

Sharing Christ

Basic Accountability Group
Lessons for Christ Followers



Disciplemaking Book 3 – *Abridged Edition*



Brooklyn
Evangelical Free
Park Church
God's Heart for ALL People



Sharing Christ: Accountability Group Lessons for Christ Followers - Book 3

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Portions of this book were previously published in one of five collections of 52 small group lessons originally written for and used by small groups at New Hope Community Church, Portland, Oregon.

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Other Books in this Small Group Series:

Seeking God: Small Group Lessons for Spiritual Seekers – Book 1

Loving One Another: Small Group Lessons for Growing Believers - Book 2

Serving Others: Ongoing Accountability Group Lessons for Lifelong Disciples - Book 4

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Detailed Definition of a Disciple

As a church you are committed to making disciples of Christ Jesus in obedience to His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). But what is a disciple of Jesus Christ? A disciple is a believer who is in the process of becoming more like Christ: displaying His character, daily living out His values and disciplines, answering Christ's call to a life of service to others. This is a basic definition of a disciple but growing as a follower of Jesus is also a process. Each book in this small group series is based on a Detailed Definition of a Disciple that provides a sequential outline of the disciple's growth process and the transformational indicators from the four phases of Jesus' ministry described in the Gospels. The following is a general description of the growth phase covered in this third of four books in this discipling small group series:



SHARING CHRIST: Declaring the Good News of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

FOLLOW ME

Growing Believers to Faithful Witnesses

General description: A disciple who has completed this phase has become a "fisher of men," being intentional in winning and building disciples. They have developed many basic Christian habits, learned their spiritual gifts and are ready to lead or serve in ministry. They prioritize obedience to Christ above all else, even if suffering is necessary!

Major Intent: To establish the believer as a disciple and as a witness for Christ in a lost and hurting world.

- Train believers as faithful witnesses of Christ.
- Establish basic character and build habits of Christian living.
- Prepare faithful followers to serve or lead according to their giftedness.

Duration: 12 - 24 months.

Disciple's Involvement:

- Listens and learns from the mentoring and coaching of the discipler.
- Assists in ministry, but does not lead.

Commitment: Loyal to Jesus Christ and His church; willing to be accountable to a group or an individual for spiritual growth and training. Commitment enough to willingly suffer in order and to be fruitful in ongoing ministry themselves.

Distinctives:

- Heightened commitment.
- Focus on basic habits and character that require intimacy with and accountability to a discipler.
- Shift from interest in ministry to involvement in ministry.
- Strong emphasis on training for outreach.

Transformational Indicators: By the end of the Follow Me phase a disciple

1. Participates as an effective member in the Body of Christ. Romans 12:4-5
2. Walks in righteousness. Romans 6:22

3. Spends time with a disciple maker and learns how to share the gospel. Matthew 4:19
4. Learns to live controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:9
5. Begins to exhibit godly character and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 6:16
6. Practices spiritual disciplines of worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, witnessing, giving and serving. Colossians 3:6-7
7. Demonstrates the truth, spirit and power of the Lord's Prayer. Matthew 6:9-13
8. Experiences the supernatural power of God. 2 Peter 1:3
9. Desires to be involved in ministry and ministry training. Colossians 3:23-24



Table of Contents

Impact Groups - Basic Accountability Small Group Lesson Format

Note to Leaders: It is suggested that you follow the order of lessons as they appear in this book. However, after you complete the Steps Toward Spiritual Growth lessons you may use the following three series in any order that you choose. Remember that your groups are generally closed to new members and visitors so that you can develop a high level of trust and accountability. Be sure to do acts of service together outside of your discussion time as well.

Lesson Series:

- **Steps Toward Spiritual Growth (24 lessons)** *This “abridged” edition does not contain these lessons – they are available in a published book format.*
- **Powerful Praying (11 Lessons)**
- **Study of Ephesians (9 Lessons)**
- **Christian Service (8 Lessons)**

Impact Groups

Basic Accountability Small Group Study Format

CONNECTING

1. Share about what has happened throughout the previous week.
2. Share quiet time Bible Reading Highlights, significant entry from your spiritual journal or insights from personal Bible study.
3. Break into review groups and review the verse you have memorized within the past week.

SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)



1. Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Like normal conversations, anyone can speak (pray) as many times as they wish and several people will often pray in agreement for the same request. **Begin your time by praising God for who He is and what He has done.

2. Are there any personal roadblocks, challenges or fears that you would like to discuss regarding your life? What should we pray about today that would make a difference for you?

To maximize prayer time and allow greater opportunity for personal sharing, break into subgroups of 3-4 people. This is especially important if your group is more than eight people.

LOVING ONEANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)



The foundation of spiritual growth is your understanding of God's Word. We grow best as we combine obedience to the Bible in the context of close accountability relationships.

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SMALL GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION GUIDES HERE.



(Note: you may choose to have the prayer time follow the Bible discussion, sharing Christ or Serving section)

SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)



1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with the unbelievers on your *Prayer, Care and Share* list (or others) in order to direct them toward Jesus Christ?
2. What outreach activity might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God's Love)



Christians should be known by the good works they do within the community. What service project or act of kindness could you do as an individual, as a group or with others ministries of the church in order to demonstrate Christ's love in a tangible way?

CLOSING

Close in prayer and enjoy refreshments and fellowship together.



EIGHT LESSONS ON POWERFUL PRAYING

Powerful Praying! The Dynamics of Prayer

Philippians 4:6

Lesson 1

1. How would you define prayer?
2. Prayer is based on a personal relationship with Christ. What kind of person prays effectively? (James 5:16)
3. How can we have the confidence to draw near to God? (Hebrews 4:14-16)
4. What authority do we have to approach God in prayer? (John 14:14; 16:24)
5. What reason might there be for not receiving an answer to our prayers? (James 4:3)
6. How does unconfessed sin affect our prayers? (Psalm 66:17-19)
7. What will keep us from receiving anything from the Lord? (James 1:6-8)
8. What condition does 1 John 5:14-15 suggest for answered prayer?
9. What does Paul suggest should accompany our prayers? (Philippians 4:4-7)
10. Your prayers should be balanced. Using the "A.C.T.S." of prayer as a guide, evaluate if your prayer life includes a good balance between **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving and **S**upplication.



Powerful Praying! **The Most Powerful Prayer Ever Prayed**

Matthew 6:5-15

Lesson 2

1. What role did prayer play in your family's life when you were growing up?
2. How did Jesus describe those who prayed to be seen by men? (Matthew 6:5)
3. How did Jesus instruct His followers to pray? (6:6)
4. How will God reward sincere and humble prayers? (6:6)
5. What did Jesus have to say about trying to impress God and others by repeating meaningless phrases (lit. "utter empty words") during prayer? (6:7)
6. To whom did Jesus teach us to pray? (6:9)
7. What should be our attitude toward God and His kingdom? (6:9,10)
8. Who should we look to regarding the necessities of life? (6:11)
9. Why is it so important for us to forgive those who wrong us? (6:12,14-15)
10. What should we pray regarding temptation? (6:13)
11. How can you use this prayer as a guide to improve your personal prayer time this week?

Powerful Praying! Teach Me To Pray

Luke 11:1-10

Lesson 3

1. How do you react to a child's relentless request for something?
2. What was Jesus doing when one of His disciples approached Him? (Luke 11:1)
3. What was the disciple's request? (11:1)
4. What other religious leader had taught his disciples to pray? (11:1)
5. What topics did Jesus' prayer cover in this prayer? (11:2-4)
6. In the parable told by Jesus, why did the person in need go to the friend at midnight? (11:5-8)
7. In this story, whom does the friend in the house represent? (11:5-8)
8. Why did he eventually grant the man's request for bread? (11:8)
9. How did Jesus summarize the principle of this parable? (11:9-10)
10. What do you need to ask your Heavenly Father for?
11. How can you demonstrate patient, expectant persistence in prayer this week?



Powerful Praying! Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Lesson 4

1. Why is forgiveness difficult?
2. What question did Peter ask and what was Jesus' surprising response? (Matthew 18:21-22)
3. In our culture are people likely to forgive someone more than once?
4. In the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, what happened to the servant who owed more than he could ever repay? (18:23-27)
5. In what ways has God shown mercy in forgiving your sins and the sins of others?
6. After being shown mercy, how did the first servant deal with a fellow servant who owed him a small amount of money? (18:28-30)
7. If God is so willing to forgive us, why do we find it hard to forgive others?
8. How did the onlookers in this Parable respond to the actions of the first servant? (18:31)
9. How did the king react when he heard about the actions of the first servant? (18:32-34)
10. How does Jesus' application for this parable compare to His teaching offered in the Sermon on the Mount? (18:35 and 6:14-15)
11. Who do you need to ask forgiveness from for a wrong you have done? This week, be reconciled to others by seeking or extending forgiveness.

Powerful Praying! Touch Your Friends Through Prayer

Ephesians 3:14-21

Lesson 5

1. How often do you pray for those you love? Who do you pray for?
2. What did Paul request in prayer for those in Ephesus? (Ephesians 3:16)
3. Through whom would the Ephesians be strengthened and for what purpose? (3:16-17)
4. How and when have you allowed God to become too small in your life?
5. Why did Paul want the Ephesians to be "rooted" and "established in love"?
6. What does Paul go on to say about the love of Christ? (3:19)
7. What did Paul say as he closed his prayer? (3:20-21)
8. How does Paul's doxology encourage you? (3:20-21)
9. Talk about how you can improve in your intercessory prayer (prayers for the needs and well-being of others).



Powerful Praying! Seek First His Kingdom

Matthew 6:25-34

Lesson 6

1. What do people worry about the most?
2. What three things did Jesus tell His followers not to worry about? (Matthew 6:25)
3. What did Jesus use to illustrate that God is a reliable provider? Why? (6:26)
4. Explain why worrying is not a positive solution to problems. (6:27)
5. How did Jesus argue against worry regarding the necessity of obtaining proper clothing? (6:28-30)
6. What group of people should be expected to worry about life's necessities? (6:31-32)
7. If we keep God's priorities, what can we expect? (6:33)
8. Why is worrying over the future so disruptive for today's peace? (6:34)
9. What is the difference between planning for the future and worrying about the future?
10. What steps can you take this week to keep your focus on His kingdom and His righteousness?

Powerful Praying! A-S-K: Ask, Seek, Knock

Matthew 7:7-12

Lesson 7

1. If you were able to ask for anything in the whole world with the assurance that your request would be granted, what would you ask for?
2. According to James, what is one reason that we will not obtain what we need or desire? (James 4:2-3)
3. When we do ask something of God in prayer, what guidance is offered in 1 John 5:14,15.
4. Jesus taught His followers to A-S-K with expectation. What did He say would result from each of the following actions? (Matthew 7:7, 8)
 - a. Ask . . .
 - b. Seek . . .
 - c. Knock . . .
5. What point was Jesus trying to make by illustrating how godless parents provide the basic staples of life for their children (here represented by bread and fish)? (Matthew 7:9-11)
6. What is the likelihood of God answering the appropriate requests of His praying children? (Matthew 7:11)
7. In light of this truth--that God can and will supply His children with "good gifts" if they ask--what command does Jesus set forth? (Matthew 7:12)
8. This command (Matthew 7:12) is commonly known as the "Golden Rule." There is a similar ethical teaching found in major religions such as Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism which states "do not do to others what you do not want done to you." How does it differ from Christ's command?
9. This week, how can you demonstrate trust in God to supply your basic needs and how can you use these resources to bless others?



Powerful Praying! Jesus Prays For All Believers

John 17:20-26

Small Group Lesson 8

1. When have you seen disunity in a family, church or community?
2. As Jesus prayed for other disciples, who else did he include in His prayer? (John 17:20)
3. Why did Jesus want all believers to be one? (17:21)
4. What did Jesus want to communicate to the world through the unity seen among His followers? (17:23)
5. How have Christians allowed division and destroyed unity in our world today?
6. How is the Father's relationship with the Son an example for us to follow in our relationships with other Christians?
7. What desire did Jesus express to the Father in John 17:24?
8. Who did Jesus say that the world did not know? (17:25)
9. Why was Jesus going to continue to make the Father known? (17:26)
10. What can you do to promote the unity among Christians that Jesus prayed for in John 17:20-26?

Powerful Praying! How To Listen To God

Psalm 81:8-14

Small Group Lesson 9

1. Which is the most difficult: talk or to listen? In your prayer life, which do you find to be the most difficult: to talk or to listen? Why is it important for us to learn how to listen to God?
2. As a group, make a list of hindrances of hearing God's voice in our lives and discuss each one: (Example: rebellious spirit)
3. Read *Psalm 81:8-14*.
 - a. What happened to the children of Israel when they did not listen to God?
 - b. What does God plead for His people to do?
 - c. What does God promise He will do if only we will listen to Him?
 - d. Where in your life do you really need to listen to God?
4. Talk about each of these four ways God speaks to us today: (ask for individual illustrations)
 - a. The Word of God (*Joshua 1:7-8*)
 - b. The Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:26-27, John 16:13*)
 - c. Other people
 - d. Circumstances
5. What do you think of when you think of the word "meditation?" How important is it for us to learn as Christians to meditate on the things of God? Why is this so difficult for us?
6. Some guidelines for meaningful meditation. Practice with one verse (such as *Philippians 4:19*)
 - a. Review the past.
 - b. Reflect upon God's character.
 - c. Remember God's promises.
 - d. Make a request.
 - e. Stillness.
 - f. Submission.

Now share with each other what truth God has given you as you meditated.

Note: Some of the things that will happen from spending time in mediation: A new perspective, a renewed mind, guidance in your life, peace of mind, purification of your heart and life, strength to live on the received promises of God.



Powerful Praying! Mountain Moving Faith

Matthew 17:14-20

Small Group Lesson 10

1. If you could move any mountain in your life, which one would it be? Where would you move it?
2. Read Matthew 17:20. How big is a mustard seed?
3. What is Jesus trying to communicate to His disciples?
4. Which is more important, the size of my faith or the object of my faith?
5. What is the context or story that preceded Jesus' comments on "mountain moving" faith? (17:14-20) What was the problem?
6. How did Jesus respond to the Father? to His disciples? to the demons?
7. What can we learn from the father whose son could not be healed by the disciples? What would have happened if he had given up? What did he do?
8. Is there a mountain in your life that hasn't moved even though you've tried your best?
9. What could you do next to demonstrate that you are not giving up?
10. Allow others to pray with you about that mountain today.

Powerful Praying! Why Worry When You Can Pray?

Luke 12:22-34

Small Group Lesson 11

1. Tell about a time when you worried about something that could have gone wrong but didn't?
2. Describe the feeling you have when you've just received word that unexpected company will soon arrive?
3. Read Luke 10:38-41. Whom are you more like; Mary or Martha?
4. What point is Jesus trying to make to Martha?
5. Read Luke 12:22-31. What does Jesus teach us concerning worry?
6. What causes you the greatest amount of worry?
7. How do the commands and principles in Luke 12:31-34 help us to overcome worry?
8. God does not want us to be burdened down by worry and anxiety. What does God say you should do when faced with these temptations?
(Philippians 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:7)
9. Pray "thanksgiving prayers" together by "presenting your requests to God" and "casting your anxiety on Him".



A STUDY OF EPHESIANS

A Study of Ephesians Spiritual Blessings From God

Ephesians 1:1-14

Lesson 1

1. What has happened to you recently that you count as a blessing?
2. How have Christians been blessed? (Ephesians 1:3)
3. In verse 4, what did God decide for believers and when did He choose it?
4. What did God predestine (mark out beforehand), and what is the destiny or relationship that believers have with Him? (1:5-6)
5. What are the blessings that Christ has provided for the believer? (1:7)
6. What did Jesus Christ have to do in order to provide these blessings? (1:7)
7. Read verses 8-10 and summarize in your own words how God has and will pour out spiritual blessings.
8. God predestined the Jews to be the first to believe in Christ (1:12). What were the results of the Gentiles hearing the good news of salvation? (1:13)
9. Consider the role of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual blessing of God for believers:
 - a. God has placed the Holy Spirit as a "seal" on believers. A "seal" in Bible times showed ownership. (1:13)
 - b. God has placed the Holy Spirit as a "deposit" (down payment) to guarantee the believer's full redemption and inheritance as God's child. (1:14)
10. How does it make you feel to realize all that God has done for you? How can you express your gratitude to God this week for all His spiritual blessings?



A Study of Ephesians Made Alive In Christ

Ephesians 1:15-2:10

Lesson 2

1. For what are you most thankful?
2. Paul gave thanks to God for the faith that the believers had in Ephesus (Ephesians 1:15-16). He also prayed that they would get to know God better (1:17). What 3 things did Paul also pray that the Ephesians would come to know as their hearts continued to be enlightened? (1:18-19)
3. What was the end result of God's great display of power which He demonstrated in Christ? (1:20-23)
4. How did Paul describe their former spiritual condition? (2:1)
5. What characteristics are true of those who are spiritually dead in sin? (2:2-3)
6. Why did God make those who were spiritually dead, alive with Christ? (2:4-5)
7. How has God honored those who have been made alive in Christ? (2:6)
8. Why is it that no one can say he has earned his own salvation? (2:8-9)
9. Have you ever had pride in your good deeds?
10. We are God's workmanship. (2:10) How can you see God's creative workmanship operating in your life?
11. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, what good work for the Kingdom of God do you hope to accomplish this week?

A Study of Ephesians One In Christ

Ephesians 2:11-22

Lesson 3

1. Tell about a time when you felt excluded as an outsider because of social, religious or racial differences? How did you feel and react in that situation?
2. What do you know about the racial and ethnic differences that have historically existed between Jews and Gentiles? How did Paul state these differences? (Ephesians 2:11-12)
3. How did Christ's work on the cross transform the condition of the Gentiles in relationship to God? (2:13)
4. How did Christ's work on the cross serve to reconcile and unify Jews and Gentiles? (2:14-18)
5. How are some of the ethnic groups in our city, nation and world needing reconciliation? With what social, economic or ethnic groups have you had to overcome division, hostility and or prejudice?
6. In Christ, what is the new spiritual status of the Gentiles? (2:19-22)
7. How does the Gospel of Jesus break down social, religious and ethnic barriers?
8. If Paul were speaking to your church about reconciliation, would his words be filled with praise or disappointment?
9. How can you demonstrate the unity that should exist in Christ's church? What can you do this week to show love and acceptance to a Christian who is socially, culturally or racially different from you?



A Study of Ephesians A Captive of Christ's Love

Ephesians 3:1-21

Lesson 4

1. If you were in prison, what would you miss most about life on the outside? In what ways would you spend your time trying to "escape" (mentally, emotionally, etc.)?
2. Paul likely wrote Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:16, 30-31). What is the clue that Paul gives regarding his location and condition? (Ephesians 3:1)
3. How did Paul describe his current circumstances? Whose "prisoner" did he say he was? (Ephesians 3:1) What does this say about his ability to deal with negative circumstances?
4. Do you think Paul was looking for sympathy as he wrote this letter (probably from a guarded room)? (3:2-13)
5. On what basis do you have any right to come to God? (3:10-12)
6. With what attitude are you allowed to approach God? (3:12) How does this compare to your normal attitude, actions and feelings about approaching God?
7. Paul soon shifted the focus from what God had done for him to what God could do for his readers. What overwhelming concept or truth was he wanting them to grasp? (3:14-19)
8. Have you fully comprehended what God has done for you and how great Christ's love is? Describe your perspective on His love for you.
9. As a closing for this lesson, read the benediction in Ephesians 3:20-21.

A Study of Ephesians

Unity in the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:1-16

Lesson 5

1. What unites sports teams? How do sports teams illustrate the need for different gifts, working in unity?
2. What virtues foster unity among Christians? (Ephesians 4:1-3)
3. What are the 7 elements listed by Paul that should motivate us to pursue Christian unity? (4:4-6)
4. How do you get along with other Christians?
5. God has spiritually gifted some Christians to lead as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastor/ teachers. (4:11) What is the purpose of these spiritual gifts? (4:12-13)
6. How have you benefited from the leaders in your church?
7. What does God expect to see as a result of spiritual leaders equipping and mobilizing Christians for ministry in the body of Christ? (4:14-16)
8. What service can you offer within the body of Christ?
9. How would you characterize the unity of your church? What part can you play in your church's unity?



A Study of Ephesians Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-5:21

Lesson 6

1. What are the type of things that happen in our city after dark?
2. How did Paul say Gentiles were living in the dark? (Ephesians 4:17-19)
3. *The Put Off - Put On Principle:* Paul lists many vices that Christians are to put off; however, he also lists the virtues that are to be put on in their place. To enjoy long-term change you must focus on the virtue that you are adding. Below, list the vices to put off and the virtues to put on in their place. (4:20-32)

PUT OFF	PUT ON
old self falsehood	new self speak truthfully

4. What virtues have you put on since becoming a Christian?
5. In what way are Christians to imitate God? (5:1-2)
6. What actions does Paul say should not be associated with God's people? (5:3-4)
7. Whom should Christians avoid partnership with? (5:5-7)
8. How does Paul suggest we live? (5:8-21)
9. Instead of yielding control of yourself to alcohol, what power should you yield to? (5:18)
10. What changes would you like to see take place in your behavior? Yield to the power and control of the Holy Spirit. Allow him to help you put on new virtues that will crowd out the old vices. Pray for one another right now.

A Study of Ephesians Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:21-33

Lesson 7

1. Name a couple who have a good marriage relationship and describe what it is that you truly admire about them.
2. How does mutual submission between a husband and wife create a satisfying relationship? (5:21)
3. How does Paul help define the wife's responsibility in this mutual submission? (5:22-24)
4. Paul illustrates that submission in marriage is not one-sided, in fact, the husband is required to take an active role. How does Paul describe the mutual submission of a husband? (5:25-27)
5. How does Paul's teaching here illustrate that God should be at the center of a marriage relationship?
6. What priority should a husband give to loving and caring for his wife? (5:28-30)
7. How should the covenant bond between a husband and wife be more permanent than the relationship of a parent and child? (5:31)
8. How does Paul summarize the responsibilities of the husband and wife as they demonstrate mutual submission? (5:33)
9. If you are married, what can you do this week to demonstrate mutual submission to your spouse? If you are single, how can you use this principle of mutual submission to strengthen or help the relationship of a Christian couple?



A Study of Ephesians

Honor Those In Authority Over You.

Ephesians 6:1-9

Lesson 8

1. If you could relive your childhood, how would you change the way your parents treated you?
2. How is obedience to parents a part of a child's obligation to Christ? (Ephesians 6:1)
3. Read Exodus 20:12. The word "honor" is used in the Old Testament to indicate something that is highly prized, cared for, to show respect for, and to obey. What does it mean to "honor your father and mother" as seen in the above verse and Ephesians 6:2.
4. What did God promise the Israelite children for obeying their parents? (6:2-3)
5. How does God's commandment and promise to children hold true today?
6. How did honoring your parents bring blessing to you?
7. What instruction does God have for Fathers? (6:4)
8. How is the Lord to be the center of parent-child relationships? (6:4)
9. How can parents avoid exasperating their children?
10. What did Paul have to say regarding slaves and their masters? (6:5-9)
11. How are Paul's instructions to slaves and masters an application of Ephesians 5:21?
12. How can you submit to one another out of reverence for Christ and show honor to those in authority over you this week?

A Study of Ephesians The Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-24

Lesson 9

1. What precautions do police officers take to guard against danger?
2. What precautions did Paul tell the believers to take? (Ephesians 6:11)
3. How did Paul describe the danger that Christians face? (6:11-12)
4. Based on Paul's words, what can you expect to face sooner or later? (6:13)
5. What spiritual battles have you been faced with already in your life as a Christian?
6. Why is it helpful that Paul used a Roman soldier's armor to illustrate the protection available for spiritual warfare?
7. List and describe the pieces of spiritual armor that God instructs Christians to put on. (6:14-18)
8. How would you describe the armor of God in your own words?
9. What mandate does God give all Christians? (6:14)
10. What last piece of armor did Paul tell all Christians to take up? (6:17-18) What is the significance of this piece of armor, how is it different from the other items listed and why is it important?
11. What pieces of armor are you missing or are in poor condition? How can you correct that?



CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Christian Service

Follow Jesus And You Can Make A Difference

1. If you could chose an ideal height, how tall would you be?

2. Read *Luke 19:1-9*.
 - a. What impress you most about Zacchaeus?
 - b. What do you think Jesus' facial expression was when He called Zacchaeus to come down?
 - c. Did the people dislike the chief tax collector because he collected taxes or was it because he had money? How do people usually feel about people who have more money than they do?
 - d. Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house for dinner?
 - e. In verse 7, what did the people mutter about?
 - f. How should we feel about sinners and what should our response be?
 - g. What happened to Zaccheaus that changed him forever?

3. What was Jesus' mission according to *Luke 19:10*?

4. How much passion do you have for lost souls? On a scale of 1 – 10...

Weak Strong
[_____]
1 5 10

5. What do we learn from *John 12:47* concerning Jesus' mission?
6. What is the mission of our church in our community?

What do we need to enable us to carry out this mission?
7. Read the words of Jesus in *Luke 4:18-19* and complete this sentence. "Follow me and I will make you
8. Discuss how **you** can make a difference today in someone's life.



Christian Service

Love Will Win The World

1. What is the difference between the soul and the body?
2. Where did the soul come from? (*Genesis 2:7*)
3. Where does the soul get its worth?
 - a. *Genesis 1:27*:
 - b. *John 3:16*:
4. What value did Jesus place on the soul? (*Mark 8:34-37*) According to this scripture, how does a person “save their soul”?
5. What is the heart problem that man has that is more severe than heart disease or even emotional heartbreak? (*Jeremiah 17:9-10*)
6. What must happen to take care of this heart problem so we can make Heaven our home according to the story in *John 3:1-8* with Nicodemus?
7. How do we help other people save their soul?
8. Why is it that an unsaved soul does not give two hoots about saving anybody else’s soul? (*Romans 5:6-8*)
9. How do we save the lost souls in our community...the ones whose lives we touch?
10. Talk about these quotes:
 - a. “You have to earn the right to share Christ by the way you love others.”
 - b. “You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving.”
11. Share a personal illustration you’ve had recently that demonstrates how God loves others to Himself through you.

Christian Service A Bib or an Apron?

1. What are some of the reasons why you enjoy the springtime of the year?

2. List several purposes for Christ's coming to live among us, to teach, to die, to be resurrected, and then appear to over 500.

3. Read *Mark 10:45*. How did Jesus communicate the "good news" of the Kingdom of God with his life as well as words?

4. Discuss how hard it is for us as "Westerners", to put on the apron instead of a bib. *Philippians 2:5-8*.

5. Even though we are called to serve (and we are most like Jesus when we are serving), is it possible to help a person **too much**?

6. Here are three principles to help you avoid helping a person too much.
 - a. **Must set limits.** In the story Jesus told about the Samaritan who helped the man who was left half-dead (*Luke 10:25-37*), what did he do and what did he not do?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
 - b. **Respect their choices.** Whenever I try to help by making their choices for them, it is called "manipulation". Even Jesus modeled this in *Luke 18:18-25*. What did He do?
 - c. **Respect God's plan.** Read *Luke 22:31-34*. Even though Jesus prayed for him, did Peter fail?



Christian Service “Affecting” Service!

1. When it's all said and done and life is over what would you like people to say at your funeral?
2. In *Romans 12:1*, what does it mean to give God “a living sacrifice”? How is this to be lived out in daily life and what is “reasonable service” and “spiritual worship”?
3. Read *Acts 9:36-43*. How did Tabitha's life measure up to the above terms?
4. Who is our perfect model for living service? (*Mark 10:45*)
5. Why do you think Tabitha's service had such an impact on lives?
6. In every person's life there are areas that we have control over, areas our actions have influence over and areas that are beyond what we can control or influence. Describe each of these areas in the life of Tabitha. What area was her service to the widows found in?
7. What areas do we have control over in our service to our family? What about areas of influence? What do we do with areas beyond our control? (*1 Peter 5:6-7*)
8. According to *Ephesians 2:10* what were we created in Christ to do?

Why does God stress this so much here?
9. Read *Matthew 20:20-24*. How does God's way of service differ from the ways of getting to the top in this world?
10. What do we learn about Paul and why he was effective in his service to Christ? (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*)
11. Discuss this – “It is amazing what can be done for Christ when we don't care who gets the credit.”
12. Why is it hard to play second fiddle? How many second fiddle players does God need? Can any ministry be effective without second fiddle players?
13. In the sight of God what was more important, Tabitha's life of service, or her resurrection from the dead? (*Acts 9*)
14. What are some of the joys and benefits that come into a person's life when they really take hold of the concept of being God's servant by serving others in the name of Jesus?

Christian Service Growing Spiritually

1. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?
2. Jesus offered “living water” to the Samaritan woman (*John 4:10*). What claims did He make about this very special water?
3. What did He mean by “living water”? (*Isaiah 44:3-4 & John 7:37-39*)
4. What is this “thirst” (*John 4:14*) and how had the woman been trying to quench her thirst in the past? (*John 4:17-18 & Isaiah 55:1-2*)
5. Why didn’t the woman understand what Jesus meant by “living water”?
6. How had you tried to quench the thirsts of your life before meeting Jesus?
7. As soon as the Samaritan woman perceived that the conversation was heading toward religion, she tried to keep it from becoming personal by employing a common tactic. What was it and how did Jesus handle her evasiveness? (*John 4:19-24*)
8. Why was Jesus no longer hungry when the disciples returned with food? (*John 4:31-34*)
9. When Jesus referred to the harvest, what did He mean? (*John 4:35*) Who are the harvesters and reapers? (*2Corinthians 5:18-20*)

Who are you praying for that they will receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior? List their names and pray for them now and throughout the weeks to come.



Christian Service

The Andrew Principle: “Only What We Share Is Multiplied”

1. From your memories, what are some of the things that make picnics so special?
2. What is the largest crowd you have ever eaten a meal with recently? How were they served?
3. Read *John 6:1-13*. What is the big problem Jesus faces with His disciples?
4. What is Philip’s response?
5. What is Andrew’s response?
6. What is the vehicle God used (and uses today) to bring about the miracle supply of food until everyone had enough to eat and more left over?

Sharing is the only way to win souls.

- a. It seems to be a way of life for Andrew. What is he doing in *John 1:41*?
- b. Who has God used to help introduce you to Jesus?
- c. What is the greatest thing you can do for someone in your family? In your neighborhood? In your workplace? In your social contacts?

Sharing is the only way to multiply love

- a. Can you ever get too much love? Why?
- b. How much love can a person receive: If they pull back in a shell? By being critical? By being rude/harsh? By sitting around waiting for others to come to them?
- c. What are some creative ways to give God’s love away...and giving it multiplies?

Sharing is the only way to keep from being selfish

Read *John 12:24*. What could this be saying about troubled marriages? About tension filled neighborhoods and workplaces?

Sharing is the way to gain ego satisfaction

Describe something that proved to be a real boost to you after you took the first step to give God’s love away.

Sharing is the only way to keep the miracle going

- a. Read *John 4:35*. What is Jesus saying about our city? About our church?
- b. What would have happened in the story we read earlier (*John 6:1-13*) if the young boy had said, “No, I’m going to keep my lunch and eat it myself!”?

What are some ways we can stop the miracle that God is giving us in our church?

Christian Service

Love In Action

Luke 10:25-37

1. What motivates people to help someone who is in need?
2. What question did the legal expert ask Jesus in Luke 10:25?
3. When Jesus turned the question back on him how did the legal expert summarize the Law? (Luke 10:26-27)
4. Why did the legal expert ask "Who is my neighbor"? (Luke 10:28-29)
5. How did the priest and the Levite respond when they came upon the man who was robbed and beaten? (Luke 10:31-32)
6. What is significant about including a Samaritan in this story? And how did his actions contrast those of the Jewish leaders? (10:33-35)
7. Why is it easy to relate to the priest and Levite even though the Samaritan showed the best response?
8. How did the legal expert define "neighbor" after hearing Jesus' story? What did Jesus then tell him to do? (Luke 10:36-37)
9. Who are some of those to whom you can, and should, demonstrate "love in action"?
10. Who has helped you in a time of need and how can you express thanks to them this week?



Christian Service

Becoming Great In God's Kingdom

Matthew 20:20-27

1. When you were a child what did you want to be when you grew up?
2. How did Mrs. Zebedee feel about her two sons? (Matthew 20:20-27)
3. What request did she make to Jesus? (20:21)
4. How did the other ten disciples react to her request? (20:24)
5. What did Jesus say to her? (20:22-23)
6. According to Jesus' teaching and example, what difference is there between the world's system of how one becomes great and God's system of evaluation? (Matthew 20:25-28)
7. List the opportunities in your life that you have for serving others.
8. Give examples of serving in the home.
9. Give examples of serving in God's Kingdom.
10. Give examples of serving in the community and work place.
11. How and where is God leading you to serve at this time in your life?