

G3

A RELATIONAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP

Real Life Journey

G3 Study Guide

Part II – The Daily Disciplines

Overview of Part II

The second part of the disciple-making journey centers around the disciplines that are needed in order to live a godly life and effectively disciple others.



The books to study are ***Share Jesus Like it Matters*** and ***Pray Like it Matters*** by Steve Gaines and ***The Road to Somewhere [The Disciplines of a Disciple]*** by Bill Street.

Overview of Part II

Week 12 (Page 3) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 13 (Page 5) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapters 3-5

Week 14 (Page 7) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapters 6-8

Week 15 (Page 9) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapter 9, “A Gospel Presentation”

Week 16 (Page 11) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapter 9 Cont., “A Gospel Presentation”

Week 17 (Page 15) - Share Jesus Like it Matters, Chapters 10 & 11

Week 18 (Page 19) - Pray Like it Matters, Chapters 1-3

Week 19 (Page 21) - Pray Like it Matters, Chapters 4-6

Week 20 (Page 25) - Pray Like it Matters, Chapters 7-9

Week 21 (Page 27) - Pray Like it Matters, Chapters 10-12

Week 22 (Page 31) - The Road to Somewhere, Introduction & Chapter 1, “The Discipline of Stewardship”

Week 23 (Page 35) - The Road to Somewhere, Chapter 2, “The Discipline of Worship”

Week 24 (Page 39) - The Road to Somewhere, Chapter 3, “The Discipline of Service”

Week 25 (Page 43) - The Road to Somewhere, Chapter 4, “The Discipline of Right Relationships”

Week 26 (Page 51) - The Road to Somewhere, Chapter 5, “The Discipline of Accountability”

(The material in this guide was adapted from Bill Street, Pastor of Discipleship at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN with his permission.)

WEEK TWELVE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 1 and 2, Share Jesus Like it Matters

Chapter 1

In Dr. Fish's definition of evangelism (on page 7), **which one of the aspects of evangelism is the most challenging for you? While they are all crucial, which ones do you believe are in need of the most emphasis in the body of Christ today?**

The challenge question is one of the most piercing questions you will ever ask another person or ask yourself. "When is the last time you verbally shared what the Bible says about Jesus with a lost person with the intention of leading that person to salvation?" A follow-up to the previous question goes, "**When is the last time you won anyone to Christ? When is the last time you tried? This is a question that needs to be asked at least each week of the Share Jesus emphasis.**

Chapter 2

Steve Gaines writes, "Numerous Christians live as though they are not responsible for sharing Jesus with lost people." (Page 10-11)

That would be in agreement with a recent Lifeway Research survey *which said that 80% of those who attend church one or more times a month believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, but 61% have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months.* **Why do you believe people do not live up to their accepted responsibility?**

If you are a policeman, a judge, a lawyer—or a person who works for a very strong leader, you understand authority. You realize there are rules and that rules are not suggestions. **Discuss what our perspective on witnessing should be in light of Jesus' command to, "Go and make disciples." "Our authority to share the gospel comes from Jesus" (Page 13).**

Discuss your experiences of Spirit empowerment, "supernaturally empowering them to boldly, effectively, and verbally share Jesus with lost people" (Page 17).

Our verses to memorize/internalize for next week are **Romans 6:23** and **I Corinthians 15:3-4**.

WEEK THIRTEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 3-5, Share Jesus Like it Matters

Chapter 3

The challenge Steve Gaines presents at the end of the chapter is, “Are you able to **articulate** the nature of salvation with others? Can you **explain** to non-Christians why salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone?”

- Helpful illustrations that explain the evangelistic truths you are seeking to share with others are very helpful.

Can you think of some that are effective?

Chapter 4

The more you know about something, the more comfortable you are sharing it with others. In other words, if you are a civil engineer, you’re probably much more confident engaging in a discussion of why a building is structurally sound than someone who has a music degree. In the same way, the more we grasp the outline and the details of what salvation entails, the more confident we will be in engaging others in an evangelistic conversation.

- **On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to explain the basics of why we need salvation?**

- Explain the differences between the statements, “I have been saved, I am being saved, I will be saved.”

Chapter 5

- Explain the necessity of repentance and also the challenge of stressing repentance with those who live in the secular society that the United States has become.

- Explain what it means to “believe in Jesus” without using a lot of “church words.”

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

“...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence...”

Our verses to memorize/internalize for next week are **2 Corinthians 6:2** and **Luke 13:3**.

WEEK FOURTEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 7, “Identify and Pray for Lost People,” and Chapter 8, “Introduction and Personal Testimony” *Share Jesus Like It Matters*

Chapter 7 “Identify and Pray for Lost People” and Chapter 8, “Introduction and Personal Testimony,” are two of the most important chapters in Bro. Steve’s book, *Share Jesus Like It Matters*.

- People will not be converted unless God convicts, draws, and saves them.
- God moves as His people pray.
- People will not be saved unless God’s people tell them how.
- God moves as we share the reality of Christ in us.

Both chapters hold somewhat familiar truths to us. However, as the well-known proverb tells us, **familiarity breeds contempt**. Far too often, we equate what we know with how we live. However, they are two entirely different truths.

Every Christian knows he or she needs to consistently pray for people to be saved. Every Christian knows he or she needs to share the reality of our new life with others. Again, **what we know and how we live are two different truths**.

In the upcoming application section, we’ll point out a way you and your G3 group can be accountable to one another as you pray for the lost. We’ll also point out some items to focus on that will help you and your G3 group share your testimony more effectively.

Chapter Seven

- **Write down two or three names of lost people whom God has laid on your heart. As God leads you to identify these individuals, commit before Him to pray and to make efforts to share the good news of Jesus with them.** (Going forward, the entire group will begin praying together each week for these individuals and ask God to work on their hearts and present opportunities for gospel interactions.)

Chapter Eight

Memorize the two diagnostic questions (68-69). They are two of the best questions to ask a lost person. Make sure to learn them. These questions will be a key part of the Gospel Presentation study we will be learning over the next 2 weeks.

Question 1: “Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and you will go to Heaven when you die, or would you say that is something you are still working on?”

Question 2: “If you stood before God and He asked you, ‘Why should I let you into Heaven?’ what would you say?”

- **Do you find these questions to be relevant to our culture today? Why or why not?**

- **What would you say to someone who says they don't believe in heaven or hell—or in any existence of life beyond the here and now?**

Don't fear tough questions and responses for those who you share Jesus with. He promises the Holy Spirit will give you guidance on what to say when the time comes.

Jesus said to the disciples, "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; **for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**" (Luke 12:11-12)

Our verses to memorize/internalize for next week are **Acts 17:30** and **Acts 16:31**.

WEEK FIFTEEN AND WEEK SIXTEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 9, “A Gospel Presentation,” *Share Jesus Like It Matters*

We’ll spend two weeks on this topic because it is so important to becoming a disciple-maker.

The mission statement of First Denham is, “**We exist to reach people with the gospel and lead them to be devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**” In order to reach people and lead them to become a devoted follower of Jesus, we must share Jesus with others. It’s so simple yet often so intimidating to believers.

Are you prepared to share the gospel?

What sharing “the gospel” is not.

Sharing “the gospel” is not inviting people to church or events at church. It is not telling them how wonderful our church services are. It is not informing people that things are bad in the world and that God is the answer. All of those statements and activities are good and are commendable, but they are not “the gospel.”

What is “the gospel?”

“The gospel,” is the specific message of Scripture concerning...

1. the need of man for a Savior,
2. the provision of Christ for that need,
3. the imperative of man **repenting** from sin, **believing** Christ is the answer for his spiritual need, and **receiving** Christ as Lord and Savior.

5. What is the greatest hindrance you face to consistently sharing the gospel?

6. Are you daily praying for opportunities to share Jesus?

Our verse to memorize/internalize for Week Sixteen is **Romans 10:9**.

Our verses memorize/internalize for Week Seventeen are **John 1:12** and **Romans 10:13**.

WEEK SEVENTEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 10, “The Sinner’s Prayer: Asking Jesus Into Your Heart,” and Chapter 11, “Now That You Are Saved” *Share Jesus Like It Matters*

At some point in their lives, most of the people in your G3 group have talked with someone else about God:

- Some may have taken the step of faith to invite someone to church.
- Some may even have pointed out the dogmatic words of Jesus, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.”*
- Some may have become so bold that they shared their testimony or the plan of salvation with someone.

However, what Steve Gaines writes about in Chapter 10 is the dividing line between a conversationalist and a soul winner.

When we seek to lead someone in “The Sinner’s Prayer,” we are “landing the plane,” we are “closing the deal.” We are purposely asking the question, “Would you like to receive Jesus to be the Lord and Savior of your life—right now?”

Although Steve goes over “The Sinner’s Prayer” in chapter 9, let’s examine a couple of points he emphasizes concerning “The Sinner’s Prayer” in this chapter:

- As you share Christ, realize that people are not going to get “more lost.” If you sense an opening in their spirit, give them a chance to receive Christ. Know that the devil will not lead you to invite people to receive Jesus.

- We know that we cannot save an individual, only the Holy Spirit can do that. However, we are to do all that is in our power to **convince men** of their need for salvation. Paul exhorts us, *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, **we persuade men** . . . ”* (2 Corinthians 5:11). This word “persuade” is a passionate word. We see it used in other places:
 - *“And he [Paul] was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to **persuade** Jews and Greeks.”* Acts 18:4
 - *“If we say [the baptism of John was] ‘from men,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are **convinced** that John was a prophet.”* Luke 20:6
 - *“For I am **convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers . . . shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”* Romans 8:38, 39
 - *“But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having **won over** the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”* Acts 14:19
- How can someone ultimately and eternally be persuaded (saved) if you don’t give them an opportunity to respond to the truth of the gospel? They may be under conviction, but they **will not be saved unless they receive Christ**.

3. **What keeps us from calling for a decision?** (Example—fear of rejection; fear that we will “botch the prayer time.”)

4. **Practice going over “The Sinner’s Prayer” in your group time so that when the time comes for someone in your D group to lead someone to Christ, they are familiar with what to do.**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **Mark 1:35**.

3. Our memory verse this week is Mark 1:35. It states, “In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went away to a secluded place and was praying there.” **In what ways should our lives model Jesus’ priority of prayer?**

In chapter 3, we read about the Lord’s Prayer. There are several questions that can challenge us regarding Jesus’ pattern for prayer.

1. **Is there a general pattern to your prayer or are you more prone to simply “jump in” and start telling the Lord your concerns and needs?**

2. **How much focus do you normally give to “hallowing His name,” worshipping God?**

3. **Do you ever praise God or pray to God, employing His name? Do you believe that is an action that pleases God? If so, how will praying His name become a reality to you?**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **James 5:16**.

WEEK NINETEEN, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 4-6, *Pray Like It Matters*

“Prayer is the hand of faith that turns promises into performance.” Howard Hendricks

This week, we are continuing to focus on the words, *Pray Like It Matters*. That phrase is not only the title of Steve Gaines’ book, but a bedrock principle of Scripture. The following questions are meant to help you challenge and encourage your G3 group to be individuals who experience **“promises being turned into performance”** as we pray.

The following are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapters 4-6. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover them all.

Remember to spend quality time in prayer. Like many other spiritual truths, **prayer is more caught than taught.**

QUESTIONS:

In Chapter 4, we continue to study the Lord’s Prayer. We see Jesus employing Scripture as He engaged in spiritual warfare with Satan.

- 1. How specific are you in praying over the scheduled events of your day?**

- 2. How frequently do you use Scripture in your prayer time in asking God to, “deliver us from evil?”**

- 3. Discuss the difference between “ignoring” Satan and “resisting” Satan. What do most Christians have a tendency to do?**

In Chapter 5, Bro. Steve gives eight hindrances to prayer.

- **What are the two greatest prayer hindrances for you personally?**

Under the section, “Praying Scripture” in Chapter 6, Bro. Steve explains, “When we pray according to His Word, we pray according to the will of God.”

- 1. How would you describe your progress in praying the Word of God?**

WEEK TWENTY, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 7-9, *Pray Like It Matters*

- Prayer is us at our weakest and God at His strongest.
- Prayer is stopping and God starting.
- Prayer is God's way of accomplishing His will.
- There is perhaps no better, deeper, and stronger way of experiencing His mighty presence and power than through praying the promises of the Word back to the God who initially gave them.

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapters 7-9. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover all of them.

The theme of "Praying the Word of God" is continued in Chapter 7 of *Pray Like It Matters*. Under the section titled, "Challenge," we find the following statement, "Praying Scripture will change your prayer life. It will help you pray with more authority . . . Nothing will fortify your prayers with the power of God and channel your prayers to be within the will of God more than learning to claim and pray specific verses of Scripture."

- **What are some of the verses that you are either presently praying, or want to weave into your prayer life?**

Chapter 8 is entitled, “The Power of Praying Together.”

- **Do you have someone you regularly pray with? If not, would you make that a matter of personal prayer and would you join with those in your D-group in asking God to provide someone?**

In Chapter 9, Bro. Steve emphasizes two resources that have enabled his prayer time to remain vibrant.

1. **Have you used prayer cards and a prayer notebook to strengthen your prayer life?**

2. **If you have not utilized them, please share other resources that have helped you to maintain an energetic prayer life.**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **1 John 5:14-15**.

WEEK TWENTY-ONE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapters 10-12, Pray Like It Matters

“Prayer must not be our intermittent work but our daily business, our habit and vocation.” C. H. Spurgeon

Prayer is hard work. There is perhaps no other spiritual discipline in which the world, the flesh, and the devil will fight us harder. Things happen when we pray that don’t happen when we don’t pray! I’m not going to say that everything you pray for occurs, but I will say that there is **much that will not happen** unless you pray!

The imperative preparation of teaching, of leading in a study of prayer **is praying**. If it comes down to studying or praying—pray! Studying is vitally important; **prayer is imperative**.

The following questions are given to aid you as you lead the discussion this week and apply the truths from Chapters 10-12. It is not imperative for you to use these questions or to cover them all.

Fervency in prayer is the topic for Chapter 10. As Steve discusses why we don't see the power of God the way the first-century church did, he states, "I'm convinced the difference is in the area of PRAYER! We simply do not pray the way they prayed in the Book of Acts. When they prayed, they prayed fervently...The Greek word translated *fervent* in Acts 12:5 is *ektenos*. It means to pray "eagerly, fervently, constantly. 'Fervent' prayers rise from a boiling, passionate heart that pleads with God and must have an answer!" (page 73).

- **Are your prayers fervent? Are most of the prayers you hear prayed in church fervent? If not, why do you believe that is so?**

The second chapter of study for this session is "Praying for the Sick," Chapter 11. Scripture is full of examples where God (or Jesus) healed the sick. James says that prayer can lead to healing (James 5).

1. **Steve Gaines asks on page 87, "Do you pray for people to be healed? If not, why not?"**

2. **If you don't believingly ask God to heal others, what is the reason behind that assumption?**

Chapter 12 is entitled, “The Sinners Prayer.” This prayer is the most glorious prayer in all of Scripture, it is the act of someone turning from sin to the Savior.

- 1. Have you had the privilege of leading someone in “The Sinners Prayer?”**

- 2. After reading Steve’s explanation of what “The Sinners Prayer” is, can you think of a reason or reasons why more Christians don’t pray this prayer with more people?**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **1 Corinthians 4:1-2.**

WEEK TWENTY-TWO, DISCIPLE MAKING

Introduction & Chapter 1, The Road to Somewhere, “The Discipline of Stewardship”

The Road to Somewhere: The Disciplines of a Disciple is a book written by Bill Street, Pastor of Discipleship and Evangelism at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. Bill wrote this short book to address other vital disciplines that were not explored in *Growing Up, Sharing Jesus Like it Matters*, and *Pray Like it Matters*. Over the next five weeks, you will explore the disciplines of **stewardship, worship, service, right-relationships, and accountability**.

For a more in-depth look at spiritual disciplines of the Christian life, we encourage you to read:

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2018.

Introduction

Bill relates the story of a road that leads to nowhere to a new believer who drifts from his or her commitment or an established believer whose end goal is only maturity. Both of these roads have the wrong destination. Bill says, “Jesus commands us not only to **be** a disciple, but also to **make** disciples (See Matt. 28:19-20). Multiplying disciple-makers is the target of our obedience.” (Page 2.)

- **Where has your target/destination been regarding your walk with Christ? Are you on a road to nowhere or a road to somewhere? Have you stopped short of Jesus' intended destination for your life?**

Chapter 1, "The Discipline of Stewardship"

Bill explains that **stewardship** is a discipline of **faithfulness** (page 4-5). As God is faithful to us, we in-turn show our faithfulness toward Him recognizing that He is the one who ultimately has blessed us.

The discipline of stewardship applies to every aspect of our lives—our finances, relationships, bodies, time, work ethic, possessions, and so on. **We own nothing—everything is the Lord's.** (See Deut. 10:14 and Ps. 24:1.) Therefore, as God has entrusted us with all the blessings we enjoy, we must faithfully steward and use for His glory.

1. **We often relate stewardship solely to finances, how does the concept of faithfulness in "life-stewardship" change your perspective on the idea of stewardship?**

2. **What changes will you make in your life to reflect the concept of "life-stewardship?"**

On pages 5-6, Bill applies the concept of stewardship/faithfulness to discipleship. He states, “The chief end of discipleship is **multiplication**—being used of God to make disciples who mature spiritually and then become disciple-makers.” (Page 5.) He then says, “**The circle of discipleship must be completed for the disciple to be found faithful.**” (Page 6.)

1. **How rigorous do you believe God’s stewardship expectations were for the original twelve disciples?** “For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him...But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.” Matthew 13:12, 16-17 (NASB)

2. **How rigorous do you believe God’s stewardship expectations are for modern-day disciples—like you?** “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.” Luke 12:48 (NASB)

3. Someone once wrote, “People who are good at excuses aren’t usually good at anything else.” **In your personal life, are you more of an excuse maker, or a responsibility taker? How about in your role as a disciple-maker—are you an excuse maker or responsibility taker?**

4. One of the most direct, clear commands regarding stewardship in both the Old and New Testaments concerns money. Read Malachi 3:10, Prov. 3:9-10, and Luke 16:11-12. **Faithful stewardship is part of God’s demand for leadership. Are you faithful to give what God has led you to give? Is this an area of obedience in your life?**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **John 4:23-24.**

WEEK TWENTY-THREE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 2, The Road to Somewhere, “The Discipline of Worship”

Bill Street explains that the word “worship” derives from an old English word *weorþscipe*, meaning “worth-ship.” The word conveys an image of centering your life around that which is supreme and of most worth. (11)

Steve Gaines defines worship as, “Where I give God my heart and He gives me His.”

A.W. Tozer defines worship as, “feeling in your heart and expressing in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring of the most ancient mystery, that majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call our Father which art in heaven.”

Max Lucado says, “Worship is the thank you that cannot be silenced.”

- **On a scale of 1-10, how important is worship to you? Do you set aside time to intentionally seek God in worship? Do you listen to Christian radio for the purpose of worship? Do you regularly give God praise and gratitude for His goodness to you and those you love?**

Worship should not just happen through the singing of songs on Sunday mornings, worship should be a lifestyle, a daily discipline, an unending pulse as your heart continually beats. After all, we were created to worship God. (See Isa. 43:21)

John Piper in his book, *Let the Nations be Glad*, wrote:

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. **Worship is**. Missions exist because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides **FOREVER**.”

This concept of worship being more than the songs we sing is vividly portrayed in Romans 12:1 where Paul urges followers of Christ to offer their bodies as living sacrifices as a spiritual act of worship. Discipleship and worship go hand-in-hand. **A true disciple of Jesus must be a worshipper of God in every aspect of their lives.**

1. Bill shares that “Worship is the well from which discipleship flows. **(Page 14) Does your worship of God lead you to know and follow Him more? How so?**

2. Are you disciplined in your worship? In other words, is worship something that happens some Sundays “if everything is right,” or is worship a priority in your life that you work on 24/7?

3. If an athlete is “too busy” to invest time in training and working out, what does that tell a coach about a person’s heart? If a person is “too busy” to invest time in worship, what does that communicate to God about his/her heart?

4. Be as specific as you can in pointing out some of the ways having, or not having, a disciplined worship life will impact you as a disciple-maker.

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **Mark 10:45**.

WEEK TWENTY-FOUR, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 3, The Road to Somewhere, “The Discipline of Service”

Read Mark 10:25 together with your group.

Bill shares a quote by Chuck Swindoll, “We are never more like Jesus than when we serve.”

Throughout scripture, we are **instructed** and **commanded** to look to the needs of others more than ourselves. (See Matt. 22:39; Phil. 2:2-7) This is not merely a suggestion in scripture for when you need a “feel-good, do-good” moment, but a daily discipline of following the footsteps of Jesus.

- **How has serving others awakened you to the heart and mind of Jesus in your faith journey?**

Bill explains how there are many reasons why Christians are not engaged in multiplying disciple-makers. He lists such issues as:

- Lordship issues that have not been settled
- Disciplines that have not been firmly established
- Relationships that are broken

He then states, “The chief reason many people don’t disciple others is they are self-centered.” Serving others is the discipline of keeping our self-centeredness at bay and becoming more like Jesus.

- 1. When most of us think of Jesus, the character qualities that initially come to mind might be virtues such as love, holiness, and power. Do we quickly think of service? What are some reasons serving is where it is on the list of admirable Christ-like qualities?**
- 2. In our age of instant gratification, how does having a servant's heart affect disciple-making?**
- 3. Describe how some of the powerful dynamics of being a servant affect disciple-making. For instance, if a person has a servant's spirit, he or she is not emotionally drained every time someone disagrees with them for their focus is on others, not themselves.**

4. Is there a conflict between being a servant and being successful?

5. As you read about the disciples, do you see them embracing a servant perspective, or were they striving for success? Where do you see yourself in that mix?

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **Amos 3:3**.

WEEK TWENTY-FIVE, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 4, The Road to Somewhere, “The Discipline of Right-Relationships”

You may not have ever thought about the idea of “right-relationships” being a spiritual discipline but after this week, you will find yourself reexamining all of your relationships and possibly making efforts to better foster the relationships in your life and make new ones.

The Priority of Right Relationships

Bill shares a quote from Oscar Thompson about the importance of relationships. Thompson says that relationships are the track by which love is delivered. (Page 23) Without a relationship, love cannot be dispensed.

- **How does the idea of relationships being a track by which we dispense love change the way you think of relationships? How does this change the way you engage others, spend time with others, care for others, share the Gospel with others?**

The Directions of Relationships

Relationships travel two directions, **vertically** and **horizontally**. Jesus gives us a framework for right-relationships in Matthew 22:34-40. In this passage, individuals from two different religious groups, the Sadducees and Pharisees, question Jesus by asking him “what is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus answered with the following:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

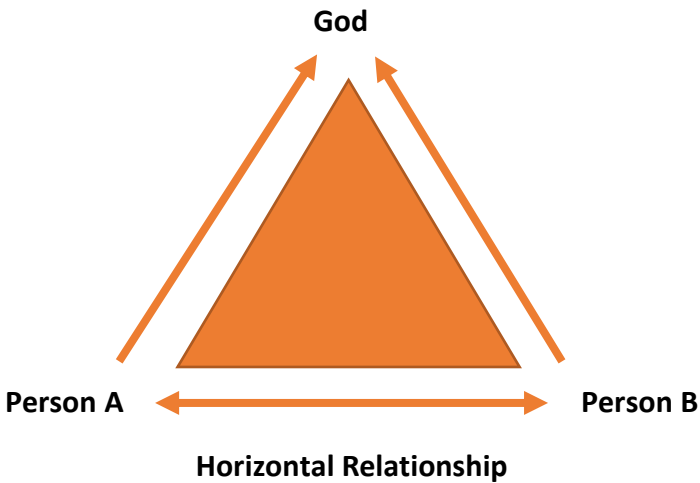
Jesus summarizes all the Law into two commands—**love God** and **love others**. Our relationship with God is that of a vertical relationship whereas our relationship with others are that of horizontal relationships.

The way we foster “right-relationships” is by growing deeper in love for one another (horizontal) by encouraging one another to grow closer to God (vertical).

- **In thinking through vertical and horizontal relationships, how have significant relationships in your life been strengthened by encouraging one another toward having a “right-relationship” with God?**

Jesus echoes the Ten Commandments by placing the primary focus of our love towards God. He is the One who deserves our love and affection as our Creator, Redeemer, Heavenly Father, and Friend. **Our relationship with Him is the most important relationship we will ever foster.** In fact, it’s because of our relationship with God that we have the capacity to love others. **Read as a group 1 John 4:7-12.**

- Has your relationship with God ever given you the ability to love others in a way that apart from Him, you would not be able to do? (Think marriage, family, friendships, workplace, etc.) How so?



This figure illustrates how “right-relationships” occur. As two individuals pursue God, their relationship with each other grows closer and closer in love and good standing. This is true of any relationship.

Making Relationships “Right”

Sometimes relationships become fractured and need healing. Jesus addresses the issue of fractured relationships in Matthew 5:23-24. Jesus says,

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

1. Jesus’ words in Matt. 5:23-24 show a sense of urgency toward reconciling relationships into right-standing. **When someone is upset, angry, or hurt by you, do you have a sense of urgency to make things right again? Do you seek them out to reconcile the relationship?**

2. Pride and self-centeredness are cancers to “right-relationships.” **How does Jesus’ words in Matt. 5:23-24 and Matt. 22:34-40 (the verses quoted above) counter these cancerous traits?**

3. **Do you have any relationships with others that are not in the shape God wants them to be?**

Not Neglecting to Meet Together

The writer of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of relationships in building up the community of Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25 says,

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

If we neglect each other as fellow believers, we all suffer.

Rather, when we engage in strengthening our relationships by spending time together praying for one another, encouraging one another, caring for one another, and so on, we build up the body of Christ and exhibit to the world what a glimpse of Heaven looks like.

The verb used for the word “spur” in verse 24 can be translated stir, shake, provoke, excite, pressure, and incite. This is not a gentle word. The writer of Hebrews is letting us know that relationships sometimes require **stronger measures** to maintain.

- 1. Can you think of a time when you had to use stronger measures to preserve a relationship? Has anyone every used stronger measures on you to bring you back into right-relationships?**

WEEK TWENTY-SIX, DISCIPLE MAKING

Chapter 5, The Road to Somewhere, “The Discipline of Accountability”

King Solomon wrote: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

-PROVERBS 27:17

Bill uses the metaphor of iron sharpening iron to illustrate the purpose of accountability as a spiritual discipline. Sharper blades do a much better job at cutting than do duller ones. Similarly, as Christians intentionally interact with each other, a honing process occurs. Bill writes, “God uses accountability to challenge us and to conform us into the image of His Son. (Page 29)

- 1. Before joining this G3 group, have you had a person(s) outside of your spouse and of the same gender who you regularly and intentionally encourage and ask the “hard questions” to deepen their walk with God and vice versa? If so, how has that been a positive influence in your life? If not, how has this G3 group been an encouragement to your walk with God?**

2. **Discuss how knowing that you will one day stand before God and give an account for your life makes it easier to be accountable to a person.**

Bill goes on to state that the Christian life is not about comfort, it's about **change**. He says, "Without accountability, discipleship is simply a desire, not a determined path toward transformative change."

A famous phrase is "You must **inspect what you expect.**" Without accountability, nothing inevitably changes for the better. Why? Because it does not hold enough importance enough to evaluate and improve.

- **What value do you place on being accountable in your Christian walk to read God's Word, memorize and internalize God's Word, encourage one another, pray for one another, and share your faith with others?**

Four Benefits of Accountability

Bill gives four benefits of accountability:

1. We accomplish more under observation
2. We ramp up our commitment level
3. We learn from the experiences of others
4. We get support when we face challenges

General Questions on Accountability

- 1. Are you accountable to anyone?**
- 2. Is anyone accountable to you?**
- 3. In what ways does New Testament living, with its focus on “Spirit and truth” (not merely activities that we mark off a list) demand accountability?**
- 4. Is it possible to hear, “Well done good and faithful servant” (See Matt. 25:21) if you ignore or neglect the imperative of the Great Commission? Are you growing in accountability to ensure that you are utilizing this year’s disciple-making time to thoroughly equip you to multiply disciple-makers?**

Our verse to memorize/internalize for next week is **Ephesians 4:2**

Scripture Memory Verses

Week 2:

John 8:31-32

Week 3:

2 Timothy 2:2

Week 4:

Matthew 28:18-20

Week 5:

Ephesians 4:11-12

Week 6:

I Timothy 4:7-8

Week 7:

Matthew 7:7

Week 8:

2 Timothy 2:15

Week 9:

John 14:15

Week 10:

Psalms 119:11

Week 11:

Jeremiah 15:16

Week 12:

John 3:16;
Romans 3:23

Week 13:

Romans 6:23;
1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Week 14:

2 Corinthians 6:2;
Luke 13:3

Week 15:

Acts 17:30; Acts 16:31

Week 16:

Romans 10:9

Week 17:

John 1:12;
Romans 10:13

Week 18:

Mark 1:35

Week 19:

James 5:16

Week 20:

John 15:7

Week 21:

1 John 5:14-15

Week 22

1 Cor. 4:1-2

Week 23

John 4:23-24

Week 24

Mark 10:45

Week 25

Amos 3:3

Week 26

Proverbs 27:17

Week 27:

Ephesians 4:27

Week 28:

James 4:7-8

Week 29:

Ephesians 6:10

Week 30:

Ephesians 6:11

Week 31:

Ephesians 6:12

Week 32:

Ephesians 6:13-14

Week 33:

Ephesians 6:15-16

Week 34:

Ephesians 6:17-18

Week 35:

Ephesians 6:19-20

Week 36:

Ezekiel 22:30

Week 37:

I Corinthians 11:1

Week 38:

I Timothy 4:15

Week 39:

Romans 15:14

Week 40:

Proverbs 5:21-23

Week 41:

Luke 14:26-27

Week 42:

Hebrews 11:6

Week 43:

Romans 4:19-21

