

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



A PROCESS TO EQUIP PEOPLE TO INITIATE, BUILD AND MULTIPLY THE LOCAL CHURCH, FAITH COMMUNITIES & DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS, SO THAT EVERY FOLLOWER OF JESUS HAS A PLACE FOR CONNECTION, GROWTH AND EQUIPPING. THIS IS VITAL FOR THE VISION OF EVERYONE KNOWING SOMEONE WHO TRULY FOLLOWS JESUS.

PURSUE

Foundations for Growth

[As we mature in Christ, we discover that God has done two things that require a response. First, He has called us to Himself. Second, He has called us to others in order to help believers in these two callings and to help non-believers in coming to these two callings (see Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 3:14). This part of our life with God (helping non-believers discover these two callings) is what Paul describes as the Ambassadorial role. So, within the “job description” of any believer or church, three major categories exist: personal growth, evangelism, and discipleship.]



Leading a Sent 6:7 Small Group

It is helpful to understand that **Sent 6:7** is an obedient-faith/application-focused curriculum which utilizes the **Discovery Bible Study (DBS)** process – a **discipleship** study which enables people to read the Bible and discover what it has to say to them. Simple, memorable questions allow participants to understand the character of God, encourage them to obey what they are learning and help them to share it with others. This method works well as the leader trusts the Lord, walks in the Spirit and asks the Holy Spirit to teach, train and lead.

1. PRAY

- Pray for your own heart - for you to be filled with the Spirit and be guided by Him as you prepare and lead.
- Pray through your oikos who you should invite to the group.
- Pray for God to prepare hearts.
- Pray for logistics - promotion, convenient location, time, etc.

2. PROMOTE

Carefully choose the time, location, and backup facilitators

- If you want to foster greater connection and authenticity between participants, meeting in homes is preferable. Consider how childcare will be handled.
- If possible, plan for a 1 ½ hour group. This allows for 1 ¼ hours to cover the material, and then another 15 minutes at the start for mingling and refreshments as folks arrive.
- If you only have one hour, make sure not to sacrifice the main content of the Facilitators Guide (teaching notes), nor some time for interaction. If you prepare well and edit your lesson to fit the time you have, you will be in good shape.
- Choose someone to facilitate the weekly meeting in the event you are absent. Consistency is key to an effective small-group study. Changing dates and times or missing meetings because facilitators are not present is a sure way to encourage dwindling attendance.

Promote the group

- As an added resource see [How to Start a Sent 6:7 Group](#)
- Promote the group in as many ways as possible. Facebook, Instagram, email and text messages, church bulletins, church foyer tables, posters, and personal invitations. Use all channels available to you. A personal invitation is the most effective way, by far.
- Start your promotion three weeks to a month before your group study begins.
- Make your invitation/challenge to the group specific.
 - We encourage hosting your group in seasons (fall and winter, and spring and summer), which allows for short breaks for both Christmas holidays and summer vacations.
 - In a spirit of truth and grace (highly relational) and keeping it missional too, ask for them to commit to coming to at least 80-90% of the sessions. Assure them that we will take breaks as life gets hectic. s. We know that life gets hectic, but for the sake of the group, their growth, training, ministry, etc., but we are asking them to commit to 80-90% each season.

- Promote the group as many ways as possible. Facebook, Instagram, email and text messages, church bulletins, church foyer tables, posters, and personal invitations. Use all channels available to you. A personal invitation is the most effective way, by far.
- Start your promotion three weeks to a month before your group study begins.

3. PREPARE

Prepare each week

- Study the material ahead of time and meditate on it throughout the week.
- Are there any handouts, paper, tools, etc. - that you need to make sure to bring (in-person) or send (digitally) before the group begins? (For example, *Satisfied* booklet, pencils or pens, resources from the appendix, etc.)
- It is helpful to go over your final teaching notes many times before you actually teach, so as to allow the Holy Spirit to pour His heart into you.
- Pray over the message – asking God to teach through you and cause learning to happen in a life-changing way.
- For deeper study, consider looking at theological resources and tools (commentaries, word studies, etc.)
- Refresh your memory by looking through your notes, either the night before or the morning of.
- Be familiar with the Participant's Notes (PN) for each lesson, not just the Facilitator's Guide (FG).
- If PowerPoint slides are being used, familiarize yourself with each one and where they coincide with the Facilitator's Guide (FG). In some of our curricula examples, the green highlighted **CLICK** means that you should advance the slide at that point in the FG as you teach.
- Have all materials pre-printed and ready to hand out to the group or send each group member a PDF copy of SENT 6:7 and ask them to both download it and get a copy made and bound.
- Depending on your group's needs, have other resources available that Sent 6:7 refers to in your session notes.
- You will find a helpful glossary of terms [here](#), to help you define certain terms and concepts that will emerge from your DBS.
- It's important to note that...
 - The **Motivation and Encouragement** section each week is for general use. It is not to motivate the group for that day's lesson but to "Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them."
 - The **Context** section is to give you important background information for the Bible text you will study that week.
 - In the **Discovery Question** section be sure to encourage specific application to lessons that emerge from the Bible passage you studied, in order to grow in Christ-likeness. For example in Session 2 you will study "forgiveness". You might want to ask: Is there a relationship that I need to take steps to restore? Maybe I need to forgive someone or ask someone for forgiveness, just like in the story?"
 - The **Retell the story** section encourages us to learn to retell the Bible story in our own words, as it will help us remember and give us the ability to share it with others.
 - The **I will-by when statements** are meant to allow all participants to capture what the Holy Spirit is impressing on all for specific application.
 - In the **3rd/3rd - Looking Forward section**, the meaning of each part is important: 1) Preparing involves some kind of equipping and practice, for skill development; 2)

Pursuing encourages application; and 3) Praying gives all the opportunity to entrust everything into the Lord's hand while expressing dependence on Him and His power to help us Pursue Jesus and His mission

- o The **In Your Time with God** section is a place where we put valuable resources that the participants can use, study, read during the week when they have their devotional/quiet time with the Lord.

4. BEST PRACTICES

Be punctual

- Be ready or arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the group study so you can have room seating set up, refreshments ready, and have time for personal prayer. If computers and screens are being used, allow even more time.
- Start and finish on time. Resist the urge to “wait until everyone is here” before starting, or to “keep going because everyone is engaged” when it is time to stop.
- Let everyone know they are welcome to stick around but that they're free to go at the prearranged finish time. It shows you respect their time.

Create an atmosphere for connection

- Begin with a little informal time to allow participants to connect with each other on their own terms. Food, even if it's light fare, usually puts people at ease.
- It's probably a good idea to provide the food for the first couple of meetings. Later, invite participants to bring something each week.
- A sit-down meal for the final week of the study can be a great way to celebrate and reflect on what you've all learned together.
- Arranging the chairs in a circle facilitates better discussion.
- Using a group list of names, emails and phone numbers, look for opportunities to make connections during the week. For example, send weekly encouragement, homework, the snack schedule, or articles that participants will find interesting.
- Create a group forum for communication using a tool like WhatsApp or GroupMe.

Model what you want the group to be

- If you want honesty, be the first to share openly and personally.
- If you want the group to experience the community, make a point of sending a quick text throughout the week to check on individual group members or just to say “hi.”
- Set up a time to meet for coffee or dinner with a couple or individual you don't know well.
- Stay in touch with the needs of the group and brainstorm opportunities to serve each other.
- To foster a culture of praying for each other regularly, send a mid-week group text asking people to share prayer needs.

Leading Discussions

- You are a facilitator, as well as a teacher. Empower others to discover the truth of Scripture for themselves by asking great questions. Don't turn your discussion time into a lecture.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to speak through the study materials. While it's great for you to share your own experiences, stories, and opinions, let the text be the main focus.
- Keep discussion questions to a minimum as you will only have about 30 minutes in the Looking Up section typically. We ask these questions in the Looking Up section always: 1) What caught your attention and why?; 2) What can we learn about God or people? 3) How can we live differently in light of this passage? You could also use: Is there a command to obey, example to follow, promise to claim, or sin to confess? Or Why is this story important?
- In the Looking Forward section we always ask: How do I need to specifically apply this to my life? (I Will By When)
- As you discuss the Bible, you may be drawn into theological debates. Remember this isn't the purpose. The goal is life change, not simply gaining knowledge.
- Create a safe environment for group members to share. Don't put down group members' comments or questions. Affirm people when they share, don't just move on to the next person or topic.
- Ask open-ended questions that can't be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." If you must ask a "yes or no" question, be sure to follow it with "Why?"
- To encourage non-talkers to participate in your discussion, call on them by name. For example say: "I'd like to hear what (insert name) thinks about this question." At the same time, never force participation, which would create an unsafe environment. This also works when there are overly-talkative group members by making it clear who should be speaking.
- Stimulate further discussion by responding to members' contributions. You can simply acknowledge their response (Thanks for sharing, Helen.), or you can ask guiding questions to clarify general or vague responses (Tell me more about that.)
- Be aware of nonverbal communication as well (a groan, deep sigh, or laughter) —some say up to 90 percent of communication is non-verbal.
- When someone answers incorrectly, respond carefully. Instead of telling group members they're incorrect, turn it over to the group. Ask, "What do others think?" or "Does everyone agree?" You can also ask, "Do you find that in Scripture?" Be gentle in your response. It may be better to confront the issue one-on-one outside of the meeting.
- When your discussion goes off on a tangent, acknowledge the new topic's importance, and suggest that you table the topic until later. Having people participate—even if their comments are off-topic—is a good thing. Just keep steering the conversation back to the main topic.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. As your group grows closer together, some will become more open in sharing personal struggles and challenges. At times, it will be appropriate to stop and pray immediately.
- Remember at all times to be CONFIDENTIAL regarding the personal things shared.
- Encourage note-taking to enhance the learning process.
- Apply The 30 Second Rule. Too often, leaders ask a question, wait three to five seconds, and then jump in to answer it themselves. Group members will learn that you'll always give the answers, which will discourage future participation. It takes at least 20 seconds for many people to process questions, especially reflection and application questions.

Other Important Thoughts

- Keep the group open, if people want to join you after you've begun, let them in. You can catch them up with the group content via personal meetings at a later time (over coffee, for example)
- Don't worry if people depart the group - as family situations change, people move, jobs change, there is sickness and, sometimes, people will lose interest
- The essence of making disciples is influence. Keep these Five Fundamentals
 - a relationship of love and influence (not peer relationship)
 - where what is taught is modelled (seen & heard, up close)
 - with challenging opportunities to grow, and be skilled with accountability (a call to faith action) are evident - obedient-trust/application oriented (not "teaching them" but "teaching them to observe")
 - and exposure to the broader community of Jesus is enjoyed.(find a longer description here for further study: [five fundamentals in mind](#))
- We want to make sure that Sent 6:7 Pursue groups encourage missional living (*). Jesus commanded us to teach with obedience in mind, as well as taking the gospel to all people. So, remember the MAWR Principle (model, assist, watch, release).
 - (*) Neighborhood parties with theme, Life the City questionnaire, Soularium Image Survey, The Amazing Question, Story of the Soul or Short-Film gathering in your home
- We encourage you to try to practice some of the missional living applications together, when possible; and encourage gracious accountability to play a part in the culture of your group.
- Many topics and issues may arise in your small groups. We encourage you to look for credible resources and spiritual leaders to serve your small group members for good answers.
- There are some with an apostolic, missionary mindset, who are called and responsible for expanding outreach and going to where Jesus is not known, who will want to look for a leader who can replace them, so that they can move on to start new groups, faith communities or churches. America as a mission field needs an increasing number of leaders who love well in laying a foundation for new believers and getting them connected in a great community. If you are that kind of person, you will want to stay connected to the group you've started, *as you move on to begin another group!* The calling to love people we don't yet know will cause some of us (and maybe you) to keep moving the gospel forward. But you *can* stay connected. You should connect the leader who takes your place to a Develop group for their continued encouragement and leadership development.

Welcome to the Group

PURSUE: Foundations for Growth is a disciple-making pathway for all followers of Jesus as well as those seeking Him. The goal is to establish people in pursuing the person and the mission of Jesus (to acquire both His character, wisdom, values, teaching AND His mission to take the gospel to others and advance His Kingdom). *PURSUE* is designed for the new believer, so it's simple and transferable to encourage application of the foundations of our faith and missional living.

We encourage you to try to practice some of the missional living applications together when possible, and encourage gracious accountability to play a part in the culture of your group.

Explain to the group that each week we will spend time “Looking” in 3 different ways...

- BACK on our week to worship Jesus, show care to one another and pray for each other.
- UP to see what God wants to teach us through a Bible passage. This is an application-oriented Bible Study. We will engage biblical content to build our faith, and to inspire both trust in and obedience to Jesus. We will be using the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) method. It is a way to both read, discover and remember what the Bible says. It involves reading, discovering through interaction and repeating what we read in our own words. Retelling reinforces learning the Scriptures.
- FORWARD – to apply what we are learning and be intentional about reaching out to others. As we take steps of faith, we use the “I will ____ by ____when” format to help our next steps be personal, possible, and provable.

We encourage you to have a journal for additional note-taking, as the Participant’s Notes template is purposefully simple.

Elements of the 3/3rds process are helpful for personal growth and health, and for multiplication -- making new disciples who pursue the person and mission of Jesus. It’s important to include each in your time together.

In Your Time With God is a supplemental section for participants to cover in a self-directed way between your small group meetings.

The Prayer Care Share Lifestyle

At its heart, the PCS lifestyle is a gospel lifestyle of demonstrating the gospel by loving our neighbors combined with the proclamation of the gospel as the Lord gives opportunity, all undergirded by prayer.

To live a PCS lifestyle is allowing the Holy Spirit to live in and work through you the lifestyle practices of...

... PRAYING for others.

Prayer is the first and best thing we can do for the people in our oikos (those networks and people you do life with - where you live, learn, work, and play). As we pray for people, it is common for God to put it on our hearts to show His love in more tangible ways....

... CARING for others.

You have heard the phrase that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Acts of kindness or care can open ways to communicate the gospel. Those living a PCS lifestyle, respond to the Spirit's leading in prayer to show care for people around them, sometimes by praying with them or meeting other needs as we are able.

....SHARING THE GOSPEL with others.

As we pray for people and demonstrate care in tangible ways, God will often open up doors for us to have spiritual conversations with those same people that are centered on Jesus. The ultimate act of love is sharing the gospel of Christ with people in our oikos.

The PCS lifestyle is a rhythm of life where we put the needs and interests of others above ourselves because of what Jesus has done for us.

The following stories can be used with people who are open to learning more about Jesus, but perhaps have not yet put their faith in Him. You could ask if some of their friends or family would also like to be a part of the group as well. (NOTE: This outline is for you, the facilitator. Make sure those in your group receive Participant's Notes). After finishing Stories of Hope, invite participants to continue as a group or invite to a Pursue Group where Pursue 1-16 is being used.

1. Hope for Overcoming Rejection: The Sinful Woman - Luke 7:36-50
2. Hope for the Guilty: Pharisee & Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-17
3. Hope Changes Everything: Zacchaeus - Luke 19:1-10
4. Hope Forgives: Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:21-35

5. Hope Through Death: Barabbas Set Free – Luke 22:66 – 23:25
6. Hope Rose from the Dead: Resurrection – Luke 24:1-20
7. Hope is Waiting for You: Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32
8. Hope Eternal Through a Relationship with God-John 1:12, teaching notes:
[Gospel on a Napkin](#) and [training video](#)



Care

- Give them a chance to briefly introduce themselves to the group.
- Give all a chance to share how they are doing.

Pray

- Jesus asks, “*What would you have Me do for you?*” (Luke 18:41) Give all an opportunity to share a prayer request if they want to.

Motivation and Encouragement

“Jesus gave hope to people from all walks of life and in various situations. There is hope for all of us regardless of our personal challenges. Today we want to learn a new story about how Jesus gave hope to people.”

Read

- Discover the Bible Together - each week use one of the stories listed above (choose the one most relevant to your group).

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- Who do you identify most with in the story?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story (retelling in our own words helps us remember and share it with others who might benefit from it). For the first lesson, have the group practice creating a bullet point outline together as a model of how to identify the main points of retelling a story.

Pursuing Jesus

- Why would you consider following Jesus?
- What holds you back from following Jesus?

Pray

Exploring Life and God

- <https://www.everyperson.com/>



Facilitator, please make sure you study this document: [How to Lead a Sent 6:7 Group?](#)

Welcome to the Group

- [Introduction & Vision](#)

Praise

Read **Psalm 118:28** - “*You are my God and I will praise you.*”

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- What are ways God has been faithful to you this past week?

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: The Bible tells us God's desire is that all people are saved and come to understand the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). The gospel (the good news of Jesus) is not only for you but for all your friends and family. God loves them and will use you to pass on what you are learning about Jesus so that they can follow Jesus also. As we journey together, it will be exciting to see what God will do in the lives of those around us.

Context

Jesus was teaching that he is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep (v 11). He also said, “I know my sheep and my sheep know me,” and “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” However, many of the Jews didn't believe him, and doubted His claims.

Read

- **John 10:22-30**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story (retelling in our own words helps us remember and share it with others who might benefit from it). For the first lesson, have the group practice creating a bullet point outline together as a model of how to identify the main points of retelling a story.

Summary

On the cross Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life as a sacrifice for your sins. As one of his sheep, he wants you to know that you have eternal life and you will never perish. You are safe in his hands and no one, including Satan himself, can snatch you away.

Preparing

- Ask/Discuss: “If you were to die today, how sure are you that you'd go to heaven?” &/or “If you were standing before God and He asked, ‘Why should I let you into heaven?’ what would you say?”
- Read **1 John 5:11-13**. Give assurance that “...if you have the Son, you have (eternal) life.” {Make sure people have had the opportunity to place their faith in Jesus and gain assurance of their salvation.}

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Who are the people from your friends, relatives, or co-workers that need to hear about Jesus? Write down their name and start praying for them.
- Perhaps this story from John 10 would be good to share with someone this week.
- Use [Next Step Goals](#) sheet and “I will by when” statements to write down your goals. Then, share your goals with the group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #1: How You Can Be Sure You Are A Christian** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

Read Ps 48:9 - *"O Lord, we meditate on your unfailing love as we worship you."* **Read Ps 30:10-12.**

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

Ask: "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

Example: When we accept Christ our lives are changed forever. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, anyone who belongs to Christ is a new creation, the old life has gone and a new life has begun! That's us! We are new creations and as we follow Christ, our lives will continue to change to be full of purpose and meaning. Let's encourage each other with this truth as we journey together in this new life.

Context

Those who are looked down on in society had been responding to Jesus' teaching. The religious leaders (Pharisees) and the teachers of the religious law didn't like Jesus associating with these people. So Jesus told a story about a lost son to explain God's heart towards sinners.

Read

- **Luke 15:11-24**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story (retelling in our own words helps us remember and share it with others who might benefit from it).

Summary

Our heavenly Father is willing to forgive the sins of His children. Our sin does not change the fact that God is our Father. But sin does have consequences and it does affect our fellowship with God. **1 John 1:9** assures us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all wickedness."

Preparing

- Continue to pray for those you know that do not yet know Jesus.
- Introduce the concept of Oikos Network Mapping - watch the [video](#) and use ["Introducing Oikos to your Pursue Group...."](#). (NOTE: teaching it will take 10 minutes.)
- Download [GodTools App](#)

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Create your own [Oikos Network List](#) by writing down the names of those with whom you can begin to pray for, show care to, and eventually share about Jesus.
- Write "I will by when" statements on your [Next Step Goals](#) sheet and share with your group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's applications/goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful to what we are learning and use us to help others.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #2: How You Can Experience God's Love and Forgiveness** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

- **Read Psalm 66:4** - “Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises . . . in glorious songs.”

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

- What are you celebrating in terms of mission? (NOTE: ‘mission’ is the idea of learning to think in a [prayer-care-share mindset](#) as we relate to those who need Jesus. In the preface) Facilitator, see Appendix article.
- Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus. Ask: “What happened as you trusted God with your goals and ‘I will by when’ statements?”

Motivation and Encouragement

One day a woman went to visit her neighbor. As they were talking she shared the gospel with her neighbor and she placed her faith in Christ. But then the woman started crying. “My husband just died 2 weeks ago. Why didn’t you tell me this sooner?” You see, we never know when people’s last day will be. That’s why we must share the gospel when we have the chance.

Context

When we place our faith in Jesus, God’s Spirit begins to live inside of us. He is called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth and our Helper. His ministry in our lives is so important that we will take time to study our relationship with Him.

Read

- **1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Though all Christians have the Spirit living in them, not all Christians are directed and empowered by the Spirit. When we trust in our own efforts or take control of our lives, the Bible calls us carnal and we don’t experience an abundant or fruitful life. Read **Galatians 5:22-24**. We can use 3 circles to help us remember the 3 types of people described in 1 Corinthians (draw the 3 circles). See [Satisfied](#) booklet, page 7 for 3 circles diagram.

Preparing

- Highlight who the Holy Spirit is from the [Satisfied](#) Booklet or [GodTools App](#).
- Teach the Spiritual Breathing principle
 - **Exhale** – 1 John 1:9 confess our sins, agree to change our attitude or actions
 - **Inhale** – surrender control of your life to Christ
- Let’s ask God to fill and empower us with the Holy Spirit: *Father, I need you. I acknowledge that I have been in control of my life; and that I have sinned against you. Thank you for forgiving my sins through Christ’s death on the cross. I invite you to take control of my life and fill me with your Holy Spirit. I pray this in the name of Jesus as an expression of my faith. Thank you for taking control of my life and filling me with your Holy Spirit.* (refer to page 12 of *Satisfied* booklet)
- Practice drawing the 3 circles and teaching the Spiritual Breathing principle.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Who might you initiate with to share what you have learned about the Holy Spirit or share about Jesus?
- Write “*I will by when*” statements and tell them to your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone’s goals to the Lord.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #3: How you can be filled with the Holy Spirit** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

Read **Psalm 29:2** - "Give honor to the Lord and worship Him in the glory of His holiness." (option: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

- What are you celebrating in terms of mission?
- Ask, "What happened as you trusted God w/ your goals & 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. E.G. - The Lord not only loves us, He has a vision for our lives. What is that vision? It is to be like Christ. **Romans 8:29** says that His plan is that we all conform to the image of Christ, to experience and reflect the Father like Christ did. And the great news is that this work of Christlikeness is God's work. Philippians 1:6 promises that He who began this good work in you, will be faithful to complete it! Be encouraged that God will work in your life to become like Christ.



Context

A follower of Jesus named Philip had been sharing the gospel with people in an area of Israel called Samaria. The Lord interrupted his ministry and told him to go south along the road leading toward Egypt. When he arrived, he found an African leader who was traveling back to his home country. This story tells us what happened.

Read

- **Acts 8:25-40**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

In **Matt. 3:13-17**, Jesus was baptized and modeled it to His followers. Ever since the time of Christ, everyone who begins to follow Him has made this commitment. Being baptized shows others He changed our lives and symbolizes our identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:4-5). Jesus gave us a mission of going, baptizing and teaching others (Matthew 28:18-20). Each week we discuss our mission to help us prepare for it.



Preparing

- Learn and teach [Gospel on a Napkin](#) using this text with this [video link](#) as well.
- The [PPT](#) of Gospel on a Napkin will help, too. (*This will take some practice.*)
- Demonstrate Gospel on a Napkin.
- Practice Gospel on a Napkin.
- Instruct on what to do [when someone says YES to Jesus](#) (see link). How to begin the follow-up process.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Review and update your [Oikos Network List](#)
- Write "I will by when" statements on your [Next Step Goal](#) sheet and tell them to your group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's applications/goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful to what we are learning and use us to help others.

In Your Time With God

- Look over all the *Gospel on a Napkin* resources.



Praise

- Read **Rev 7:12**. Let's honor and worship the Lord through a song. What can we thank or praise God for today?

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

- What are you celebrating in terms of mission?
- What happened as you trusted God w/ your goals & 'I will by when' statements?

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: God has given us every spiritual blessing through Jesus. He has adopted us into His family and calls us His children. *"You were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance."* (Ephesians 1:13-14a) What an amazing gift! This is God's promise for you.



Context

After Jesus' resurrection, He appeared to His disciples many times during a 40-day period. One of the times He appeared while they were meeting in a large room and He explained the importance of His Word.

Read

- **Luke 24:36-49**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Jesus wants us to understand God's Word and what it teaches us about Him. Jesus' life fulfilled the promises in God's Word. He wants us to tell others about what we learn.

Read **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, **Romans 10:17** and **Hebrews 4:12** to highlight truths about God's Word. Reading the Bible each day is an important part of getting to know Jesus.



Preparing

For Participants:

- Make a commitment to read at least one chapter from the Word of God each day, beginning with the Gospel of John.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you through His Word as you read the chapter and then answer three questions:
 - What is this passage about?
 - How can I apply it?
 - With whom can I share this passage?
- Meditate on what the Holy Spirit has taught about the meaning of this passage.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could tell this week's story or share about Jesus.
- Write "I will by when" statements on your [Next Step Goal](#) sheet and tell them to your group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's applications/goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful to what we are learning and use us to help others.

In Your Time With God

- If you are not yet in the habit, why not begin reading the Bible on a daily basis.



Praise

- Read **Psalm 100:2** - *"Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him, singing with joy."*

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus. ASK: "What are you celebrating in terms of mission? What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

As Jesus went through all the towns and villages, he saw the needs of the people and had compassion on them. He said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* God wants all people to know him and his love. He wants to use us and He will also raise up more workers from the harvest we will reap. Let's keep asking God to send more workers to lead people to know Him.



Context

Even though Jesus was busy in ministry, he spent a lot of time talking to the Father. As his followers watched him, they too wanted to learn how to talk to the Father. Today we will learn what he told them.

Read

- **Luke 11:1-13**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Prayer is simply talking to our heavenly Father. We can use these 4 points to summarize what Jesus taught:

Praise Him and keep Him the center;

Request what you need from Him;

Acknowledge your sins;

Yield your life to His will and to His Kingdom.

We can be confident that He hears us and that His heart is to give us good things.



Preparing

- Practice praying using the 4 points of the summary.
- Practice sharing any previous lesson.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could tell this week's story or share about Jesus.
- Write "I will by when" statements on your [Next Step Goals](#) sheet and tell them to your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's applications/goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful to what we are learning and use us to help others.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #9: How to Pray** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

- Read **Psalm 16:7-11**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus. by asking: "What are you celebrating in terms of mission? & What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. E.G. --

John 16:7, 8 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is actively at work in the hearts of those around us. He is showing them their sin. He is creating a desire to be right with God. He is creating a longing to avoid the fear of death, which is eternal judgment. He is tearing down the objections of their minds and hearts. Our job is to fish for those people through witnessing, finding those whose hearts are ready. Let's encourage each other by reminding each other that the Spirit is already working before we even go. Sow broadly; all are on a spiritual journey!



Context

Read **John 14:16-21, 25, 26**. In the following text, Jesus used an illustration of a vine and its branches to help us understand our need to depend on Him and the Spirit that would come to live in us. Just like a branch produces fruit, because of the vine attached to it, our lives will be fruitful when we stay dependent on the Spirit. This happens as we submit in obedience to His ways, allowing His life to flow in and through us, so that we can bear fruit to the glory of God.

Read

- **John 15:1-11**.

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Without Jesus, we cannot do anything. We can only have a fruitful life when we depend on and remain in Him. This happens as we submit in obedience to His ways, allowing his life to flow in and through us so that we can bear fruit for the glory of God. In other words, we need to let the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, direct and empower our lives by faith. Imagine what a community of people abiding in Christ would look like and could do in our city!



Preparing

- Review the principles of Spiritual Breathing from FBS #3, "[Keeping in Step with the Spirit](#)".
- Allow participants time to practice any skill or topic from previous lessons as needed.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could tell this week's story or share about Jesus.
- Write "[I will by when](#)" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers - to bear fruit through us.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #4: How to Walk in the Spirit** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

- Read **Psalm 33:1-5**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

The first words of Jesus in Mark were telling people to "repent." This means to change our whole way of thinking because God's ways are so different from ours. One area is how we view ourselves. We need a new understanding of life with God and what He can do in our lives. The next words of Jesus were "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Every disciple of Jesus is called to live out this twin call to follow Him and fish for men. Our sacrificial commitment to Jesus transforms daily life and all our relationships. Let's encourage each other to continually repent, follow and fish!



Context

A couple of weeks before Jesus' death, He and His followers were in a town called Jericho. As they leave to travel the 24 km up the mountain to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Jesus trying to get his attention.

Read

- **Luke 18:35-43**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Jesus has great compassion for people! He asked the blind man an amazing question, "What do you want me to do for you?", then met the man's needs. As followers of Jesus, we take the initiative to show compassion for people in the power of the Spirit by asking people the Amazing Question: Let them (the person you're asking) know that you believe in the power of prayer, and will be praying for them, regarding how they would answer Jesus' amazing question. Also consider ways you might care for them in practical ways.



Preparing

- Read [Supplement FBS #8 Amazing Question](#) (in Appendix).
- Practice telling the story and using the *Amazing Question*. Include practice on transitioning a conversation to the story.
- Optional: tell the story by showing the [JESUS video clip](#) of Jesus asking the Amazing Question.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you can pray and care for using the *Amazing Question*.
- Write "[I will by when](#)" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers - to bear fruit through us.



Praise

- Read **Romans 11:33-36**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus. ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and '*I will by when*' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: God changes lives and uses them for His glory. One example is the story of a middle eastern man named Adam. He was trained to be a martyr for his religion. But all of that changed one night when he dramatically met Christ. He was so excited about his new relationship to Christ, he began to witness to all of those he knew. Despite being persecuted, he continues to share the gospel and train others. Encourage them by reading 1 Corinthians 1:24-31.



Context

As Jesus was traveling from town to town with his disciples, a large crowd began to gather. He began to tell a story or parable using the example of a farmer sowing seeds onto four different types of soil. Through this parable, we learn that the four types of soil represent four types of people and how they respond to Jesus' message.

Read

- **Luke 8:4-15**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Jesus sent out his followers to do the same things he had been doing: praying for people, caring for their needs and sharing about the Kingdom (see **Luke 10:1-11**). This can be summarized as Prayer, Care, Share. He multiplied himself by training and sending out new workers. [God-Prepared People](#) will open up their relational networks (see Bible verses **In Your Time With God** section).



Preparing

- Review using the *Amazing Question* and caring for others.
- Allow time for participants to practice any skill or topic from previous lessons as needed.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could take the initiative to care for this week.
- Write "*I will by when*" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.

In Your Time With God

- Study the following examples of [God-Prepared People](#) and discuss with another group member: Luke 19:1-10, Mark 5:14-20, John 4:1-42, Acts 16:13-15.



Praise

Read **Psalm 66:1-4**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and '*I will by when*' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

Example: In John 3:8, the Spirit of God is described as a wind. We cannot control Him or make Him move; He blows where He wills. We cannot create movements, only the Spirit of God can. But we can position ourselves so that when He does move, we are ready to move with Him. The simple skills you've been learning help do just that. The good news is this: the Spirit of God is at work everywhere! Let's keep preparing ourselves and praying for the Spirit to move.



Context

Paul had been arrested because he was falsely accused by the Jewish leaders of breaking a temple law. During his defense before the Governor, Paul shared the story of how he came to know Christ.

Read

- **Acts 22:1-21**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Paul's story (testimony) can be summarized in 3 parts:

- his life before meeting Christ,
- how he met Christ, and
- his life after meeting Christ.

This pattern is still an effective way to tell others what Jesus has done in our lives. Our stories are a powerful witness of the benefits of knowing the Lord.



Preparing

- Give an example by telling your own story and highlighting the 3 parts (your 3-minute story/testimony).
- Ask the group, "What caught your attention?"
- Give a worksheet for writing "[*Sharing Your Personal Story*](#)" and work through it together.
- Let them practice telling their story with a partner. After 3 minutes, have them give feedback and then switch.
- If time allows, have them switch partners and repeat the same process.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify people from your [*Oikos Network List*](#) with whom you could take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write "[*I will by when*](#)" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.

In Your Time With God

- Continue writing "[*Sharing Your Personal Story*](#)", asking God to help you be a great communicator.

Directions: Using the two or three sentences in each of the sections below, expand your story with three parts (we suggest using 300-500 words maximum): 1) your life before Jesus, 2) how you met Jesus with a brief explanation of the Gospel, 3) your life after meeting Jesus. Make sure to use as few religious sounding words as possible unless you explain what they mean.

My Life Before Christ

2 words about your life before Jesus

2 to 3 sentences about your life before Jesus - make sure you utilize your 2 words

How I Came to Christ

2 to 3 sentences about how you came to know Jesus

My Life After Coming to Christ

2 words about your life after Jesus

2 to 3 sentences about your life after coming to know Jesus - - make sure you utilize your 2 words



Praise

- Read **Psalm 95:1-7**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: In the book of Acts, we see how believers trained others to be trainers of others. One of the first followers of Jesus was a man named Barnabas. He found a new believer named Paul and helped him. Paul found a young believer named Timothy and took Timothy with him to share the gospel in many places. Later, Paul wrote to Timothy that he should train faithful men in the churches to find other younger Christians to train. Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Jesus to Barnabas to Paul to Timothy to faithful men to other younger Christians. All Christians are called to train trainers who can train trainers to train others. In this way the gospel spreads rapidly!



Context

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He continued teaching His disciples about God's Kingdom. During His last meeting with them, He reinforced the mission they were being called to and about the help that would be provided to them.

Read

- **Acts 1:1-8**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

To follow Jesus means that we will obey His command to be His witnesses. But we can only do what is needed with the help of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Only as He empowers us, can we be effective witnesses. God's desire is that we witness to everyone--those like us and those not like us; those near to us and those who live all over the world. (Optional review: how do we know we are filled with the Holy Spirit? - see [FBS #3](#) Prepare Section: How to be Filled With the Holy Spirit)



Preparing

- Share: Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. (Agree/Disagree. Why?)
- Review the Spiritual Breathing principle and give personal opportunity to Exhale and Inhale.
- Give time for praying to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write "[I will by when](#)" statements and share with your small group.
- Make plans to attend, if you've not already, a [Changing Face of Evangelism](#) training.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.

In Your Time With God

- Consider [reading](#) or [listening](#) to **Transferable Concept #5: How you can be a fruitful witness** and discussing it with another group member.



Praise

- Read **Psalm 9:1-2**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

Example: Since everyone is called to follow Jesus and fish for men, we should realize there are only two kinds of people in the world-- lost and saved. Lost people need to follow Jesus. Saved people need to learn to fish for the lost. When you see the world as two types of people, then your daily interactions get much simpler. If you meet a lost person, witness to them. If you meet a saved person, offer to train them. It can't get much easier than that!



Context

Read Acts 10:1-8. Peter was directed by the Spirit to go to a seaside town called Caesarea where a Roman military leader named Cornelius lived. He was a God-prepared Person. Peter obeyed and traveled to Caesarea to tell Cornelius about Jesus. Let's see what happens.

Read

- **Acts 10:24-35**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

God-prepared People will open up their relational networks. We can share the gospel with individual people, but we need to also look for opportunities to follow open doors to share with the friends and family of God Prepared People. Other examples of the gospel spreading through relationships are Lydia (Acts 16:14-15), the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:30-33) and Matthew the tax collector (Matthew 9:9-10).



Preparing

- Brainstorm how you could set up a missional event with a God-Prepared Person (in a home, coffeehouse, church, park, etc.).
 - Topic? Ideas? How to invite and set up?
 - Discuss how they will ask the God-Prepared Person to co-host the event with you.
- Discuss how to use Explorer Tools like Story of the Soul, and JESUS Film clips to have spiritual discussions.
- Discuss The Sometime Strategy and who might you meet with over a cup of coffee.
- Discuss how to follow up with those who put their faith in Christ.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify at least one God-Prepared Person that you could partner with to co-host an outreach-event.
- Identify a few people from your Oikos Network List with whom you could take the initiative to reach out to this week.
- Write "I will by when" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.



Praise

- Read **Psalm 100**.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

Example: Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Isn't it amazing? We were dead in our sins, but God has made us alive. He did all of this so that you could accomplish the good works He has prepared for you. Our lives are full of purpose and meaning! Let's encourage each by reminding ourselves of these truths.



Context

During a Jewish feast called Pentecost, Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem. God sent the Holy Spirit on 120 of His followers who had gathered together. Through the Spirit's power, the 120 followers began speaking in the languages of the visitors from all over the world. Peter began preaching to a crowd about the death and resurrection of Jesus, proving He was the Messiah. As a result, 3,000 people believed and were baptized. But what came next after they believed?

Read

- **Acts 2:41-47**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story..

Summary

Read **Matthew 16:18**. The Holy Spirit led the early believers to meet together regularly for worship, prayer, fellowship, study of God's word, loving one another, and reaching out to those who did not yet know Christ. In every location of the book of Acts, people became followers of Christ and they made this same commitment to one another. This is a description of a local church.



Preparing

- Introduce the [Acts 2 Diagnostic Tool](#) and discuss the elements of a healthy church.
- Based on scores and areas of interest, discuss how they might serve in their local church.
- Optional: discuss the following ONLY IF you are planting a new church: *"Does this group want to make that same commitment to one another? To be the Lord's church in this place?"*

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you could take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write ["I will by when"](#) statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.



Praise

- Read **Matthew 10:29-31**.
- (optional) Use a Statement of Faith about Jesus, like Philippians 2:11b; 1 Timothy 2:4-6a. Spend time worshipping Him.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them.

Example: Read Hebrews 10:19-25. The Lord did not call us to be alone. He called us to be together. We face many challenges and we need encouragement and accountability to obey the Lord. Following Jesus is best done in community. We need each other so let's not quit meeting together!



Context

God gave the Jews a special celebration called the Passover to remember how He delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The night before Jesus died on the cross, He celebrated the Passover with His disciples and explained how the Passover pointed to Him.

Read

- **Luke 22:14-20**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Jesus modeled to His followers a way to remember His sacrificial death on the cross. The bread represents His body that was broken for us. The drink represents His blood that was shed for us and opened a new way to relate to God. He also commanded them to keep practicing it. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-30, we see that as Paul started new churches, he taught all new believers how to obey Jesus' command.



Preparing

- Practice the Lord's supper. Use what local church leaders have given or use the suggested practice below. See [this link](#) for more study.
 - Read **1 Corinthians 11:23-30**.
 - Pause and give them time to confess their sins and talk to the Lord.
 - Give the bread, tell them this represents His body that was broken for us. Eat it together.
 - Give the drink. Tell them this represents His blood that was shed for us. Drink it together.
 - Pray and thank the Lord for what He has done for us.

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Consider a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you can take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write "[I will by when](#)" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.



Praise

- Read **Hebrews 4:14-16**.
- (optional for church planters): Use a Statement of Faith about Jesus, like Phil 2:11b; 1 Tim 2:4-6a. Spend time worshipping God.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus. Ask: "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: One day Jesus sent out His followers to minister to people in the surrounding villages. When they returned they were so excited about all that God had done through them, *"Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"* After Jesus celebrated with them, He gave them this perspective: *"But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."* (Luke 10:17-20) Jesus reminds us that our joy is not found in results but that we know Him!

Context

The early church was committed to one another. They were meeting together regularly and many new people were coming to Christ. After a time of persecution, they prayed for boldness and the Lord helped them speak the gospel boldly. This story about the believers in Jerusalem shows their commitment to one another.

Read

- **Acts 4:32-37**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story.

Summary

Even from the beginning of the church, the believers cared for one another's needs by giving. We learn from this story that we should give willingly, not under compulsion. This is clearly stated in 2 Corinthians 9:7. Read **Acts 11:27-29**. The early church also gave to believers in other churches. This shows us that our giving can be used for needs outside of our own church. Read **Luke 8:1-3**. This story shows us that giving is also used for taking the gospel to other places and spreading God's message. In 1 Corinthians 16:2, Paul encourages people to practice giving each week to be used for these purposes.

Preparing

- Ask how giving is handled in various churches. Discuss how giving is handled in your church.
- Identify needs where their giving can be used.
- (Optional for Church Plants or if appropriate: Remember Jesus' sacrifice through communion.)
- Is there any skill or topic from previous lessons that participants need to either practice or discuss further, so as to help prepare them to minister to others?

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you can take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write *"I will by when"* statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.



Praise

- Read: **Hebrews 13:14-15**.
- (optional) Use a Statement of Faith about Jesus, like Philippians 2:11b; 1 Timothy 2:4-6a. Spend time worshipping God.

Care

Have each person choose one of the following for sharing about their past week:

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What difficulties did you face this week?
- What would you ask from Jesus to do for you this week?

Pray for each other's needs.

Celebrate Faithfulness

Encourage loving accountability to obey Jesus.

ASK: What are you celebrating in terms of mission? "What happened as you trusted God with your goals and 'I will by when' statements?"

Motivation and Encouragement

Cast vision for who they can become in Christ or what God can do through them. Example: God's heart is for all the lost. Yet, so many places around us do not have followers of Jesus to be a light for the community and show God's love to the people there. As followers of Jesus, we are called by God to align our hearts to His heart for ALL the lost. We need to pursue a big vision that will reach all lost communities around us. We are trusting God to use us to give every un-reached person access to one vital church; 1 for every 1000 among the 160M lost in the USA.

Context

Large crowds were beginning to follow Jesus. They heard of the miraculous healings and the feedings of the multitudes. They were attracted to Him because of the benefits they hoped to receive from Him. But Jesus knew their hearts. He knew they really were not willing to follow Him unconditionally. He wanted them to recognize that to follow Him meant to surrender everything to Him.

Read

- **Luke 14:25-33**

Discovery Discussion

- What caught your attention and why?
- What can we learn about God or people?
- How can we live differently in light of this passage?

Retell the Story

- Read the story again and ask someone to tell the story

Summary

When we follow Christ, the benefits are eternal and beyond comparison: forgiveness of sins, salvation, and security in the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But being a disciple of Jesus will not make you exempt from pain and trials. Because we live in an evil world, following Christ will also bring you persecution and challenges. Anyone who desires to live a godly life in Jesus will be persecuted by others. But let's be encouraged by Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends. Read **1 Peter 4:12-16, 19**.

Preparing

- Allow participants to practice any skill or topic from previous lessons to help prepare to minister to others.
- (Optional for Church Plants: practice giving, as agreed upon.)
- (Optional for Church Plants or if appropriate: Remember Jesus' sacrifice through communion.)

Pursuing

For Participants:

- Identify a few people from your [Oikos Network List](#) with whom you will take the initiative to minister to this week.
- Write "[I will by when](#)" statements and share with your small group.

Praying

- Commit everyone's goals to the Lord. Ask the Lord to help us be faithful and use us to start a movement of disciple-makers.

In Your Time With God

- Review all Pursue FBS 1-15 sessions and choose a resource you may have overlooked up until this time.

APPENDIX

1. [Introducing Oikos to Your Pursue Group for the First Time](#)
2. [Satisfied? Booklet](#)
3. [Gospel on a Napkin](#)
4. [When Someone Says Yes to Jesus](#)
5. [The Amazing Question Stories](#)
6. [God-Prepared People and Person of Peace](#)
7. [Explorer Tools](#)
8. [The Acts 2 Diagnostic Tool of a Healthy Church](#)
9. [Remembering Jesus Sacrifice](#)
10. [Next Step Goals](#)
11. [Oikos Network List](#)

Introducing Oikos to Your Pursue Group for the First Time

We all have a network of people that God sovereignly gave us where we live, work, learn and/or play. Jesus gave us these relationships – to reach out to them with a [Prayer-Care-Share](#) lifestyle.

Every week each participant in your groups will be encouraged to think and pray about people in their OIKOS.

An oikos is one's circle of influence (network) composed of family, friends, acquaintances, colleagues & neighbors. Oikos (οἶκος) is the Greek word meaning “family, home or extended household.” In relation to our mission, our oikos are a group of people with whom we share life. This is the most natural & common environment for evangelism to occur. This network is where God places us. God wants to use us among them.

Acts 16 provides an example of how relational networks were used to rapidly spread the gospel in the early church. Read, Acts 16:11-15 and Acts 16: 25-34

In verses 11-15, Paul shares the gospel and Lydia comes to Christ. In v.15 we see that Paul is baptizing Lydia's entire household. This same thing happened with the jailer in 16:25-34. We move from the scene of Paul talking with the jailer in v.31 to him sharing with the entire household in v.32, and then in v.33 he is baptizing all of them.

Oikos evangelism is God's natural bridge for sharing His supernatural message. We refer to this as “the natural mode of evangelism.” It focuses on relationships as the means of sharing the good news. In the basic model, non-believers see lives transformed which, in turn, is supported by their testimony, and be used to convince others to follow Christ.

Watch a [video about OIKOS](#). (4:00 min.)

- By the end of Session 4, our hope is that each of us will write down on our [Oikos Network List](#) the names of 5-10 people who, in our opinion, are far from God (non-churched/non-Christian). These people are friends, neighbors, workmates, relatives, clerks in stores, etc. If you don't know their name, write a description of them like “the lady who I buy vegetables from.”
- These are people we will pray for, show care to and trust God to eventually share the gospel with them.
- Explain that they will have an accountability partner who will help them be accountable in this process. Accountability format suggested: you will meet regularly by phone, in person, or online.
- Choose an accountability partner and set a time to meet this week. Write the name of your partner on the [Oikos Network List](#).

Going on the Mission

- Explain how to write a clear [Next Step Goal](#). Consider using this format: “I will _____ (do) by _____ (when).”
- Have each person write a new [Next Step Goal](#) based on what they learned from the activities and tell it to their small group. What one thing would that be for this session? Share it with your coach, accountability partner or group later.

Motivation for Accountability

Obedience reflects faith, hope and love...obedience to Christ manifests our faith, our hope & our love. Obedience makes us aware of the presence of faith, hope & love - shows the beauty of - the strength and character of our faith, our hope and our love.

Romans 1:4 - 6: “... Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ...”

Romans 16:26: “Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”

We are called as bond-servants and delegates of Jesus Christ - set apart by the gospel of God to bring about the obedience of faith.

Satisfied?

Satisfied?

Satisfaction: (n.) fulfillment of one's needs, longings, or desires

What words would you use to describe your current experience as a Christian?

Growing

Frustrated

Disappointing

Fulfilled

Forgiven

Stuck

Struggling

Joyful

Defeated

Exciting

Up and down

Empty

Discouraged

Duty

Intimate

Mediocre

Painful

Dynamic

Guilty

Vital

So-so

Others?

Do you desire more? Jesus said, *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”* (John 7:37, 38).

What did Jesus mean? John, the biblical author, went on to explain, *“By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified”* (John 7:39).

Jesus promised that God’s Holy Spirit would satisfy the thirst, or deepest longings, of all who believe in Jesus Christ. However, many Christians do not understand the Holy Spirit or how to experience Him in their daily lives.

—> *The following principles will help you understand and enjoy God’s Spirit.*

The Divine Gift

Divine: (adj.) given by God

God has given us His Spirit so that we can experience intimacy with Him and enjoy all He has for us.

The Holy Spirit is the source of our deepest satisfaction.

The Holy Spirit is God's permanent presence with us.

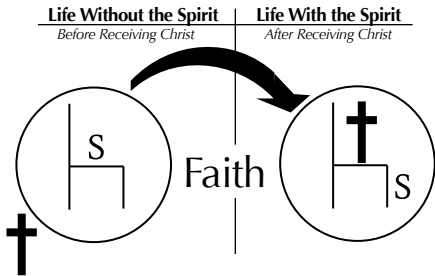
Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17).

The Holy Spirit enables us to understand and experience all God has given us.

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us" (1 Corinthians 2:12).

The Holy Spirit enables us to experience many things:

- **A genuine new spiritual life (John 3:1–8).**
- **The assurance of being a child of God (Romans 8:15, 16).**
- **The infinite love of God (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:18, 19).**



The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14).

The spiritual man makes judgments about all things... We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:15, 16).

But those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit (Romans 8:5, NLT).

—>Why are many Christians not satisfied in their experience with God?

The Present Danger

Danger: (n.) a thing that may cause injury, loss, or pain

We cannot experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us if we fail to depend on His Spirit.

People who trust in their own efforts and strength to live the Christian life will experience failure and frustration, as will those who live to please themselves rather than God.

We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength.

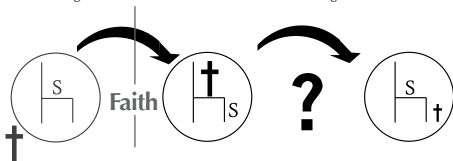
“Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” (Galatians 3:3).

We cannot enjoy all God desires for us if we live by our self-centered desires.

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want” (Galatians 5:17).

Three Kinds of Lifestyles

A Self-centered Life	A Christ-centered Life	A Self-centered Life
Before Receiving Christ	After Receiving Christ	



“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:1–3).

—>How can we develop a lifestyle of depending on the Spirit?

The Intimate Journey

Journey: (n.) any course from
one experience to another

By walking in the Spirit we increasingly experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us.

Walking in the Spirit moment by moment is a lifestyle. It is learning to depend upon the Holy Spirit for His abundant resources as a way of life.

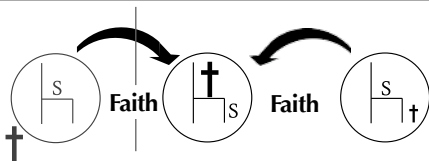
As we walk in the Spirit, we have the ability to live a life pleasing to God.

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature...Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16, 25).

As we walk in the Spirit, we experience intimacy with God and all He has for us.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22, 23).

The Christ-centered Life



Faith (trust in God and His promises) is the only way a Christian can live by the Spirit.

Spiritual breathing is a powerful word picture which can help you experience moment-by-moment dependence upon the Spirit.

Exhale: Confess your sin the moment you become aware of it—agree with God concerning it and thank Him for His forgiveness, according to 1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 10:1–25. Confession requires repentance—a change in attitude and action.

Inhale: Surrender control of your life to Christ, and rely upon the Holy Spirit to fill you with His presence and power by faith, according to His **command** (Ephesians 5:18) and **promise** (1 John 5:14, 15).

—>***How does the Holy Spirit fill us with His power?***

The Empowering Presence

Empower: (v.) to give ability to

We are filled with the Spirit by faith, enabling us to experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us.

The essence of the Christian life is what God does in and through us, not what we do for God. Christ's life is reproduced in the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit is to be directed and empowered by Him.

By faith, we experience God's power through the Holy Spirit.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Ephesians 3:16, 17).

Three important questions to ask yourself:

1. Am I ready now to surrender control of my life to our Lord Jesus Christ? (Romans 12:1, 2)

2. Am I ready now to confess my sins?
(1 John 1:9) Sin grieves God's Spirit
(Ephesians 4:30). But God in His
love has forgiven all of your sins—past,
present, and future—because Christ
has died for you.
3. Do I sincerely desire to be directed and
empowered by the Holy Spirit?
(John 7:37–39)

**By faith claim the fullness of the Spirit according to
His command and promise:**

God COMMANDS us to be filled with the Spirit.

“...be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

God PROMISES He will always answer when we
pray according to His will.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching
God: that if we ask anything according to his
will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears
us—whatever we ask—we know that we have
what we asked of him” (1 John 5:14, 15).*

—>How to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit...

The Turning Point

Turning point: time when a
decisive change occurs

**We are filled with the Holy
Spirit by faith alone.**

Sincere prayer is one way of expressing our faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. I now thank You for filling me with the Holy Spirit and directing my life.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If so, you can pray right now and trust God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

How to know that you are filled by the Holy Spirit

- Did you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you know that you are now filled with the Holy Spirit?
- On what authority? (On the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:22, 23.)

As you continue to depend on God's Spirit moment by moment you will experience and enjoy intimacy with God and all He has for you—a truly rich and satisfying life.

An important reminder...

Do Not Depend on Feelings

The promise of God's Word, the Bible—not our feelings—is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. Flying in an airplane can illustrate the relationship among fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).

—> Continued on the next page . . .



To be transported by an airplane, we must place our faith in the trustworthiness of the aircraft and the pilot who flies it. Our feelings of confidence or fear do not affect the ability of the airplane to transport us, though they do affect how much we enjoy the trip. In the same way, we as Christians do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

Now That You are Filled with the Holy Spirit

Thank God that the Spirit will enable you:

- **To glorify Christ with your life (John 16:14).**
- **To grow in your understanding of God and His Word (1 Corinthians 2:14, 15).**
- **To live a life pleasing to God (Galatians 5:16–23).**

Remember the promise of Jesus:

*“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).*

If you would like additional resources on the Holy Spirit, please go to www.campuscrusade.org

If this booklet has been helpful to you, please share it with someone else.

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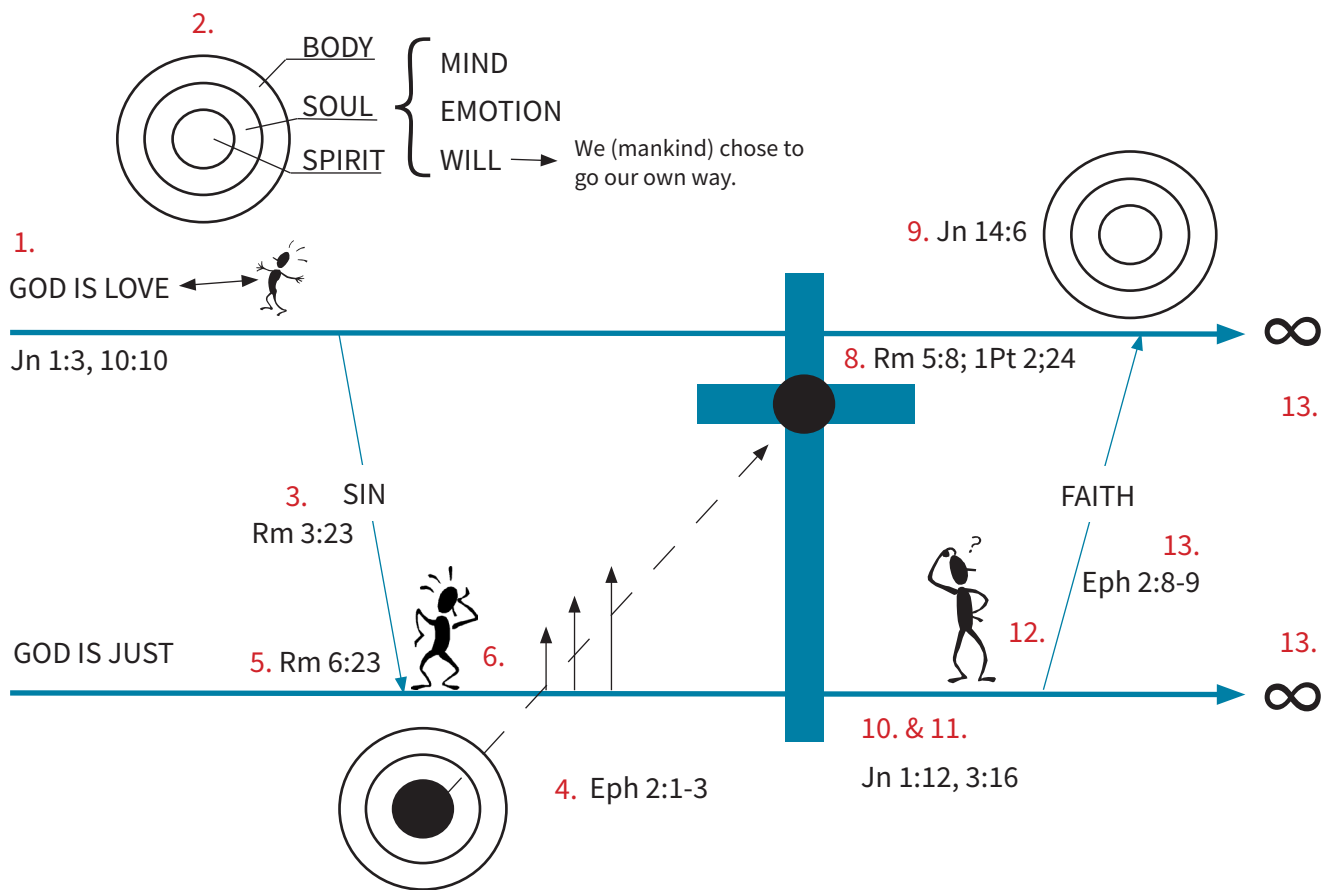
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Gospel on a Napkin



The Gospel on a Napkin

Let's go a bit deeper into the [Guide role](#). Being an effective guide involves two skills: knowing what the gospel is and how to share it well, along with your personal story of coming to Christ. In these next few minutes we will take the time to show how many share the gospel these days. In this example, we assume the conversation has progressed to a point – exercising the grace and wisdom of an Explorer – where now we can share the gospel openly. We call this the [gospel on a napkin](#). See the illustration/diagram in the Appendix that goes along with this.



WHAT TO SAY	WHAT TO DRAW & WRITE
1. “Here are a few things that show us what the Bible says about knowing God personally.” “God created mankind to know Him and have life abundantly in relationship with Him. He loves us. (Quote John 1:3, 10:10) He wants a relationship with us.”	In the upper left corner, write “God is love” with an arrow going across the page
2. “When he created us, he gave us body, soul and spirit.” “Our soul is our mind, will and emotions. Our spirit is where we find our meaning by being connected to God. Here we find our sense of purpose. We are meant to be whole by living in relationship with Him. Why are most people not experiencing an abundant life?” {Listen}	Draw circles and words as you explain in the middle of the page above the line you’ve drawn.
3. “As human beings, our soul set our minds on things independent from God (point to word: “mind”), and we longed for things (point to word: “emotions”) that God warned mankind against. We choose to go our own independent way and fellowship with God was broken” (point to word: “will”). Quote Romans 3:23.	
4. “Ephesians 2:1-3 says we have died spiritually. We are separated from the life God intended us to have – a thriving life, one of abundance, connected to Him.”	Color-in fully the circle called “spirit” with black ink – indicating man is dead spiritually.
5. “He is just and must correct what is unjust, what is wrong. There is a penalty for sin.” Quote Romans 6:23.	Draw a line down from the “God is love” line and write the word “sin” on it. Now, draw a stick figure of a man on a new line with an arrow across the page – a lower parallel line. On the left, next to the lower line, write “God is Just and Holy”.
6. “We try to recover the abundant life, knowing something is missing, by living a good life, taking adventures, being religious, philosophy, etc. But we cannot reach God or the abundant life because we have sinned.”	
7. “We need help. New life must be given to us (because we are dead spiritually).”	Draw new circles for body, soul, spirit and say (pointing to spirit):
8. Quote these verses: Romans 5:8 and 1Peter 2:24. As you draw a dark circle say: “Jesus died for our sins, taking our penalty on himself.”	Write “Romans 5:8” and “1 Peter 2:24” on the napkin between the two parallel lines. and draw a cross that intersects with both the top and bottom parallel lines (God is love and God is just and holy.) Draw a dark circle (representing sin and its penalty) on the center of the cross.



WHAT TO SAY	WHAT TO DRAW & WRITE
9. Quote John 14:6 and point to the inner circle (spirit), saying, “The life we need only Jesus can give us. Jesus is the WAY (to God), the TRUTH (He’s trustworthy) and the LIFE (exactly what we need to overcome our spiritual death). He rose from the dead showing his payment for our sin was enough.”	
10. Quote John 1:12.	
11. Quote John 3:16.	
12.	Draw a stick figure on the other side of the cross, a line going up to the God is love line, and the word faith on that line.
13. “God asks us to consider the consequences of our decision to receive Him by faith or not. We can know God’s love forever, receiving his gift of grace, knowing He died in our place to pay the penalty of our sin. Yet, we can, of course, pay for it ourselves and be separated from Him - and life – forever.” Quote Ephesians 2:8, 9.	Draw eternal symbol at the end of both parallel lines, saying,
14. “Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive us of our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of our will. You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer (prayer is talking with God). God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer: “Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.” If this is the desire of your heart, you can place your trust in Him – put your faith in Him and His work (death to forgive you, resurrection to give you new life).	



FBS Pursue #4 Supplement

When Someone Says Yes to Jesus and The Gospel

Remind them of the three things we need to do when someone says “yes” to the gospel.

1. Let them know that you want to help them grow in their new relationship with Jesus. Set up a time to start meeting with them for Bible study. Invite them to your church fellowship. As you follow the person up, help them to gain a vision for sharing their faith, albeit new faith in Christ and be intentional in it. Here is how you can motivate for this. Say, *“Builders keep lists: running tallies of lumber, lunch orders, roofing nails, and the like. A CoJourneyer does the same in their role as a Builder. We want to pray by name for those God has carefully placed in our life who don’t yet know Him. It’s a list we can always add to and update as we explore the lives of our friends and acquaintances.”*
2. Ask them, *“Who are some others that need to hear this?”* Encourage them to pray for those people regularly. Help them download *GodTools* or encourage using Gospel on a Napkin. **This is a VERY important step that allows us to see the multiplication of the gospel. We have learned that a Person of Peace is a person of relationship. They are excited and open to reach their network of family and friends with the good news. You are simply casting a vision for this from the very beginning of their new life in Christ.*
3. Pray for them before you leave.

The Amazing Question Stories

Below are stories using The Amazing Question. The question has been proven to be an effective “tool” that quickly identifies deep felt-needs while at the same time putting these same individuals on a path to resolving those deep felt-needs. (Passage from Luke 18:35-43)

Krystal the Server

A group of friends were dining at an Italian restaurant. There was a mixture of deep and jovial conversation throughout our dinner. Our server, Krystal, as she periodically came back to serve us, was kind, sanguine and conversational.

At the end of the dinner, I mentioned to her privately that we appreciated her service. I went on to say that we were all part of a faith-based, global community that focused on meaningful relationships, changed lives and giving people an opportunity to make a difference. She was intrigued. I went on to ask if I could share a true story of a huge difference made in someone's life. She was eager to hear it.

“The story is about when Jesus was approached by a blind man one day. On that day, the blind man heard the noise of a throng of people passing by. Bartimeaus, the blind man - after learning that the huge crowd was following Jesus - cried out to Him, ‘Jesus, Son of David. Have mercy on me.’

“And, Krystal, then Jesus turned around and asked Bartimeaus an amazing question - ‘What would you have me do for you?’ Bartimeaus said, ‘Lord, let me recover my sight.’ And Jesus healed him.

“I said, “If Jesus were to make a difference in your life, like He did that day, and He asked you, ‘Krystal, What would you have me do for you?’ What would you say? Whatever you say, I will pray for you.”

She was stunned, and began to open up. In five short minutes she mentioned her need to “get her life on track”. She mentioned that she used to have warm thoughts about God, but because her life was so hard she was mad at God, and knew it was wrong. She wanted to start over again with God but did not know how.

I gave her my card with my story on it (on our website [my.story.me here](https://my.story.me)), and my wife's business card, too (I'm in the habit of carrying them both for situations just like this). I also showed her a picture of my wife, and mentioned that “Sometime, we'd love to get a cup of coffee with you and hear about your journey. Would you be up for that?” She excitedly said yes.

We exchanged contact information. We've texted a few times, and hope to be meeting with her soon.

A 17 year-old high school student

As the Alice in Wonderland themed birthday party for my four year old granddaughter was finishing, I struck up a conversation with the 17 year old boy who welcomed young birthday revelers. He worked at a local shop. I asked him about his job, school, and friends. He asked me what I did. I told him about a project I was working on to test a method of telling stories to people in order to help them with a desire. And, then I asked if it would be okay to tell him one of these stories. He welcomed the interlude in his work of serving lemonade to children at the party. As I prepared to tell the story of Jesus going into Jericho and encountering the blind man, I decided to use my hands to help him follow the action and feel the implications. In fact, I wanted him to sense Jesus was the center of the conversation.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

35 As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38 And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." 42 And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." 43 And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Telling the story as best as possible from memory, I asked him to imagine the encounter to be physically very close. I brought my left hand up, semi-open to the eye level space between both of us. I wanted him to imagine Jesus at eye level between us. And then I brought the right hand up, again semi-open as I depicted the blind man approaching and coming close to Jesus. Both hands were semi-open, palms facing each other as Jesus asked the amazing question, "What do you want me to do for you?" After I finished telling the story, but still holding my hands between us, I went back to the question and the implications of it being open-ended. Obviously the response from a blind man saying, "Lord, let me recover my sight" was a reasonable answer. But he could have answered anything based on, "What do you want me to do for you?" As I asked the question the second time I paused to let the scene and the amazing question sink deeply into the young man's mind. "Isn't that an amazing question," I asked him as he nodded in thought. I then turned the left hand, the "Jesus hand" towards him and said, "If Jesus came to you and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?", what would you answer? He now was deep in thought and actually started quietly to express things out loud but putting a question after each thought..."Good grades?...Time with friends?" and then he had the answer he would tell Jesus, "I would ask for a tighter relationship with my father." I then pulled my left hand back from between us and told him what an amazing request that was. I told him that it

was so amazing that I would pray to Jesus and ask him to do just that. As we finished our brief time together he asked me if I had more stories like this. He encouraged me to try them out on him. I gave him MyStory and assured him I would.

In the next few days, I went on-line to FamilyLife ministry and found the topic of how to write a story to your parents. I printed out the heart of what to do, put it in an envelope, and I found the young man at work. I gave it to him and told him that as I was praying for him, this idea came to mind and I thought it might help him in his amazing request of Jesus. A few weeks later, I checked back and he had started to write a tribute to his father.

The 63 year-old and End-of-life Foundation She Started

As my flight was one-hour out of New York City from Minneapolis, I asked my seatmate on my left, Lynn, what she would be doing in New York and what she did. "Visiting her daughter," came back the answer to the first question and, "Run a foundation I started to help people who are terminally ill but would like to stay in their homes," came the answer to the second question. She asked what I did, and I told her in general terms what I had been doing in Eastern Europe for the last 33 years and then quickly added that I am now testing a method of telling a simple story to people that seems to help them. I then asked if I could tell it to her and she gave her assent. As I prepared to tell the story of Jesus going into Jericho and encountering the blind man, I decided to use my hands to help Lynn follow the action and feel the implications. In fact, I wanted Lynn to sense Jesus was the center of the conversation. It would be a bit difficult because she was to my left, but I knew it would be worth the effort.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

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Telling the story as best as possible from memory, I asked her to imagine the encounter to be physically very close. I brought my left hand up, semi-open to the eye level space between both of us. I wanted Lynn to imagine Jesus at eye level between us. And then I brought the right hand up, again semi-open as I depicted the blind man approaching and coming close to Jesus. Both hands were semi-open, palms facing each other as Jesus asks the amazing question, "What do you want me to do for you?" After I finished telling the story, but still holding my hands between us, I went back to the question and the implications of it being open-ended. Obviously

the response from a blind man saying, "Lord, let me recover my sight" was a reasonable answer. But he could have answered anything based on, "What do you want me to do for you?" As I asked the question the second time I paused to let the scene and the amazing question sink deeply into Lynn's mind as our plane made a large swing to come into JFK from the east. "Isn't that an amazing question," I asked her as she nodded in thought. I then turned the left hand, the "Jesus hand," towards Lynn and said, "Lynn, if Jesus came to you and asked, "What do you want me to do for you?", what would you answer? She was now deeply in thought and then she had the answer. She replied, "I would ask him for volunteers to help with my foundation." I then pulled my left hand back from between us and told her what an amazing request that was. I told her that it was so amazing that I would pray to Jesus and ask him to do just that. Pondering her answer and as the landing gear dropped down, I asked Lynn if she had gone to churches and asked the pastors to help her. She told me she hadn't. I encouraged her to try and tell the same story of Jesus going into Jericho and the request she had made to Jesus. She liked the idea and assured me she would. I gave her my MyStory and then Lynn confided to me that she attended Youth for Christ meetings when she was a teen.

Jeff the Walmart Store Manager

He sat to my left, the window seat, seat A. I guessed him to be in his mid-forties. On this three-hour flight from Minneapolis to Orlando, I had determined not to wait until a "more opportune" time in the flight to start a conversation. On my last 9 hour international flight I kept waiting for just the "right opportunity" and barely talked with my seatmate. I believed I had now found a more winsome way to get into a conversation and transition to the Lord.

I asked him what he did and that opened up a flow of knowledge from him about what it is like to manage a 180,000 square foot Walmart. He also told me about his 15 year old twins and his 11 year-old son. The more he talked, the more determined I was to somehow tell the story of Jesus going into Jericho and the blind beggar.

I asked about how important Research and Development (R and D) was in Walmart, and he quickly gave me the latest examples. I then told him that in my work with my Christian organization I am involved in R and D. We have found it to be very helpful for many people to hear a simple Bible story. "Could I tell it to you?" I asked. He said yes.

[Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar](#)

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As we finished our brief time together I gave him my MyStory.

The Difference between a Person of Peace and God-Prepared People (a 4th Soil Person)

Characteristics of Person of Peace

As in Luke 10:1-11 - Jesus tells the disciples where to go, what to say, with whom to talk, what to watch out for, and what to do if their message is rejected. These detailed instructions do not represent the goal of the assignment: A harvest. The overarching mission involves broad seed-sowing throughout Galilee.

Jesus' plan to care for the disciples as the "House rule" that provides a base of operation for fieldworkers assigned to unfamiliar mission fields - see Mark 10:6, Matthew 10:11, Luke 10:7

In other words, Jesus instructed His disciples to find a home base, then cease the search for more home bases. They were not to waste time looking for multiple homes while they sowed the area with the gospel. Is it possible for a Person of Peace to also be a Fourth-Soil Person? Certainly! When the area has been sown, travel to a new area and repeat the process; first find a Person of Peace, then again saturate the area with the gospel.

They are...

- Hospitable
- Generous
- Agreeable
- Open
- Finding one helps you target your ministry area

Characteristics of God-Prepared People/Fourth-Soil People

Lydia (Acts 16:14-15), the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:30-33) and Matthew the tax collector (Matthew 9:9-10)

Each of these individuals becomes a believer and reproduces.

They represent a profile of the Fourth-Soil Person mentioned in the Parable of the Sower. According to the Parable of the Sower, a Fourth-Soil Person includes the following: believes the gospel, perseveres and reproduces even when passing through a time of testing (i.e., threat of persecution), and reproduces regardless of the threat and distractions of worry, riches, and pleasures of life. Jesus provides additional information by describing the Fourth-Soil Person as a generous or hospitable person

who reproduces (i.e., sees people come to know Jesus and makes new disciples) at a pace of thirtyfold, sixtyfold, or a hundredfold.

Sowers do not make Fourth-Soil People; they find them through seed-sowing. People often ask me how to transform second- and third-soil people into Fourth-Soil People. Although I believe this is a possibility, I remind them of Jesus' Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:30–32; Mark places this parable after the Parable of the Sower)—that our assignment is only to sow and reap a harvest. Efforts to transform second- and third-soil people into Fourth-Soil People should not replace broad seed-sowing efforts to find Fourth-Soil People in the harvest fields.

They are...

- Generous
- Open their relational networks
- Scriptural examples show these people win his/her household, connect the disciples to the community, and start a movement in the community.
- Movement-Catalysts

Questions for Discussion

1. After reading this, how would you explain the difference between the Person of Peace and the Fourth-Soil Person?
2. The Fourth-Soil Person multiplies through the *oikos* (household) principle.
3. How would you describe that in our modern world? What is our *oikos*?
4. How can you imagine this principle leading to movements?

Explorer Tools

Explorers enter unknown territory to discover, learn, and understand. Most people's spiritual journeys are unknown territory to us, even if we have known them for a long time. As explorers, we listen and ask good questions to discover where people are on their journey. There are many Explorer tools that help us initiate spiritual conversations or take a conversation farther or deeper.

Jesus Film Clips

One of the most effective strategies used worldwide is the Jesus Film Project app. It uses the power of film to create opportunities for people to engage with the life-changing story of Jesus, in their heart language, no matter where they are in the world. You can use very short clips to do anything from introducing someone who has never heard of Jesus to one of His key teachings, to leveraging the power of visual media when doing a small group. Clips like this really help the Scripture to "come alive".

There are also 43 different creative, **short films** you can find on the app and each has the option to share those films via text or social media. There are discussion questions you can ask to start conversations about the film.

You can download the Jesus Film app [here](#).

The Sometime Strategy

SomeTime is an experience dedicated to exploring the back-stories of our friends. During this experience, you will be asking friends, *"Sometime, I'd like to hear about your spiritual journey... would you be up for that?"* It's really that simple!

As you meet with them, you listen to their story. Most likely they will ask you about your story, and you can share! If they don't ask you, you can say, "Hey next time we get together, I'd like to share my story with you. Does that sound okay?" You might be just two appointments away from the opportunity to share the gospel!

Story of the Soul

Story of the Soul is an interactive, coffeehouse experience. Using art, film, music, poetry and other media, we explore the stories the soul of mankind is and has always been telling. Each event centers around a universal theme that seeks to answer common questions every human soul wrestles with. Through guided discussions around film clips, songs, poetry and art, we discover how our wounds can be healed and how our longings can be satisfied through the Gospel. [You can download a toolkit here](#) to understand the process and plan your own Story of the Soul outreach.

Life in the City

Life in the City is a questionnaire that gauges people's spiritual temperature, creates opportunities for spiritual conversations and connects them to opportunities to serve. BELOW YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE LIFE IN THE CITY QUESTIONNAIRE.

As God's people, we must understand His heart for the city and understand what cities need from His people. Our response as Christians to the needs and troubles of the people in the city will reflect what is most on the heart of Jesus. This tool will help you connect to people and bring them closer to the systemic problems of the city.

You can find **Life in the City** (mobile and desktop web version) [here](#).

ACTS 2 DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

7 - Developed strength	6 - very strong	5 - somewhat strong	4 - acceptable	3 - somewhat weak	2 - very weak	1 - absent
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This list reflects elements of what a healthy church looks like. Consider the strength of your current church by placing the proper number beside each category to reflect your thoughts. Commit to praying for your church, and consider how you might serve your local church.

1. Prayer (P)	
2. Baptism (B)	
3. Caring Leaders (LD)	
4. Fellowship (F)	
5. Word (WD)	
6. Witness (PCS)	
7. Worship (WS)	
8. Giving (\$)	
9. Lord's Supper	
Total	

SUPPLEMENT

FBS #11 Pursue 1: Remembering Jesus Sacrifice Teaching Supplement

EXAMPLE 1

Luke 22:14-20 NASB: “When the hour came, He reclined *at the table*, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I shall not eat it *again* until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” 17 And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” 19 And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” 20 And in the same way *He* took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup, which is poured out for you, **is the new covenant** in My blood.”

The New Covenant

*Jer. 31:31-34: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel ... ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers... ³³ ... this is the covenant that I will make...: **I will put my law within them, & I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, & they shall be my people.** ³⁴ ... **they shall all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For **I will forgive their iniquity, & I will remember their sin no more.**”*

What is new about the new covenant is that **the biblical story must be now seen in Christ?**

The union with God foreseen here is union with Christ.

1. **The people of God** are the community of which Jesus Christ is the head.
2. **The law written on their hearts** is the law of Christ.
3. **Walking with God** is communion with Christ.
4. The **forgiveness** of sin was won by Christ on the cross. Luke 22:21 – “this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

At this table we...

Remember

Renew

Reverently rejoice

EXAMPLE 2

The Lord's Table is a time for **reflective worship**, a time for:

Redeclaring one's faith in Christ portrayed by partaking of the elements. To **remember** the worth & meaning of the person and work of our Lord as the source of our salvation (abundant life) and (eternal life). **Fellowship**, a real sharing in the person and work of Christ.

"The only **restriction** is that of 1 Corinthians 11:28, that we first examine ourselves for the purpose of confessing any area of known sin that we might each be able to truly respond to the significance and meaning of this very meaningful ordinance."

1 Cor 11: 23, 24 (BREAK BREAD); 24, 25 (Pour Wine) Prayer

- *portrays the person and work of Christ and His presence in our midst*
- ***In the Bread*** *we see Christ as the Bread come down from heaven, the perfect God-man, God's gift to solve our sin problem.*
- ***In the Cup*** *we see Christ as the Lamb of God who came as the God-man to die for our sins.*
- *Partaking of the elements portrays our faith in Jesus Christ and our commitment to continue to live by fellowship with Him—continuing to be nourished by His life.*
- *The Bread, which starts out as one loaf, should portray our unity and oneness of mind and heart as fellow believers in Christ. (1 Cor. 10:17).*
- *Passing the Bread & Cup portrays our need to minister to one another, and share together in His life.*

First, we are to be sharing in the reality of who and what Jesus Christ really means to us, calling to mind what His person, death, present life, and coming again mean to us—reflecting also on how this has and should affect us.

Second, as a fellowship it is a sharing together with one another. As we pass the elements, we are demonstrating our common faith, love & devotion to Christ.

Third, As we reflect on 1 Corinthians 11:28-31 / 1 Jn 1:9; we see the real need for honest examination - for personal examination - our aspirations, values, devotion, relationships, pursuits, and of our lives in general. Confess sin.

For this to be a real fellowship, a time when we really share together in the fellowship of our Lord, there needs to be honest examination and confession for "two cannot walk together unless they be agreed" (Amos 3:3)

"We ask you to hold the elements until all have been served so we may partake of the elements as one to express our unity in Christ."

EXAMPLE 3:

The Gospel revealed at this table demonstrates His love for us in while we were yet sinners Christ died for us; that none are righteous, not one; all are guilty, will be judged & need forgiveness; that in His sovereign mercy “through faith in Christ, His righteousness becomes our righteousness and all that he has becomes ours.” (Martin Luther)

In preparation for Communion, please read this with me. NIV Heb 9:26, 13:20, 21 “But now *Christ* has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself ... Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord...equip you in every good thing...through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever Amen.”

The resurrection of Jesus is the reward of His death in our place. It is clear: *the blood of Jesus perfectly fulfilled God's covenant promises to save us.* His *resurrection of Jesus ensures He has secured our eternal glory!* Read with me: **He 2:9-10 ESV:** “But we see...Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that He ... in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

He is the crowned founder of our salvation! He rose; proving the eternal value of His death! Jesus' cross truly justifies us.

AFTER COMMUNION

God made a promise to Satan, that one day, a solitary person, will completely destroy his works. **Gen 3:15:** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” 1 Jn 3:8: “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” The death & resurrection of Jesus crushes the power of the enemy; to lead us astray, to condemn & accuse us! He faced death & broke its power on Easter morning.

He can put His foot on Satan's neck! // Jesus has the authority & power to rule all things.

Sent 6:7 Next Step Goals Sheet

I will

by when

[illegible]

OIKOS NETWORK LIST

Name of your accountability partner:

Participant's Network:
Throughout PURSUE, you will be asked to consider people in your natural, relational network with whom you can live a Prayer-Care-Share lifestyle.

As you get to know them, you may discover that they are a: nonbeliever (someone who has not placed their faith in the person and work of Jesus); new believer (someone who may not be connected to a faith community or established in the foundations of faith); follower (someone who has made a decision to follow Jesus); missional leader (someone called, capable and motivated to train others.)

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Total				