridge to eternal life. Discipleship doesn't just focus on “what can God do for me” it focusses on “what can I do for God?” Jesus is not only my Saviour but my Lord. He is given ownership of my life. The questions a disciple asks are, “How can I love God more?” “How can I love people more?” “How can I better live a godly lifestyle?” How can I better share the gospel?”

Conversion focuses on being safe in Christ and what my privileges are as a Christian; while discipleship is about discovering who I am in Christ and what are my responsibilities as a Christian.

Conversion is mainly about entering the Kingdom of God, while discipleship is more about extending the Kingdom of God. Conversion is about discovering the grace of God while discipleship focuses on obedience to the will of God and fulfilling God's special purpose. Conversion is the beginning of our Christian journey. The next step is discipleship.

SESSION 1

The Bible encourages people who are born again to become disciples Matthew 28:19-20. *“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 things that I have commanded you.”*

THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE

Our English word disciple comes from the Greek word, MATHETEUS. This word means to be a follower of someone's doctrines; becoming so attached to one's teacher as to not only follow the teacher's doctrines but also the teacher's conduct of life. The word disciple occurs 269 times in the New Testament while in contrast, the word Christian is found only three times.

The concept of discipleship was in use from the times of the ancient Greeks. The word was used to describe an apprentice, a student, a pupil, a follower of a teacher. In the times of Jesus many rabbis had their own disciples. John the Baptist had his own disciples, as did the Pharisees. The tradition of first century Israel was for a young man to choose a rabbi. (In some cases, the rabbi chose his own disciples). A disciple would follow his rabbi, learn from him, absorb his teachings, sayings and concepts and imitate his way of life.

When someone repents of their sins and places their faith in Christ, they are converted. They ought to immediately begin their journey of discipleship, following after Jesus. Sadly many Christians become stuck on the convert level and fail to become disciples. Paul encountered this problem in the Corinthian church. *“And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people (disciples) but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ (converts). I fed you with milk and not solid food for until now you were not able to receive it”...1 Corinthians 3:1-2.*

The challenge before us is to understand what Jesus meant when He said, “Go and make disciples!” We need to understand what differentiates a convert from a disciple and consequently encourage people to move from conversion into discipleship. From the definition in Matthew 28: 19-20, two things are made clear:

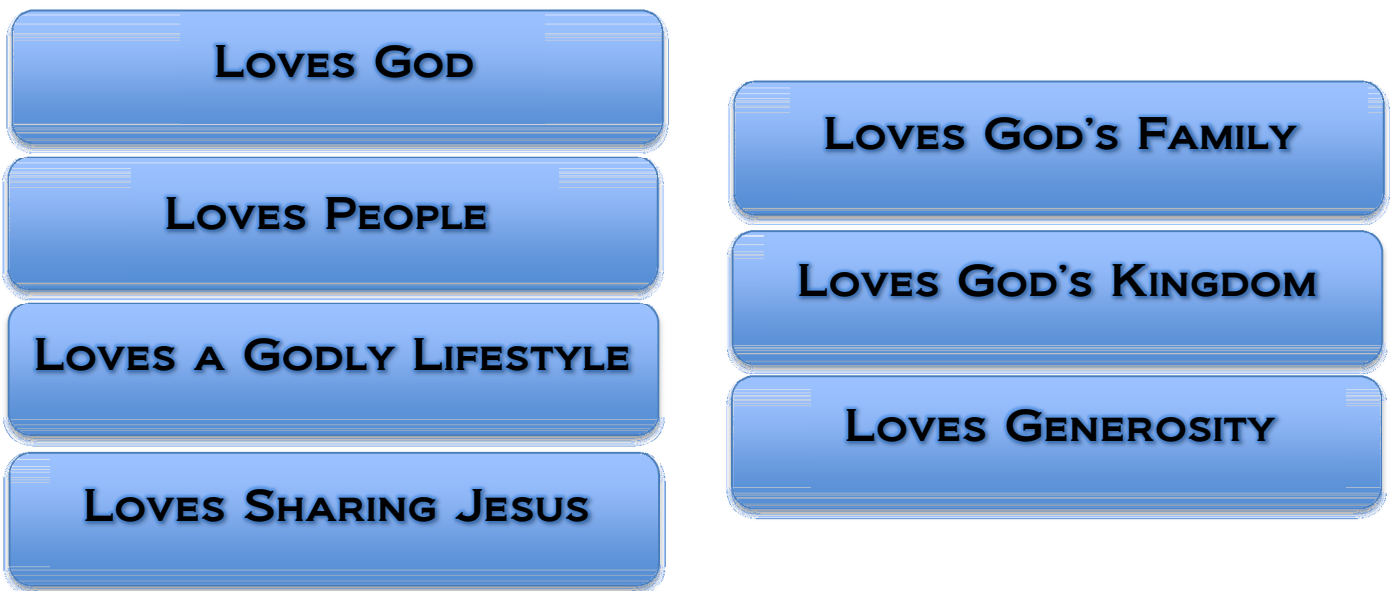
1. A disciple is baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Baptism is usually covered in a new Christian's course).
2. A disciple observes all things that Christ commanded.

The next challenge we have is to understand what were the commands, cultures and values Jesus expected His disciples to observe. From a detailed study of the New Testament, I have come up with seven cultures that Jesus taught. I believe that if we can absorb these seven cultures, we will become a disciple of Christ. I believe that all of the teaching of Jesus revolved around these seven cultures. He spent three years communicating them to His disciples. Every message that Jesus taught or preached was an aspect of one or more of these cultures.

These seven cultures are like the ingredients to a recipe. Every recipe has basic ingredients and if one of these ingredients is left out, the outcome is incomplete. So too is the making of a disciple.

THE 7 CULTURES OF A CHRISTIAN DISCIPLE

A disciple is someone who:



This series is about unpacking these seven cultures. Let us begin with the first culture of a disciple.

LOVES GOD

When Jesus was asked by a religious leader, which was the foremost commandment, He quotes from the Old Testament, *“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment.”* Mark 12:29-30.

One cannot be a disciple until God takes the pre-eminent position in our lives. It must come out of a revelation of who God is: the creator, the sovereign Lord, the ruler of the universe. He alone deserves that pre-eminent place of worship and adoration.

Allow me to share with you four of the ways we can show God that we love Him:

1. Obedience
2. Reading God’s Word
3. Prayer
4. Praise and Worship

The single most important characteristic that declares our love for God is **Obedience.**

“For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments.”
1 John 5:3

1. OBEDIENCE

In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus tells a story of what some people thought was the evidence of loving God and thus gain entry into the Kingdom of God. Some thought that calling Jesus Lord was the evidence. Some thought that prophesying was the evidence. Some thought that casting out evil spirits was the evidence. Others thought that doing miraculous signs was the evidence. Jesus tells them that the evidence is obeying the will of my Father in Heaven. He made it abundantly clear that the number one thing God is looking for in our lives is OBEDIENCE.

Jesus was the perfect role model of obedience. The first recorded words of Jesus in the Gospels were spoken as a 12-year-old boy. *“I must be about my Father’s business.”* Luke 2:49. Time and time again Jesus reiterates His commitment to obedience. *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me.”* John 4:34. *“I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.”* John 6:38. *“... Nevertheless not my will but your will be done.”* Luke 22:42. *“I have finished the work which you have given me to do.”* John 17:4.

By obeying God, Jesus did what others could not do. He did what Lucifer couldn't do. He did what fallen Angels couldn't do. He did what Adam and Eve were unable to do. He did what the children of Israel were unable to do. Because Jesus obeyed, God highly exalted Him and gave him the Name which is above every other Name. Philippians 2:8-11.

Obedience is the duty of every disciple of Christ. Obedience reveals what we really believe about God. If we are not willing to obey, it also reveals what we believe about God. It reveals that we do not believe God has our best interests at heart. It reveals that we really do not trust God. It reveals that we do not believe God's way is always the best alternative.

We may not be able to fast track God's plans for our lives but one thing is for sure, the quickest way to delay God's plans is to disobey Him. It will send you into the wilderness. However, obedience on the other hand, will keep you close and connected to God's heart. Obedience will cause you to be a delight in God's sight. Obedience will cause God to call you His friend. *"You are My friend if you do whatever I command you."* John 15:14.

SESSION 2

LOVES GOD CONTINUED

In John 15:7-8, Jesus connected discipleship to abiding in Him and allowing His words to abide in us. Reading God's Word and allowing it to produce Godly outcomes in our lives is a sign that we love God and are committed to Him. *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples"*.

2. GOD'S WORD

FOUR GOOD REASONS WHY WE SHOULD READ THE BIBLE.



The Bible is the Word of God.
It is the revelation of what
God wants us to know.

If we love God, we love the
Word of God.

It is through the Word of God
that we develop a greater
understanding of God.

Some people read it like a
textbook, only to gather
information.

A disciple reads it like a letter
to gather revelation.






Every page contains a
message of God's love
towards us.



1. It is God's inspired revelation to mankind.
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable the doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16
2. It shows us God's will for our lives.
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105
3. It renews our thinking so that we can develop a Christian mindset.
"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2
4. It gives us the answers to our existence, our purpose, life, death and salvation.
"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

FIVE THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN READING GOD'S WORD

This is easy to remember when we use the acronym **SPADE**. We need it to dig into God's Word. A good habit to develop is to read the Bible with a notebook or journal. Taking notes is a great way of remembering what you just read and what God is saying to you.

-  Is there a **s**in we need to confess?
-  Is there a **p**romise we need to claim?
-  Is there an **a**ttitude we need to adopt?
-  Is there a **d**irection we need to take?
-  Is there an **e**xample we need to follow?

It is a good thing to develop a habit of reading to or listening to the Bible on a daily basis. Just 15 minutes a day means the average person will read the Bible from cover to cover in one year. Every true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ is a lover of God's word. Make sure you read it or listen to it continually. It will leave the fingerprints of God on your soul.

(See Appendix 2 for a Bible Reading Plan that will enable you to read the Bible in one year).

SESSION 3

LOVES GOD CONTINUED

3. PRAYER

If there was one person who didn't need to pray, that person would have to be Jesus. But on the contrary, what we see in the gospel record is that Jesus was in constant prayer. He prayed at His baptism. Luke 3:21. He began his ministry with 40 days of prayer and fasting. Luke 4:1-14. His ministry was earmarked by early-morning prayer and all nights of prayer. Luke 6:12. He was in prayer when arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke 22:39. He was in prayer on the cross. Luke 23:26-46. He led his disciples in prayer when He met with them after the resurrection. John 20:22. He is now in heaven still praying for us. Hebrews 7:25.

8 Descriptions of Prayer

1. Prayer is communication with God.
2. Prayer is connecting to the presence of God.
3. Prayer is a declaration of our faith in God.
4. Prayer is an affirmation of our relationship with God.
5. Prayer involves unburdening our innermost thoughts to God.
6. Prayer involves expressing gratitude to God.
7. Prayer involves opening our hearts and listening to God.
8. Prayer is the most powerful force known to man.

8 Reasons Why We Ought to Pray

1. Prayer draws us near to God. *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."* James 4:8
2. Prayer gives us influence with God. *"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* James 5:16
3. Prayer releases burdens and stress. *"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."* Philippians 4:6
4. Prayer gives us power to overcome temptation. *"Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation..."* Matthew 26:41
5. Prayer allows the Holy Spirit to come into our situation. *"And when they had prayed, the place where they assembled was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness."* Acts 4:31

6. Prayer gives us access to Heaven's storehouse. "Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." Matthew 7:7
7. Prayer acts a reminder note to God. "...your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God." Acts 10:4
8. Prayer allows us to enter into partnership with God. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38

Someone once said that prayer is like laying a set of railway tracks between you and God. Once the track is complete, the locomotive of God's provision can move freely between you and God. Someone else once said that prayer is like swinging an axe against a tree. Every swing of the axe chips away at the tree until finally one last blow is enough to bring the tree down. Jesus said in Luke 18:1 "... Men always ought to pray and not lose heart." Don't stop praying. You might only be one prayer away from your breakthrough.

Make prayer your daily habit. Those who love God love to spend time with Him in prayer.

4. PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Whenever the Bible talks about heaven and gives a description of it, worship is always mentioned. Isaiah sees the Lord sitting on his throne surrounded by angels crying out to one another, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:1-3. In Revelation, the apostle John catches a glimpse of heaven. He also sees the throne of God with four living creatures crying out day and night, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:1-11.

7 Old Testament Hebrew words for Praise and Worship

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Worship will be the
centerpiece of heaven.

It is the culture of God's
people.

We need to begin to
understand it and enter into it
now.

I believe that worship is the
practice that declares the
intensity of our love for God.

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1. **SHACHAH**
To bow oneself down; to prostrate; to pay homage to royalty. Genesis 22:5 "I will go yonder and worship (shachah)..."
2. **BARAK**
To bless, to declare blessedness, to kneel in an act of adoration. Psalm 72:15 "prayer will also be made for Him continually, and daily He shall be praised (barak)."
3. **HALEL**
To boast about; to rave about; to make a show. Psalm 35:18 "I will praise (halel) You among many people."

4. **ZAMAR**
To make music, play an instrument accompanied by singing; to celebrate in song and music. Psalm 108:1 *"I will sing and give praise (zamar)."*
5. **YADAH**
To hold out the hand, to worship with extended hands. Psalm 57:9 *"I will praise (yadah) You, Lord, among the peoples."*
6. **SHABACH**
To address in a loud tone; to commend loudly. Psalm 63:3 *"Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise (shabach) You."*
7. **TODAH**
Adoration, specifically as in a choir of worshippers, giving thanks as an offering. Jeremiah 3:11 *"... Who will bring the sacrifice of praise (todah) into the house of the Lord."*

8 New Testament Greek words for Praise and Worship.

1. **EULOGEO**
To speak well of, to bless and invoke a benediction upon. Luke 1:64 *"Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke praising (eulogeo) God."*
2. **AINEO**
To sing praises; to tell a narration which came to denote praise. Romans 15:11 *"Praise (aineo) the Lord of all that you Gentiles! Laud him all you peoples!"*
3. **HUMNEO**
To sing an ode; to celebrate God in song; to sing a hymn. Hebrews 2:12 *"I will declare your name to my brethren, in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise (humneo) to you."*
4. **DOXA**
Honour, praise and worship; to think well of; to have high and favoured opinion. Luke 2:14 *"Glory (doxa) to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"*
5. **EUSEBEO**
To be devout, reverent and pious; to show respect. Acts 17:23 *"the one whom you worship (eusebeo) without knowing, Him I proclaimed to you."*
6. **LATREUO**
To minister to God; to render homage; to do the service of worship. This worship is done not under compulsion, but from an understanding that it attracts the Lord's acceptance and reward. Acts 24:14 *"I worship (latreuo) the God of my father's."*
7. **SEBOMAI**
To revere; to adore; a worshipper of the true God. Acts 16:14 *"Now a certain woman named Lydia...from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped (sebomai) God."*

8. **PROSKUNEO**

To kiss, like a puppy licking his owner's hand; to prostrate oneself in homage. It is the recognition that one is addressing someone much superior, and expresses a willingness to humble oneself paying homage to the one who is greater. John 4:23 *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship (proskuneo) the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”*

As one can see from these Hebrew and Greek words, the words for praise and worship in the Bible show a complete and utter devotion from the worshipper towards the one who is worshipped. We can never worship without humbling ourselves. Neither can we worship with a heart of pride. We can only worship when there is a revelation of the greatness and splendour of our God. It is out of this revelation that true worship freely flows.

CONCLUSION

The first revelation of a disciple is love for God. Love for God flows freely when the disciple has a correct revelation of who God is and what God requires from our lives. A disciple will want to obey God and to read God's Word to discover truths about God, about humanity and about God's purpose for the human race. Love for God is also demonstrated by our prayer life and how we worship Him. These are the hallmarks of the person who is a passionate God lover.

SESSION 4

LOVES PEOPLE

In Mark 12:31 Jesus states that after loving God, the most important commandment is....” *you shall love your neighbour as yourself.*” One cannot be a disciple of Christ unless one is willing to love people. In order to love people we must value people no matter what ethnic, cultural or social background. We must understand that everyone is created in God's image and everyone is unique and wonderful in their own way.

1. WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO LOVE?

Jesus answers this question by introducing the parable of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37. Let us look at five lessons we learn from the Good Samaritan.

1. Don't only love people who share your ethnicity, creed, culture, values, or world view. Luke 10:33 “*But a certain Samaritan...*”

The powerful message in this parable was the way the injured man was shown kindness from someone who came from a hated ethnic race. The Jews and the Samaritans would normally not have anything to do with each other.

2. Loving people is seeing people where they really are. Luke 10:33 “*But when he saw him...*”

Many people look but don't see. The priest and the Levite both looked, but neither of them saw the need of the wounded man. The Samaritan, when he looked, didn't see an enemy or someone who had caused him grief. He saw a wounded man who needed his help. We need to ask God to open our eyes so that we may be able to see with His eyes rather than see through our coloured lenses and biased filters.

3. Loving people is about showing compassion. Luke 10:33 “*..he had compassion.*”

There is a huge difference between feeling sorry and being moved with compassion. Feeling sorry usually only generates an emotion while feeling compassion not only generates an emotion but also an action.

4. Loving people is about making a sacrifice. Luke 10:34 *“so he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.”*

We can't really say that we really love someone unless we are willing to make a sacrifice. A sacrifice involves giving something that costs us. The Good Samaritan gave his time, his resources, and his comfort. He took the wounded man to the inn and stayed with him the night looking after him personally.

5. Loving people is about making a commitment. Luke 10:35 *“take care of him and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.”*

Anyone can start something, but to stick it out and see it through to completion takes an act of personal commitment to the task. Loving people means that we are there right to the end. Real love just keeps going. It overcomes the obstacles, the offences, the difficulties and says, “I am committed to loving you regardless.”

2. HOW TO BECOME A PEOPLE LOVER

As humans, we have an amazing capacity to either love people or hate people. One of the sad things in life is mankind's propensity to hate each other. From the creation of the world, when Cain killed his brother Abel, people have made decisions to either love or hate. God commands us to love, but that is not always easy. We have to overcome all sorts of prejudice, racism, and pre-programmed misunderstandings about people so that we can truly love them.

The challenge we all face is how can we become better at loving people? Here are two suggestions; maybe you can add more yourself.

1. Value everyone's uniqueness.

There is no production line human being. We are all created as a “one and only”. We all have been made in God's image (Genesis 1:27) and that makes us very special indeed. Every human is fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 No one shares our fingerprints. No one shares our voiceprint. No one shares our eye patterns. No one shares our DNA. Our uniqueness is a scientific fact. Because every human being is unique, we ought to value and esteem people as a distinct masterpiece of God's creation.

2. Get a revelation of how God values people.

Psalm 8:9 tells us *"What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him?"* God sees us as so important and valuable that He came to visit with us. The next verse tells us God made us a little lower than Elohim, the Hebrew word for God. The literal meaning of this verse is that in God's universe, man's position is so high that it is placed just a little lower than God.

No human being is disposable. Everyone is valuable and in God's eyes has been made to be crowned with glory and honour. On this planet, mankind has been given the glorious authority of having dominion to rule and to reign over all the works God has made. Psalm 8:6 *"You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet."*

Jesus treated everyone as special. The gospel is full of accounts of Jesus treating the outcasts and the notorious as special people. He loved the leper. He loved the sinners. He loved the tax collectors. He esteemed women. He embraced the children. In fact Jesus loved the whole world so much that He was willing to lay down His life in order to save everyone. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8.

SESSION 5

LOVES PEOPLE CONTINUED

3. HOW TO FORGIVE OTHERS

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One of the biggest issues we need to confront when loving others is the issue of forgiveness.

Our love for others will become very selective unless we learn to forgive.
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One of the key elements in becoming a Christian is the realization that we have offended God and we are in need of His forgiveness. Forgiveness is the gift of God that is given to us after we have repented of our sins and placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:7 tells us that *"In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins according to the richness of his grace."* A disciple therefore, not only lives in the revelation of forgiveness but also lives in a spirit of giving forgiveness to those who had sinned against us.

1. The Bible commands us to forgive others.

Matthew 6:12: *"to the degree that we forgive others, God forgives us."*

Matthew 6:14: *"If we forgive the sins of others, God will forgive our sins."*

Matthew 6:15 *"If we don't forgive the sins of others, God will not forgive us."*

2. What forgiveness is not:

- (i) It's not necessarily forgetting.
- (ii) It's not necessarily excusing the wrong.
- (iii) It's not necessarily trusting the wrong doer.

3. Six factors involved in forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness comes from a revelation and a reflection of the Heart of God.

God is a God of mercy and He is willing to grant us mercy on the condition that we show mercy to others. A disciple ought to do nothing less than reflect the heart of God. Because grace has been given to me, I ought also be a dispenser of grace. Because mercy has been shown to me, I ought also show mercy to others. Because forgiveness has been bestowed upon me, I ought also bestow forgiveness upon others. Because love has been freely demonstrated to me, I ought also demonstrate love to others. These principles are clearly spoken about in the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35). Take time to read this parable.

2. Forgiveness is an act of the will.

Forgiveness is a choice not a feeling. Many times I don't feel like giving but I choose to do so. Many times I don't feel like getting up in the morning but I choose to do so. Many times I don't feel like being polite and courteous but I choose to do so. Our life becomes a mess if we make decisions purely based on feelings. We need to make decisions based on what is right and obedience to God's Word. God commands us to forgive. God's command about forgiveness leaves no room for compromise. *"And when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in Heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in Heaven forgive your trespasses."* Mark 11:25-26.

3. Forgiveness involves a grieving process for wrongs done to you.

As humans we were designed by God to have feelings. Grief is not a negative feeling but a human feeling. Even the Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). Good grief involves processing your emotions, while bad grief involves repressing your emotions. The important thing to do with grief is to talk about it with caring people. Give yourself permission to weep if you feel you need to. Learn to cast your cares and griefs upon the Lord because He cares for you. *"Casting all your cares upon Him for He cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7. Learn to see God in every situation. He has the solution to every challenge that you face.

4. Forgiveness accepts that we can't change the past but we can change our attitude to it.

There is nothing in our past that we can change. We cannot go back and choose a better alternative (if only). Our past is set in concrete. We must be able to accept what happened in order to move on. What we can change is our attitude and perspective about the event. What others meant for evil, God can bring it around and make good to come out of it. This is the perspective that Joseph had on his tragedy. (Genesis 50:20). The apostle Paul also speaks about this truth in Romans 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose."*

One of the areas with which many people battle, is forgiving themselves. Some people find it easier to forgive others than to forgive themselves. If God has forgiven you, don't make yourself greater than God by not forgiving yourself.

5. Forgiveness is a continual event.

Forgiveness is not just a one off event, it is a continual event. Just because we have forgiven an offence once doesn't mean we don't have to forgive that same offence again. To take up the offensive again is something that is not difficult. Sometimes it may be triggered by hearing a similar story or it may be triggered by reading a book or watching a movie. It may also be triggered by a dream or a memory. The Lord's Prayer reminds us that forgiveness is a daily event. Matthew 6:12 "*And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*" Whenever the resentment rises to the surface, it is time to forgive again.

6. Forgiveness is about letting go.

In order to bring closure to the event we must let go. We can talk about it, discuss it, analyse it, dissect it but finally it's all about putting the teaching together and letting go. John Bevere describes unforgiveness as the "Bait of Satan." While we hold onto the bait we remain entrapped. It is the enemies' strategy to keep Christians locked in past prisons. Jesus came to set you free. Let go of the resentment and move on to freedom.

CONCLUSION

The first culture of a disciple is loving God. The second culture of a disciple is loving people. Every other Christian culture is only a subculture of these two. Jesus implied that the fulfillment of these two cultures enables us to obey all the commandments in the Bible. If there is one focus for the disciple it must be to love God and to love people and to try to bring them together.

SESSION 6

LOVES A GODLY LIFESTYLE

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that as disciples we are “... a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that we may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.”

We have a calling, a responsibility to represent God to those in darkness. One of the greatest gifts we can give others is to live a godly lifestyle. To live in wholeness and spiritual health reflecting the character and goodness of God is our greatest testimony. In order to do this, the disciple needs to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit. He will enable us to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. He will also enable us to produce the fruit of the spirit that is all about Godly character.

1. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE

1. The carnal Christian

In 1 Corinthians 3:1,3,4 Paul accuses the Corinthian Christians of being carnal. To be carnal means that we live life according to our base nature dominated by sinful desires. Another term that Paul uses it is to live “*according to the flesh*” (Romans 8:5-9). In these passages Paul makes it clear that as Christians we can be living below God’s optimum for our lives.

2. The unrighteous person

This person is separated from God because they are still in their sin. 1 Corinthians 6:9 “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.*” This person may do good deeds but this is not enough. Good deeds cannot make us righteous. Righteousness comes as a gift from God to those who desire it and ask for the righteousness that comes from Jesus. “*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

3. The spiritual Christian

This is the person who is being saved by faith in Christ and repentance from sin. Romans 8:1 “*There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*” This person walks in partnership with the Holy Spirit, dying to all selfish and carnal desires.

2. HOW TO LIVE A GODLY LIFESTYLE

1. Walk in the Spirit.

Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16 *“Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”* As a Christian we choose to what nature we submit. The nature of the spirit or the nature of the flesh. If we give room to the Holy Spirit, He will manifest His fruit in our lives. His fruit is an automatic manifestation of walking with Him. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These beautiful attributes are the atmosphere of Heaven. The Holy Spirit is preparing us now to be a citizen of Heaven for eternity.

2. Overcome the world.

The apostle John tells us in 1 John 2:15 *“Do not love the world or the things in the world.”* He then defines what he means by the world in 1 John 2:16 as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (Lust is defined as wanting things that do not belong to you and craving after them).

The Bible makes it clear that there is a worldly system and a Godly system. As a disciple we are to live life according to the kingdom of God system (the kingdom of God system is described in “Loving God’s Kingdom”) and not the worldly system. We overcome the worldly system by transforming our minds and adopting a new world view. *“And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* Romans 12:2.

3. Overcome the flesh.

The biggest enemy of the spirit is the flesh. Paul describes the flesh as our base nature, the carnal nature, that nature within us that needs to stay crucified with Christ. There is a constant battle between the spirit and the flesh. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:24 *“Those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”* The way we do this is to see ourselves crucified with Christ, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.”* (Galatians 2:20) and to walk daily with the Holy Spirit. *“Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* (Galatians 5:16).

4. Overcome the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober and be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.”* In order to overcome the devil we need to know the word of God. This is how Jesus overcame him when He was tempted in the Wilderness. (Luke 4:4,8,12). Another important way of overcoming the devil is to put on the armour of God. *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:11-18).

The main components of the armour are:



The Helmet of Salvation. Our assurance that God is for us, will be with us and will open up Heaven to us.

The Breastplate of Righteousness. We are made righteous through the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin.

The Belt of Truth. It is truth that has the power to set us free

The Shield of Faith. Our faith is simply our confidence in God and His promises.

The Sword of the Spirit that is The Word of God. It is our main weapon against attacks from the enemy.

The Shoes of the Gospel. The gospel is the power of God to salvation to all who believe.

The Attitude of Prayer. The key that brings God into our situation assuring us of victory in every battle.

5. Discipline ourselves.

Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:8 that “*bodily exercise profits a little but [exercising in] godliness is profitable for all things.*” This gives us a picture of the athlete in the gymnasium who is training and disciplined in all he does so that he may win the prize. We need to be disciplined in our devotional life, our mental life, our moral life, and our social life in order that we may win the prize. The best way to get disciplined is to become accountable to someone. Find an accountability partner and it will help you become an overcomer.

CONCLUSION

The maturity of a disciple should not be measured by information but by behaviour. The chief goal of the disciple should not just be about being better informed about biblical knowledge, though gaining knowledge is a good thing. The chief goal of the disciple is to live a godly lifestyle. The question every disciple needs to ask when confronted with a major decision is “What would Jesus do?” The answer to this question will always reflect a godly lifestyle and enable the disciple to walk in true Biblical Holiness.

SESSION 7

LOVES SHARING JESUS

A disciple understands the message of the gospel and the power of the gospel to transform lives and communities. A disciple is able to say as Paul said, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."* (Romans 1:16). A disciple also seeks to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to share Jesus with more power and boldness. There is no greater message in the whole world than the message of the gospel.

Sharing Jesus is not an optional extra for the disciple, it is a clear command. Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

1. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

If we are to be effective in sharing Jesus, we must have a clear definition of what is evangelism and what is the gospel. According to the Lausanne Convention, evangelism means to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead and that as the reigning Lord He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gifts of the spirit to all who repent and believe. The gospel is this message and evangelism is the spreading or telling of this message.

There are five pillars that make up the gospel message.

1. God's Plan.

When God created man, we were not an afterthought but a specific planned creation. The Bible tells us we were created in God's image, a reflection of God on earth with purpose and destiny. *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."* (Genesis 1:27)

2. Humanity's Problem.

All of us have made mistakes. All of us at one stage or another have done something wrong. The Bible calls our mistakes sin. Sin is not just killing someone or robbing a bank at gunpoint. Even telling a little lie is sin. Another word for sin is missing the mark. It can be explained as not being able to reach God's standards. There are serious consequences to sin. The main three consequences are;



Separation from God

"But your iniquities have separated you from God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear you." (Isaiah 59:2)



An unfulfilled destiny on earth

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Eternity in Hell

"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:15).

3. God's solution.

Contrary to what many people think, there are not many ways to God but only one. God made a unique solution for the consequences of our sins. His unique solution is found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said of himself, *"I am the way the truth and the life no one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6). Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins. When he died upon the cross he exchanged His life for our life, His perfect record for our imperfect record, His righteousness for our sin. *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Humanity's response.

There must be a heartfelt response from humanity in order to receive God's unique solution. We must be willing to turn away from our sins and follow Jesus. *"testifying to Jews and also Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."* Acts 20:21.

5. God's miracle.

The Bible uses many words for this miracle. Some of these words are: salvation, conversion, born-again, redemption, new creation. The miracle involves:

1. Forgiveness of sins.
2. A new nature.
3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
4. Our name written in the Book of Life. Eternity in Heaven.
5. Our own special destiny and God purpose here on earth.

God not only wants us to enjoy eternal life later but abundant life now.

SESSION 8

LOVES SHARING JESUS CONTINUED

2. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said *“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth.”* Jesus expects all of his disciples to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

There are two distinct events that ought to be experienced by every Christian.

1. Conversion.

This happens when a person repents of sins and receives Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The believer is then baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and becomes part of God's family.

2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This is an event subsequent to conversion. The believer must ask for this gift. Rarely is it given automatically. Whilst conversion is for salvation this is for **empowerment**. This empowerment is for three things:

- (i) **Power for evangelism.** *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8
- (ii) **Power for signs that lead to evangelism.** *“And these signs will follow those who believe; In My Name they will cast out demons...they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”* Mark 16:17-18
- (iii) **Power to speak in other languages.** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* Acts 2:4. This may be a language that is known to other people but has never been learnt by the speaker or a Heavenly language that is not understood by people but is understood by God. The Bible tells us there are two types of languages. An earthly language and a Heavenly language. *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...”*(1 Corinthians 13:1)

3. Speaking in Tongues.

Speaking in tongues seems to be a very controversial subject but there is too much evidence in Scripture to leave this question ambiguous. From the scriptural record we see that speaking in tongues is the sign that is usually associated with the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

- (i) On the day of Pentecost they all spoke with other tongues. Acts 2:4.
- (ii) Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17. He testified to the Corinthians that he spoke in tongues more than all of them. 1 Corinthians 14:18
- (iii) Cornelius and his entire household spoke in tongues. Acts 10:46
- (iv) The Ephesian disciples spoke in tongues when they were baptized. Acts 19:6.
- (v) The Corinthian church certainly spoke in tongues. Paul brought correction to the excess. 1 Corinthians 14.
- (vi) Jesus said that believers would speak in tongues. Mark 16:17
- (vii) Paul wished everyone spoke in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:5
- (viii) Paul commanded that we should not forbid anyone speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39.

According to Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 14:2-4, those who are filled with the Holy Spirit receive a prayer language. This prayer language enables the disciple to communicate with God thereby edifying themselves. As the disciple gives out to others it is important that they are replenished. The prayer language is God's way for the disciple to be filled over and over again.

Why is speaking in tongues important to the disciple of Christ?

- 1. It is a special sign Jesus promised believers. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues". Mark 16:17.
- 2. It is a special prayer language. "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries". 1 Corinthians 14:2.
- 3. It edifies me (builds up spiritually) "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries". 1 Corinthians 14:2.

4. How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. One must first be saved.

The apostle Peter said in Acts 2:38 "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus and it you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

2. Seek Earnestly.

In Luke 11:9-13, Jesus tells us to ask and keep on asking and it will be given to us. Seek and keep on seeking and you will find. Knock and keep on knocking and it will be opened to you. If you then know how to give good gifts to your children how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Our desire for the baptism of the Holy Spirit ought to be because we want power to be greater witnesses for Jesus.

3. Receive by Faith.

Everything we receive from God must be by faith. By faith we are saved. By faith we come to God. By faith we receive healing. By faith we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. By faith we speak in new languages. The Holy Spirit doesn't force us to speak in an unknown tongue. He gives us the new language in our thoughts and by faith we speak in the new language.

CONCLUSION

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is an experience every disciple needs to have. Why would we make something an optional extra when Jesus considered it so necessary that He would not allow His disciples to leave Jerusalem until they had been filled with power?

This experience, which is subsequent to conversion, doesn't necessarily make the disciple a better Christian or a holier Christian. It's about becoming a more powerful Christian. This experience is not something received once and then forgotten. Paul's clear message in Ephesians 5:18 is to be continually filled the Holy Spirit. We believe in one baptism in the Holy Spirit but many refillings of the Holy Spirit.

When we are feeling a little tired, a little worn out, a little weary, then it is time to turn to God and pray, "*Lord fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit. Let your power rest upon me.*" Continual refilling ought to be the passion of every Spirit filled Christian.

A disciple, with God's help, ought always to be looking for opportunities to share Jesus with others. There is no greater gift we can share with people than the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

SESSION 9

LOVES GOD'S FAMILY

Jesus made it very clear that one of the clearest defining marks of a disciple was our love for God's family. He said, "*By this will all men know that you are my disciples by the love you show one another.*" John 13:35. There is a distinction, however, between the love we have for others and the love we have for God's family. One cannot truly show love for God's family unless one is attached to God's family, the body of Christ, the church.

1. THE FAMILY OF GOD IS THE CHURCH OF GOD

Let us make it clear that the family of God is the church of God. The church is not a building or a particular denomination. It is the family of God and the people of God. We belong to the Church of God universal that is made up of all believers from all over the world. We also ought to belong to a local church, which is a local gathering of God's family. We have many illustrations of local churches in the Bible. The church in Jerusalem Acts 11:22. The church at Corinth 1 Corinthians 1:2. The 7 churches of Asia Revelation 1:4.

The local church meets regularly in a home or in a public meeting place. By studying the various illustrations of churches in the New Testament, we discover that three things differentiate a church from a gathering of friends.

1. A local church has pastoral leadership.
2. A local church has accountability to apostolic government. (It cannot operate independently and be considered a New Testament model).
3. A local church is made up of a community of believers in relationship with each other to encourage one another to love God, grow spiritually and help others.

2. METAPHORS IN THE BIBLE FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD.

1. God's family

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named". Ephesians 3:14-15

2. A fellowship of believers

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin". John 1:7

What is clear with all of the metaphors is that no one can exist on their own.

We all need one another and we are called to do life with each other.

3. The body of Christ

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually". 1 Corinthians 12:27

4. God's flock

"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly". 1 Peter 5:2

5. A building

"God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building". Ephesians 2:20 (The Message)

6. Temple of God

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are". 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

7. Bride of Christ

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish". Ephesians 5:25-27

3. PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF GOD

To live in a family carries many privileges but with privilege also comes responsibility. I would be negligent as a father if all I did was to give privileges to my children without attaching some responsibility to their privileged position. Our salvation is a huge privilege. Our access to our heavenly Father and to all of His promises is a huge privilege. There are three main responsibilities associated with being in God's family.

1. COMMITMENT TO GOD'S FAMILY.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO GOD'S FAMILY.

3. CARRYING THE CULTURE OF GOD'S FAMILY.

1. COMMITMENT TO GOD'S FAMILY

Psalm 92:13 tells us that *“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God”*. To be planted means we're committed, we belong, our roots have gone down and attached themselves into good soil. The next verse tells us that those who are planted shall bear fruit in old age. They shall be fresh and flourishing.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO GOD'S FAMILY

One of the signs of children maturing is when they start to contribute. While they consume resources and energy they are seen as babies. They are still loved but there is a strong desire in all parents that their children grow and become mature.

You were designed by God to be a contributor not just a consumer. Paul describes it as *“every part does its share.”* (Ephesians 4:16). He is referring to every member of the body functioning and doing what it was designed to do.

Rick Warren in his book “The Purpose Driven Life” says that every person is shaped by God to serve and contribute to the family. **SHAPE** is an acronym of five features we should look to when trying to understand where we can contribute.



S Spiritual gift: Discover your spiritual gifts.



H Heart: listen to your heart and discover your passion.



A Ability: apply your abilities, what are you good at.



P Personality: use your personality. Be yourself.



E Experience: use your experiences. Every event in your life, both positive and negative has a message that can help others.

A disciple doesn't merely attend church. A disciple volunteers, contributes and adds value to the local church. A disciple has decided that they come to church not only to be blessed but to be a blessing.

3. **CARRY THE CULTURE OF GOD'S FAMILY**

Most families look quite similar in many respects however what differentiates one family from another is the culture. Culture carries the values that the family holds dear. To belong to a family, one must believe, accept and adhere to the cultures of the house. Our three distinct cultures can be summarized as:

LOVE GOD
We are commanded to love God passionately

GROW SPIRITUALLY
We are committed to growing spiritually

HELP OTHERS
We are commissioned to helping others

Those who carry the culture of the house become known as sons and daughters of the house. A son or daughter of the house is simply someone who is committed to the house, contributes to the house, and carries the culture of the house.

CONCLUSION

Jesus wants His family to grow, to multiply, to expand, and to fill the whole world with His glory. He said that, "*He will build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" (Matthew 16:18) The type of church that Jesus is building is not a weak and insipid church but a wonderful and excellent church. A church that gives answers to the questions the world is asking. A church that offers love, acceptance and forgiveness. A church that gives people a hope and a future.

The world is looking for such a church. They are looking for a community that will bring healing and not condemnation. Acceptance and not rejection. Hope and not despair. Grace and not legalism. Forgiveness and not condemnation. This is the church that a disciple longs for. This is the community to which they long to belong. This is the true family of God, the church of the living God.

SESSION 10

LOVES GOD'S KINGDOM

The sixth core value of the disciple is Love for God's Kingdom. In Mark 1:15, we find that Jesus' first words in this gospel were: "*The Time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand.*" What did Jesus mean by the Kingdom of God?

What is abundantly clear when we read the gospels is that Jesus spent most of His time preaching about the Kingdom of God. This message was in contrast to the message of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus' message was one of love, acceptance and forgiveness. They preached hate, judgment and condemnation. His was a message of tolerance; theirs was a message of intolerance. His was a message of inclusiveness; theirs was a message of exclusiveness. His message was so radically different they wanted to kill Him over it. However it's this message that Christian disciples must understand, love and pursue.

DEFINITION

The Kingdom of God (or Kingdom of Heaven as is mainly used by Matthew) has two basic meanings. The first is a present meaning (for the now) while the second has a futuristic meaning (the not yet).

1. The present meaning (the now): The Kingdom of God is any place where the will of God is done and His rule and authority is given pre-eminence.
2. The futuristic meaning (the not yet): The Kingdom of God is also a future order into which the followers of Christ will enter after His second coming. There are aspects to God's promises that will happen now but there are others that fit into the "not yet" category. They will happen in the future.

Hebrews 11 is a chapter written about the people of faith in the Bible. For some of them they held on to the promises of God despite the fact that they died before they saw the promises fulfilled. They may not have received their promises in this life but they understood they would in the coming kingdom. "*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*" Hebrews 11:13.

1. THE 8 CORE VALUES OF A KINGDOM PERSON

The clearest teaching we have on the Kingdom of God was given by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew 5,6,7). In this sermon, He gives the 8 core qualities of a Kingdom person. We call these qualities the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10). Jesus explains that Kingdom of God people are blessed.

1. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 5:3. Poor in spirit means God dependent rather than self-dependent. Those who aren't poor are self-dependent and self-reliant. Kingdom people need God and are happy to acknowledge how bankrupt they are without Him.
2. *“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.”* Matthew 5:4. The mourning of Kingdom people is because they grieve over unrighteousness. Kingdom people have a clear understanding of what is righteous and mourn when they are surrounded by unrighteousness. They will be comforted when God finally brings an end to unrighteousness.
3. *“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.”* Matthew 5:5. Meek people are not weak, shy or reluctant to speak but are people who persist in doing the will of God regardless of circumstance. In this context meekness is about how we react and deal with the stuff that life throws at us. Kingdom people always respond with grace and dignity. They don't have to defend themselves because they believe at the end God will deal with the unrighteous and the meek will finally inherit the earth.
4. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled.”* Matthew 5:6. The main goal for Kingdom people is to see God's righteousness rule over the earth. Just as hunger is a driving passion in the natural world for food, Kingdom people are passionate about God's righteousness. One day their hunger shall be satisfied when God's Kingdom is established on the earth.
5. *“Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.”* Matthew 5:7. Kingdom people are those who dispense mercy, grace, compassion and forgiveness to others whether they deserve it or not. Because they have dispensed it to others, it will be returned back to them.
6. *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.”* Matthew 5:8. Those with a pure heart have had their guilt, their sin and their unrighteousness removed. This is hallmark of a Kingdom person, purity of heart and consequently they can enter into God's presence and see God.

7. *“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.”* Matthew 5:9. Peacemakers are lovers of peace who try to make peace wherever they go. Kingdom people are drawn to peace and not to chaos. Because peace is the culture of heaven, those who carry this heavenly culture are called sons/children of God.
8. *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”* Matthew 5:10. Those who are persecuted for righteousness sake are those who are uncompromising over the big issues and will not back down even in the face of opposition. Kingdom people do not compromise on their commitment to God even if it means being persecuted. They are willing to exchange the accolades of this world for a place in the kingdom of heaven.

SESSION 11

LOVES GOD'S KINGDOM CONTINUED

2. TWO METAPHORS FOR KINGDOM PEOPLE

1. They are the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13). They make a difference wherever they go. They make a positive impact on their world. They influence the flavor of life around them.
2. They are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14-16). They dispel darkness wherever they go. They are lovers and carriers of God's light.

3. SIX KINGDOM CULTURES

From Matthew 5:17-48, Jesus contrasts Old Testament cultures with the new Kingdom cultures. He introduces the new cultures with this statement, "*You have heard that it was said..... But I say to you....*"

1. The culture of reconciliation and forgiveness - Matthew 5:21-26

The old culture saw murder as wrong but not hate. The new kingdom culture asks us to remove hate out of our hearts and replace it with love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

2. The culture of purity – Matthew 5:27-30

The old culture saw adultery as wrong. The new kingdom culture takes it one step further and tells us that lusting and desiring to commit adultery is the beginning of wrong doing.

3. The culture of lifelong commitment – Matthew 5:31-32

The old culture left the door open for "any cause" divorce. The new kingdom culture tells us that divorce is always wrong except for sexual infidelity. It encourages couples to commit to lifelong faithful marriages.

4. The culture of being truthful – Matthew 5:33-37

The old culture allowed for various degrees of truth telling. The differentiation being how intense the oath was as to how truthful was the statement being declared. The new kingdom culture encourages the kingdom person to always tell the truth. There is no need to make an oath because kingdom people always tell it as it is.

5. The culture of grace – Matthew 5:38-42

The old culture allowed for immediate vindication of wrong done if it was proven in a court of law. The new kingdom culture encourages personal grace and personal forgiveness to wrong doers

6. The culture of love – Matthew 5:43-48

The old culture allowed for people to harbour hate in their hearts towards their enemies. The new kingdom culture encourages us to love everyone, both friends and enemies.

4. THREE THINGS GOD EXPECTS FROM KINGDOM PEOPLE MATTHEW 6:1-18

This next passage assumes that kingdom people will naturally give, pray and fast. Jesus introduces these thoughts with the words “when you do a charitable deed”, “when you pray”, “when you fast”.

1. God expects us to give – Matthew 6:1-4

Kingdom people will naturally reflect God’s nature and be naturally generous.

2. God expects us to pray – Matthew 6:5-15

Kingdom people will be a praying people because they value connecting to their heavenly father in heaven.

3. God expects us to fast - Matthew 6:16-18

Kingdom people will commit to fasting because they are willing to demonstrate, when needing to do so, that their love for God is stronger than their love for food.

SESSION 12

LOVES GOD'S KINGDOM CONTINUED

5. FIVE THINGS KINGDOM PEOPLE DON'T DO. MATTHEW 6:19-7:6

1. They don't lay-up treasure on earth – Matthew 6:19-23

Kingdom People are kingdom minded, not earthly minded. They understand that earthly treasure is temporal but kingdom treasure is eternal.

2. They don't serve two masters – Matthew 6:24

Kingdom People have escaped the clutches of servitude to the earthly system and have committed themselves to a “God first” mindset.

3. They don't worry about this life - Matthew 6:25-34

Kingdom People have learnt that we overcome worry by realizing that our provision doesn't solely come from chasing after what the world has to offer. Our provision comes from God and His promise that He will provide for our needs as we seek first His kingdom.

4. They don't pass judgments – Matthew 7:1-5

Kingdom People have discovered that it is better to be gracious than judgmental. They understand that as recipients of grace we need to become dispensers of grace.

5. They don't indiscriminately give away what is holy to those who despise holy things – Matthew 7:6

Kingdom People are discerning as to what they give others. They don't try to give unwilling people the deep things of God. They are able to read where people are at and deal with them appropriately.

6. SIX LAWS OF THE KINGDOM. MATTHEW 7:7-29

1. God gives good things to those who ask Him - Matthew 7:7-11

The key to getting prayers answered is persistence and a revelation of the character of God. God will eventually answer His children and give them good things.

2. Do to others as you want them to do to you - Matthew 7:12

This is the centerpiece teaching of how Kingdom People behave towards others. It is called "The Golden Rule." I will treat others as I wish to be treated.

3. The narrow gate leads to life - Matthew 7:13-14

Kingdom People understand that doing whatever pleases self is not the way to please the Father. He is only pleased when we obey Him completely, follow Him without wavering and make His will our life's focus. This is the only road Kingdom People take. They reject all other options.

4. You will know people by the fruit they produce – Matthew 7:15-20

A person's behaviour and deeds will quickly reveal whether or not they are indeed a Kingdom Person. Kingdom People will naturally produce good fruit. Those who aren't will not and cannot.

5. Entrance into the Kingdom comes by obeying God – Matthew 7:21

There is only one prerequisite to living in the Kingdom of God, obedience to the will of God. Nothing else qualifies.

6. Obedience is the foundation upon which Kingdom People build their lives – Matthew 7:24-29

Kingdom People not only listen to the words of Jesus but also are willing to live by them. They obey not out of compulsion or guilt but out of revelation that what Jesus said are truly the words of life. Kingdom People believe that Jesus came to earth to reveal to us the principles that operate in Heaven. Thus enabling us to live the culture of Heaven on earth and preparing us to enjoy the culture of Heaven forever.

CONCLUSION

Jesus spent three years trying to explain to the disciples what the kingdom of God was about. He came to introduce a brand-new world view. Every time Jesus taught, there was some explanation about the Kingdom of God. The Sermon on the Mount is a wonderful summary but it is not a complete explanation about the Kingdom of God.

As disciples, we are encouraged to discard old mindsets and adopt new Kingdom mindsets. Jesus came to change our world view into a heavenly world view. This is the mindset of heaven. It is the mindset God wants all His disciples to adopt. Jesus came to try and get us to absorb the culture of heaven now. After all, it is the culture we will demonstrate eternally.

SESSION 13

LOVES GENEROSITY

While many people exist with the goal of seeing how much they can get out of their world, the Christian disciple exists with another agenda. We're here to see how much we can add to our world. We were created to give life.

The Bible makes it clear that God has given us gifts, talents and resources for a purpose. He expects us to be generous. He expects us to give *"as a good steward of the manifold grace of God."* (1 Peter 4:10).

Giving is made much easier when we understand that God's arithmetic is different to ours. Our arithmetic says, "if I get I will have more but if I give I will have less." God's arithmetic says, *"if you give, it will be given back to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over into your lap."* (Luke 6:38)

We have been given much from God. From what He has given us, He expects us to give back to Him and to others. This not only involves money but our time, our resources, our strength, our gratitude, our love, our generosity of heart and a host of other things. It involves having a generous mindset. It involves reflecting the very nature and culture of heaven. The Bible tells us in John 3:16 that *"God so loved the world that he gave....."* If God did not hold back from us His precious only begotten Son, we too should not hold back from Him anything we consider too precious. Generosity of spirit, heart and soul must be one of the greatest indicators that we are truly children of the Father.

1. OUR GIVING REVEALS FOUR THINGS ABOUT US

1. It reveals who we are

Our giving will always reveal and declare something about us. It will tell others who we are and what we have. It will reveal if we're generous or stingy, open handed or tight fisted. The Queen of Sheba brought gifts to King Solomon revealing to him that she was a Queen of a well-to-do country. (1 Kings 10:1-2,10,13).

2. It reveals what we think of the person to whom we are showing generosity

If we honour someone, it is reflected in our gift. If we love someone, it is reflected in our gift. Proverbs 18:16 says, "*A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.*" Obviously the reverse is also true. A stingy gift can insult people and close doors rather than open them.

What we really honour is seen in our generosity. It is impossible to say we honour something or someone and not show generosity. Proverbs 3:9 says, "*Honour the Lord with all your possessions and with the first fruits of all your increase.*" Giving to God means we honour God. Giving to the work of God means we honour the work of God. Giving to God's servants means we honour God's servants. Our generosity or lack thereof, reveals much about us.

3. It reveals how much we know about God's culture of generosity

If our giving is motivated by guilt or manipulation, it shows that there is little revelation of God's culture. If on the other hand our giving comes from a generous heart, it shows we have a clear revelation of God's culture. Giving must be out of a cheerful response not a begrudging attitude. That's why Paul said to the Corinthians, "*God loves a cheerful giver.*" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

4. It reveals what we really value

It is in the nature of man that we will invest what we value. If we value a good education for our children, we will sacrifice many things in order to get our children a good education. If we value owning our own home, we will sacrifice many things so that we can buy our own home. If we really value the things of God, missions, evangelism, the house of God, helping others, then we will sacrifice so that we can give to what we value. There is nothing that better reveals what we really value than our giving.

SESSION 14

LOVES GENEROSITY CONTINUED

2. OUR GIVING NEEDS TO COME OUT OF AN UNDERSTANDING OF STEWARDSHIP

1 Timothy 6:7: *"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."* The apostle Paul is teaching a simple truth. We came into this world with empty hands and we will leave this world with empty hands. Everything that passes through our hands while we are alive is only on loan. It doesn't belong to us. We are merely stewards of God's possessions while we are on this planet. The truth about stewards is that one day they will have to give an account of all they have stewarded.

In Romans 14:10-12, Paul tells us that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. He then goes on to say that each of us shall give an account of ourselves to God. We will not have to give an account for past sins as this is forgiven by the blood of Jesus. However we will have to give an account about what we did with the resources God gave us. He will ask us what did we do with the talents, what did we do with the money, what did we do with the time and what did we do with all the stuff that passed through our hand?

Many of Jesus' parables were about stewardship.

1. The parable about the talents. Matthew 25:14-30
2. The parable about the unjust steward. Luke 16:1-13
3. The parable about the vineyard owner. Matthew 21:33-46
4. The parable about the sheep and the goats. Matthew 25:31-46
5. The parable about the faithful steward. Luke 12:42-48
6. The parable about the minas. Luke 19:11-27

These are just some of Jesus' teaching on stewardship. Obviously He felt it was so important that He kept teaching it.

3. TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A question that always seems to arise is about tithes and offerings and how it relates to a Christian disciple. Is it a New Testament teaching or should it be relegated to Old Testament laws?

A tithe is giving one tenth of one's income. Tithing is mentioned 32 times in the Old Testament and 7 times in the New Testament. It was first mentioned in Genesis 14:18-21 when Abraham gave 10% of all he had to Melchizedek, King of Salem. In Hebrews 7:1-10, the New Testament explains that Melchizedek was like the son of God and remains a priest forever. What we need to note is that the principle of tithing was established before the Mosaic Law. Abraham tithed to one who was like the son of God.

It is very clear that tithes and many different offerings were part of the Mosaic Law. There is usually no debate about this. It is clear. The question is what carries over into the New Testament? The rule we use is the rule of repetition in the New Testament. Is it taught in the New Testament as a principle?

It is important to note that Jesus reinforces the principle of tithing in Luke 11:42 and Matthew 23:23. When speaking to the Pharisees He tells them that tithing is something they ought to have done. By saying this, Jesus was saying that the principle of tithing is carried into New Testament Kingdom of God culture.

The main difference between tithing under the law and tithing in the New Testament is that under the law refusal to tithe brought down a curse. "*You are cursed with a curse for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.*" (Malachi 3:8-12)

We are now free from the curse of the law because Jesus redeemed us from the curse. "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...*" (Galatians 3:13). However the new revelation is that because Jesus redeemed us, we now belong to Him and all that we have also belongs to Him. Consequently, not only does the first 10% belong to Him but also the remaining 90%. A disciple has no problems giving God the first 10% and also no problem in making the other 90% available to God. As a steward we must ask the question, "Lord what do You want me to do with all that I have that belongs to you?"

4. GIVING THANKS

Not only must we be generous with our resources but also with giving thanks. Psalm 136 is a Psalm of Thanksgiving. Over and over again the psalmist exhorts us to give thanks. *“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. Give thanks to the God of Gods. Give thanks to the Lord of Lords”*. The entire psalm gives us a myriad of reasons why we should give thanks.

The apostle Paul tells us that giving thanks is specifically the will of God for our lives. *“In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* 2 Thessalonians 5:18.

7 Things that Thanksgiving Does.

1. It immediately gives back to your benefactor a gift. The gift of gratitude.
2. It keeps us humble. Giving thanks requires a spirit of gratefulness and humility.
3. It makes us acknowledge goodness. Too often we focus on what we don't have and what is bad rather than what we do have and what is good.
4. It helps us have a positive attitude. Thanksgiving is a positive gesture. It causes us to focus on all the wonderful things we have received.
5. It helps keep our soul supple and sweet. Giving thanks makes us appreciative and goes a long way in keeping us sweet spirited.
6. It gets rid of anxiety. The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:6 *“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God..... And the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds.”* Thankful people spend more time focused on what good thing God will do for them than what bad thing may happen to them. When you look into your future, what do you see? Those who with thanksgiving let their request be made known to God see the answer before it comes.
7. It creates an atmosphere of joy. You can't be around thankful people and not pick up the atmosphere of joy that surrounds them. The opposite is true of ungrateful people. They produce a negative atmosphere. The generous soul understands that it is better to give than to receive. *“...It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35). They understand that the one who scatters increases more. *“There is one who scatters yet increases more...”* (Proverbs 11:24).

The Bible encourages us to enter into God's presence with thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4 "*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.*" It seems that God also enjoys the atmosphere of thanksgiving. In Revelation 4:8-9 God surrounds Himself with four living creatures who continually give thanks. Make it a habit to always begin your prayers with thanksgiving.

CONCLUSION

There are not many things that have the ability of making us more like God than the simple act of giving. Because a disciple wants to be like Jesus, generosity must be demonstrated throughout our life. A disciple will make it a high priority to give thanks, give forgiveness, give with a generous spirit, give time, give encouragement, give gifts and talents, give tithes and offerings, give service, give attention. A disciple sees giving as their defining characteristic.

A disciple understands that we are stewards and as the steward we will one day give an account of what we did with all the resources God entrusted to us. Let us not be stewards that will be embarrassed on that day because we kept the resources to ourselves. But rather, let us be stewards who because of our generosity of hearts will hear on that day, "**WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. ENTER NOW INTO THE JOY OF THE MASTER.**" Matthew 25:23

Once we have added this seventh ingredient the journey reaches a new line in the sand, because we are now:

1. A God lover
2. A People lover
3. Love a Godly lifestyle
4. Love sharing Jesus
5. Love God's family
6. Love God's Kingdom
7. Love generosity

What is left for us to do is to cross the line in the sand and MAKE DISCIPLES OF OTHERS.

We now have the responsibility of helping someone else on their discipleship journey; helping them understand these seven cultures.

**THIS IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP
TO BECOME A DISCIPLEMAKER**

APPENDIX 1

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Assessing the Seven Core Values of a Disciple

The Discipleship Inventory is designed to help assess seven core values in the life of the Disciple:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Love for God | 5) Love for God's Family |
| 2) Love for People | 6) Love for God's Kingdom |
| 3) Love for a Godly Lifestyle | 7) Love for Giving |
| 4) Love for Sharing Jesus | |

The Discipleship Inventory is meant to be a tool that assists the disciple. It definitely is not to be used to manipulate the disciple. This assessment needs to be used with care, love, compassion, and a desire to see the disciple progress in all the basic ingredients necessary in becoming a fully mature disciple of Christ.

To track the disciple's progress, this inventory needs to be re-done every couple of months. The inventory should not ever be directly compared with someone else's. Remember, we're not running a race against someone else. We're running a race against ourselves.

How to Answer the Questions in the Inventory

- NO, means never. This never applies in my life.
- SELDOM, means this hardly ever applies in my life.
- I TRY, means I believe in the statement, and I want it to apply in my life, but as yet, I am not consistent.
- USUALLY, means this statement is the norm in my life. It applies quite consistently, but there is still room for improvement.
- YES, ALWAYS, means I have attained a consistent standard with this statement. It always applies in my life.

Scoring the Inventory

Each section of the Discipleship Inventory is individually scored and factored out of 25 possible points. (Each question is worth up to five points total.)

There is no overall score, and there's no relevance to combining individual section scores for an overall inventory score. Instead individual section scores are used comparatively within the Discipleship Inventory to help the disciple determine where their areas of greatest strength and weakness lie.

Setting an Action Goal

At the conclusion of the questionnaire, make time to prayerfully discuss and agree a goal with your mentoree for which item they will focus on improving over the next 30 days.

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Date of this assessment: _____

	①	②	③	④	⑤
	No, never	Seldom	I Try	Usually	Yes, always
First Core Value: Love for God					
1. I have a passionate love for God <i>Does God have the most important position in your life?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I am submitted and obedient to God's commands <i>Do you live life conscious of what God thinks about your actions?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I love to spend time with God in prayer, praise and worship <i>Do you have a consistent time with God in your daily schedule?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I love to spend time reading or listening to the Word of God <i>Do you systematically read your Bible at least 15 minutes, or even better, 30 minutes a day?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I am committed to knowing, loving and serving God <i>Would other people see in your life genuine evidence that you're a follower of God?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Love God, Score: 5x5 = 25 _____

Second Core Value: Love for People

6. I have a genuine love for people <i>Do you treat everyone you meet with respect, making them feel important?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I value people no matter what race, colour or creed <i>Have you overcome prejudice issues, placing all people on an equal footing?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I have a forgiving attitude towards people who wrong me <i>Do you have a sweet spirit towards people, not holding grudges or resentment?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. I do good deeds for others <i>Do you go out of your way to be gracious and to serve others?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I feel compassion when I see people in need <i>Are you moved to the point of doing something when you see a need?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Loves People, Score: 5x5 = 25 _____

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Date of this assessment: _____

	①	②	③	④	⑤
	No, never	Seldom	I Try	Usually	Yes, always
Third Core Value: Living a Godly Lifestyle					
11. I am committed to becoming like Jesus <i>Do you think about whether your actions reflect the character of Christ?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. I make decisions based on what God would want me to do <i>Is your guiding principle in life, "What Would Jesus Do?"</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. I have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, whom I allow to work in my life <i>Do you listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your life, and obey Him?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. I consciously submit my unrighteous desires to God and do not give in to them <i>Do you crucify "the flesh" on a daily basis, living the life of an over-comer?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. I live life with passion and enthusiasm <i>Do you live your life in the revelation that God is on your side, that you are pleasing to Him, and that you're fulfilling the will and purposes of God for your life?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Godly Lifestyle, Score: 5x5 = 25 _____

Fourth Core Value: Sharing Jesus

16. I look for opportunities to share about Jesus <i>Are you aware of the unsaved people around you, seeing the opportunities for sharing Jesus?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. I feel burdened about the plight of unsaved people <i>Do you feel passionate about the fact that unsaved people are going to hell?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. I am able to clearly communicate the gospel <i>Have you learnt the basics about the gospel so that you can clearly share it with others?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. I seek the help of the Holy Spirit who enables me to be a better witness <i>Do you rely upon the Holy Spirit and pray that He will fill you with His power so that you can be a better witness for Jesus?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. I pray for the salvation of people <i>Do you spend time in prayer burdened for the salvation of the world, and have a prayer list of people whom you know need salvation?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sharing Jesus, Score: 5x5 = 25 _____

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Date of this assessment: _____

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

No, never Seldom I Try Usually Yes, always

Fifth core Value: Love for God's Family

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>21. I attend, am committed to, and planted in my church
<i>Are you a pillar in your church, dependable, reliable and a son or daughter of the house?</i></p> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <p>22. I make a significant contribution to my church
<i>Do you look how you can help, serve and make your church better, asking, "what can I do that will bless my church?"</i></p> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <p>23. I go to a small group where I am disciplined
<i>Are you committed to a small group ministry, where you're not only being disciplined, but are also looking to disciple others?</i></p> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <p>24. I am discovering and developing my spiritual gifts while using them to serve
<i>Have you done a course where you've discovered your spiritual gifts? Are you developing and using these gifts as part of your service within your church?</i></p> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <p>25. I am submitted to the authority structures in my church
<i>Do you believe that God has established the authority structure within your church? Do you have an attitude of submission to the leadership even if you may not completely agree?</i></p> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

God's Family, Score: 5x5=25 _____

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Date of this assessment: _____

	①	②	③	④	⑤
	No, never	Seldom	I Try	Usually	Yes, always
Six Core Value: Love for God's Kingdom					
26. My first priority in life is to seek the Kingdom of God <i>Have you decided that rather than seeking materialism and comfort, you will first seek the Kingdom of God?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. I see all that I do in my life and my work as connected to fulfilling God's purposes <i>Do you understand that you don't have two callings—a secular and a spiritual, but rather all that you do is connected to fulfilling the God-purpose for your life?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. I am committed to the culture and values of God's Kingdom <i>According to the summary of the Kingdom of God found in Matthew chapters 5-7, do you live your life governed by the teachings of Jesus?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29. I am allowing God to renew my thinking to be more Kingdom of God minded <i>As soon as you discover a mindset in your life that is contrary to Kingdom-thinking, do you deal with it, setting it right?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30. I am committed to seeing God's will done in my life and in my world <i>Do you believe that every decision you make must first fall in line with what you believe to be God's will for your life?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

God's Kingdom, Score: 5x5=25 _____

THE DISCIPLESHIP INVENTORY

Date of this assessment: _____

	①	②	③	④	⑤
	No, never	Seldom	I Try	Usually	Yes, always
Seventh Core Value: Love being Generous 31. I give at least ten percent of my income to the work of God <i>Do you give a tithe (10%) of all your income to the church you belong to?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32. I financially support the projects and missions of my church and beyond <i>Beyond your tithe, do you also give to support projects and missions with an amount that you feel the Holy Spirit has impressed upon you?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33. I make sacrifices so that I can better give and serve <i>Do you hold on to possessions tightly, or do you consistently ask God how much you can do and give?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
34. I am a good steward of God's resources <i>Do you live in the revelation that everything you have belongs to God, and one day you must give an account to Him about what you did with His possessions?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
35. I look for opportunities to serve and show generosity <i>Do you walk with your eyes and ears open, aware of how you can better serve your community and show generosity?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Love being generous, Score: 5x5=25 _____

Now that you've completed this questionnaire, take time to prayerfully discuss and agree with your mentor which item you will focus on improving over the next 30 days. (To ensure your success, select just one or perhaps two items at the very most, to work on in this instance.) Now, use this space to record your agreed actions and progress.

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APPENDIX 2

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN
