

Share the Gospel

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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SHARE THE GOSPEL

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How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other's personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- · Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting's topic

WORD (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need to teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

What: What does the Bible say?

Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely.

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17

Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

So What: What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ROMANS 12:2 **Now What:** How do I apply the Word to my life? Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. JAMES 1:22

Tips for Life-Changing Application

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

PRAY (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a "closing prayer," but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." MATTHEW 18:19

Tips for Powerful Prayer

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don't preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long "sermon prayers."
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

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I EngageCulture andCommunity

Recall an instance when you convinced a friend to do something s/he didn't want. How did you convince him/her?

What's your favorite meal? Why do you like it so much?

Name one person who has been a good example to you. How did s/he set an example? "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." MATTHEW 5:16

... I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

WHAT

As followers of Jesus, the Bible tells us to set an example for others and to help them know Him. We are to inch our friends and family members closer to Jesus with every opportunity, share the gospel to them, and help them surrender their lives to Christ. In this lesson, we will look at some practical ways to engage our friends and loved ones.

Build relationships.

¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." MATTHEW 9:10-12

Jesus spent time with "sinners"—which many religious people of His time thought to be inappropriate and unnecessary. His ministry and compassion for the lost is our example. We can serve those who don't know Christ yet by loving them, helping meet their needs, praying for them, being available, and believing God for miracles.

Why did the religious people not like what Jesus did? Recall a time when you had to stand up for what's right and set a godly example. What happened?

Set an example.

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." MATTHEW 5:13-16

In olden times, salt was used for preservation more than taste. And without electricity, one candle or lamp will light up the whole area that was once filled with darkness. Why do you think Jesus chose to use these images to explain the influence His followers are to have on others?

Share the gospel.

¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. MARK 5:18-20

Jesus told the man who used to be demon-possessed to go and share what the Lord did in his life. Because of our own encounter with Jesus, we are to do the same tell how much He has done for us and how He has had mercy on us.

How has the Lord been merciful to you? Share your story in two to three minutes.

- Why do you think "sinners" was put in quotation marks? Aren't we all sinners? Were these sinners any worse than everyone else, including us? Why should we get to know other sinners?
- How can we be salt and light in our community?
- Why do you think the Bible tells us to be prepared in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2)?

NOW WHAT

- Are you a follower of Jesus? How can you grow daily in your understanding of and appreciation for Christ's finished work?
- Who can you serve and build a relationship with so that you can inch him/her closer to Christ?
- Are you ready to share the gospel and give an answer for the hope of your salvation? How can you be more equipped to share the gospel? To whom can you share it this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and for God's great love for you.
- Ask God to help you be salt and light and that you would be a good example of what it means to follow Christ.
- Pray for the salvation of your friends and family. Ask God to help you build relationships with them, serve them, and share the gospel to them.

2 Tell the World About Jesus

In a normal conversation, would you rather talk or listen? Why?

- Who is the best storyteller you know? Which of his/her stories do you like the most?
- Tell us about one person who made a profound impact in your life. What did s/he do?

¹⁶I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." ROMANS 1:16,17

WHAT

The greatest way we can help people is by telling them about Jesus. More than giving to the poor, joining humanitarian causes, or lending a hand, what people really need is to know Jesus. And because of what He has done in us, we can help others know Him personally. The Apostle Paul declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is powerful and life-changing. In this lesson, we will look at how we can share the gospel to others.

Ask the Holy Spirit to empower us.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ACTS 1:8

²⁹"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. ACTS 4:29-31

Left to ourselves, we cannot tell others about Jesus. But with the Holy Spirit, we can boldly proclaim the gospel and even believe God for miracles. The early church didn't allow persecution to stop them. Because they

were filled with the Spirit, they continued to preach boldly and they saw the church grow.

What does empower mean? How does the Holy Spirit empower us?

Tell others about our story.

²⁸Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"²⁹Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." ACTS 26:28,29

Several times in the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul boldly shared how he encountered Christ. In Acts 26, he told his story to King Agrippa—what his life was like before Christ, how he encountered Christ, and how his life was never the same again.

What was Paul's testimony? What did he want for King Agrippa?

3

Tell others about who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 6:23

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." JOHN 3:16

We are all sinners and we deserve death—to be without God forever. However, because He loves us so much, He made a way for us to know Him and be with Him forever—through the sacrifice and death of Jesus. We do not need to do anything to deserve this—salvation is a free gift God gives us because of His mercy and grace. We are simply to receive it.

How should
we respond to
the gospel?

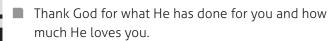
SO WHAT

- How did the miracle in Acts 3 lead to the preaching of the gospel? How does the move of the Holy Spirit open doors for the Good News?
- What does it mean to be ashamed of the gospel? How can we be confident and bold in sharing about Jesus?
- Why do we need to urgently tell people about Jesus?

NOW WHAT

RAY

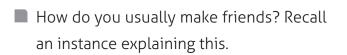
- Do you believe the Holy Spirit will empower you to be His witness? In what situation can you step out in faith and believe God for a miracle this week, so that many others may know and trust Him?
- What is your testimony? Can you share it with us? To whom can you share about what God has done in your life this week?
- Are you ready to share the gospel to others? How can you be more confident in sharing the gospel? To whom can you share the gospel this week?



Pray that you would boldly proclaim who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

Pray for the salvation of your friends and family.

³ Make Disciples



- What is one unique thing that you need to do every day? Was there a time when you missed doing it? What happened?
- Who is one person you truly admire? Why?

NORD

¹⁹ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:19,20

WHAT

A disciple is a follower of Jesus, and Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples. As His disciples, we ought to follow Jesus' command. Though the idea of making disciples may intimidate some, we can obey His command because He promised to be with us and to enable us to do what He has called us to do. In this lesson, we will look at how we can help others follow Jesus.

Help people have a relationship with God.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." MATTHEW 28:19

Being a disciple is not about following rules—it is about having a relationship with God. Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can have a relationship with Him. Relationships work both ways, and involve time, communication, and shared lives. In our relationship with God, we can enjoy His presence and know Him more as each day passes.

How did you become a disciple of Jesus?

Teach people to obey God's Word.

"... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." MATTHEW 28:20

Jesus commanded His disciples to tell others about Him and to teach them what they learned. As His followers, we are to transfer what we know and the truth of God's Word.

What does "teaching" mean and why is it so important?

3

Encourage people to trust God daily.

"... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:20

Because God is with us, we can do what He has asked us to do. As we teach people to follow Jesus, they will grow in their relationship with Him and trust Him more.

Recall an instance when you did something difficult because you knew God was with you. What happened?

- Why do you think some people may be intimidated by discipleship? Why does discipleship matter so much to Jesus?
- When we say we are a disciple, who are we following?
- Why do you think the Bible puts an emphasis on following Christ and living for Him daily?

NOW WHAT

- Are you a disciple? Are you making disciples? How can you obey Christ's command to make disciples starting today?
- How can you help a friend or family member grow in his/her relationship with God this week?
- Who can you share the gospel to this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His Word and for what He is doing in your life.
- Pray that you will have more hunger for God's Word and His presence. Ask God to help you remove any hindrances or distractions from seeking Him every day.
- Ask God to help you obey Him. Pray that you would make disciples and tell many people about Christ.

4 Pass the Baton



- Who is one of your youngest friends? Why do you like hanging out with him/her?
- Do you sometimes feel old? When? Why or why not?
- What generation/era do you come from? How is your generation different from the previous or next one?

14 Share the Gospel

³... what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. PSALM 78:3-7

WHAT

God is multi-generational. Because of this, as a church, we value the next generation and want to pass what we know about God to the generations to come. In this lesson, we will look at how we can pass on what God has done in us to those who will come after us.

Pass on God's truth.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 2 TIMOTHY 2:2 (READ ALSO PSALM 78:5,6)

The things we have learned are not just for us. They are meant to be shared with those who will come after us whether that's literally the next generation or people we are in discipleship with.

Who passed on God's Word to you? Who are you passing it on to?

Show others how to put our confidence in God. *Then they would put their trust in God*...PSALM 78:7

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. PROVERBS 3:5,6

To "trust" means to depend on, just as the body depends on its hipbones and thighs for strength and firmness. Our goal in teaching others to follow God is for them to know God and put their faith and confidence in Him.

area of your life where trusting God used to be difficult, but He has taught you to do so.

Share about one

Teach others to obey God.

"... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:20

⁷Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him. PSALM 78:7,8

The purpose of knowing God's Word is to obey it. And while it is not natural for us to obey, following God's commands is a result of a growing relationship with Him and trusting Him more and more.

How does obedience to God benefit us?

it on a

Pass the Baton 17

- How does the world view the next generation? How does this differ from how God views them?
- Why do we need examples of men and women in the faith? How do Scriptures like Hebrews 11 inspire you?
- How can we teach others to obey God? How did you learn to trust and obey Him?

NOW WHAT

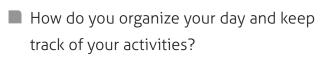
- What did you learn from this lesson and how can you apply it in your life this week?
- Who can you be an example to? How can you lead others to Christ?
- How can you value the next generation more and help them know God?

BRAYER 18 Share the

Gospel

- Thank God for His unchanging nature. Pray that you will know God more and make Him known as each day passes.
- Pray that the next generation will love and obey God and do even greater things.
- Pray for those you know who haven't surrendered their lives to Christ yet. Ask God for opportunities to share the gospel.

5 Bridge the Gap



- Do you like taking on new projects and challenges? Recall an instance explaining this.
- What's one thing you wish you can accomplish in your lifetime?

VORD

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

WHAT

Because of God's love and mercy, He made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. Today, He is actively working and making Himself known—and He uses us, His followers, to bridge the gap between Himself and sinful man. He is in the business of transforming lives, reconciling the world to Himself, and inviting us to represent Him to those around us.

God is in the business of transforming lives.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God... 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17,18

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." JOHN 10:10

The ultimate result of the gospel is transformation. Just as a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, in Christ we are completely made new. Our nature, our hearts, our lives—all are supernaturally changed. This miracle is attributed solely to God, who desires for each of us to experience the fullness of life.

What are some of the things that changed in your life since you received Christ?

God is in the business of reconciling the world to Himself.

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18,19

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ROMANS 5:10

Our sins made us God's enemies. And yet, God initiated the reconciliation process in Christ, choosing to overlook our offenses for the sake of our salvation.

What does "reconciliation" mean? Why did God give us "the ministry of reconciliation"?

We are in the business of representing God to those around us.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

All believers have been entrusted with God's message of reconciliation. Our lives are powerful testimonies to the truth of God's transforming power.

What is an ambassador? How has God used you as His ambassador at home, at work, or in school?

- How much does God really care for the world? Why do some people think God is not actually involved?
- How are we to represent Christ? How do our lives and examples draw others to Christ? How can our lives hinder others from coming to Christ?
- Why should we courageously and boldly proclaim Christ? What do you think Christ's ambassador looks like?

NOW WHAT

- Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? If not, would you like to receive Him as your Lord and Savior, and ask Him to transform your life starting today?
- How can you participate in God's business of reconciling the world to Himself this week?
- Are you properly representing Christ as His ambassador? What can you do to better represent Christ?

- Thank God for His love and involvement in your life. Pray that you would never take your relationship with Him for granted.
- Ask God to use you as He reconciles the world to Himself. Prayerfully consider your involvement in advancing His kingdom on earth.
- Pray for five of your friends and family who have yet to experience new life in Christ. Pray for opportunities to share the message of reconciliation.

6 Finish the Task



- What was the hardest job you've ever had? Why was it so hard?
- Which household chores do you like or dislike the most? Why?

22 Share the Gospel

NORD

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:18-20

WHAT

God has commissioned every believer to go into all the world and share His message of reconciliation and life. We probably heard about Jesus because someone loved us enough to obey God's command to share the gospel. We have that same privilege and obligation today. Following are three things to consider as we go and participate in God's unfinished business.

We go with God's authorization.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." MATTHEW 28:18

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." JOHN 15:16

We can communicate the gospel with boldness because Jesus appointed us to our task.

What does it mean to ask "in Jesus' name"? 3 We go w "... And su

We go with God's presence and power.

"... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ACTS 1:8

Jesus promised that as we faithfully share the gospel to the nations, He will always be with us and will never leave us. Our confidence rests in the knowledge that the One in us is greater and more powerful than anything that may choose to oppose His message.

How does the promise of God's presence and power help you in sharing the gospel?

We go to make disciples.

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...." MATTHEW 28:19,20

Jesus' instructions are clear: we are to make disciples. The goal is not just to get people to pray a prayer or to attend a Christian event, but to help them to receive the gospel and live according to Jesus' teachings.

What is a disciple and how do you become one?

- Why did Jesus command all His disciples to make disciples? Why is discipleship not simply the job of pastors and leaders?
- How do you make disciples?
- How does the Holy Spirit empower us to make disciples?

NOW WHAT

- Are you following Christ? If not, would you like receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior today and live for Him?
- How can you be more bold in sharing the gospel starting this week?
- Name three friends or family members who need to hear the gospel. How can you begin reaching out to them this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and that God made the way for us to know Him.
- Pray that you would obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples. Admit your weaknesses and inhibitions, and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His witness.
- Pray for the salvation of your friends and family. Ask God to give you the boldness and opportunities to share His love to them starting this week.

26 Share the Gospel

... "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." MARK 5:19

Share the Gospel is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help believers boldly proclaim what Christ did for us on the cross.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Engage Culture and Community
- Tell the World About Jesus
- Make Disciples
- Pass the Baton
- Bridge the Gap
- Finish the Task

