

MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 3 APPLICATION



CHECK UP: Since you have been learning to implement many biblical principles, it may be helpful for you to examine the changes that are occurring in your life.



WRITE: Use the following questions to identify what God is doing.

- Do you have a plan in place to daily read, study, and meditate on God's Word?
- Write below the Scripture verse you are currently committing to memory?

- What are the greatest challenges you face in daily following Jesus?

- Are you consistently committing these challenges to Him through prayer?
- We have talked about converting needs into prayer requests, talking with God continually, and abiding in Him. In what specific ways has your life changed since implementing these practices?

- How are you demonstrating the qualities of Christ to those around you?

- In what ways is God using you to plant and water the seed of His Word in the lives of others?

Sharing the Gospel



READ: Acts 20:24



THOUGHT PROVOKING: Do you recognize sharing the gospel as a task that Christ has appointed to you?



Are you praying for and anticipating opportunities to tell others about the good news of Jesus?



2 Timothy 2:15

We are to be well prepared in sharing the truth of Jesus as one approved that does not need to be ashamed. In presenting or dealing with the subject of salvation, it is very important that the entire truth be told. For example, some people focus on the vast blessings of salvation while overlooking the enormous cost of it. Even though some of the

Bible's content is difficult to present and perhaps even more difficult to receive, it must be conveyed accurately, with love, and in its correct and complete context.

1 John 1:8-10

To help someone comprehend the process of salvation it is essential that they first understand the personal need for it. According to Scripture, everyone has sinned (**Romans 3:9-10**). If a person believes they are without sin, they are deceived. And, because the Bible tells us that God sent His son specifically to save us from the condemnation of sin, their incorrect thinking assumes God to be a liar.

John 3:16-18

Through the gift of His Son, God fulfilled His redemptive plan for mankind. As you convey the gospel of Jesus to others, they will most likely have questions concerning this truth. Therefore, it is imperative that believers have knowledge of the Old Testament concerning salvation.

Exodus 24:3-8

In the Old Testament, God instructed His people how to live in a way that was pleasing and obedient to Him and made an agreement with them through a blood covenant. Entering into a covenant with God is serious business. When men enter into a covenant with each other, they each can provide input as to the stipulations of the agreement. However, in a covenant made between God and man, God sets the terms of the agreement and requires a response of obedience. Sadly, this covenant was broken as a result of the people's sin. God's designated penalty for sin is death (**Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 6:23**). Our loving God provided a way for His people, throughout the Old Testament, to atone for their sins through blood sacrifice (**Leviticus 17:11**).

Since God did not intend for these sacrifices to be a permanent solution for the atonement of sins, they had to be repeated by His people. Then, God foretold of a new covenant with His people (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**). Where the old covenant was not able to fully clear our conscience of sin and guilt, the new covenant, through the blood of Jesus, cleanses us from all unrighteousness (**Hebrews 9:1-14**). In other words, the old covenant was a symbolic, temporary, outer work of the complete, eternal, inner work that the new covenant would accomplish.

1 Peter 1:18-19

In sharing the gospel, it is essential for people to comprehend that Jesus was the only one who could have atoned for sin. He is the only one perfect in every way, completely without sin.

John 1:29

Here, John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as our sacrificial lamb. Today we, too, are instructed to proclaim the good news of Jesus to others.

1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:6-8

When sharing the truth of Christ, it is valuable to convey God's enormous love for everyone. These verses prove God's gift of salvation to be a demonstration of His unconditional, eternal love.

Romans 1:16

Rather than consider your own possible ineffectiveness, focus on the power of the message of Jesus and communicate it boldly in love with clarity and conviction.

- ✦ **ACTION:** If you are not already familiar with and consistently sharing the salvation message with others, take time this week to practice doing so.
- ✦ Consider preparing an outline of verses to have handy, or marking specific verses in your Bible for quick reference.
- ✦ Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to commit to memory the most significant verses concerning salvation. Then, ask a family member or friend to allow you to practice sharing with them the story of God's redemptive plan.

Over the years many methods have been promoted for sharing the gospel.

💡 **REMEMBER:** Make no mistake. Genuine salvation is based only on the absolute truth of Jesus. Therefore, it is imperative that our instruction be grounded in the truth of God's Word.

Teaching partial or incomplete truth may prompt someone to base decisions on something other than the truth of Jesus and His Word. The misplacement of belief and trust in anything other than Jesus will only lead to eternal destruction and heartache. For this reason, we must know the salvation message as presented in Scripture and fully rely on its power.

The following is a simple, practical guide to helping someone understand salvation.

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.* Jesus' love for us is not dependent on our love for Him. Knowing full well that each of us is sinful and undeserving of His love, Christ gave His life on the cross for each one of us.

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Our holy God determined the penalty for sin to be death and permanent separation from Him.

Romans 3:23-24 . . . *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.* Everyone sins. Because God is without sin, we fall far short of His glorious nature. However, God provides the free gift of redemption. Through Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross we can be redeemed, or saved, from the penalty of sin. We are justified, or brought into a right standing with God through His powerful, unmerited gift: grace. Salvation cannot be earned or purchased; it is a free gift to those who repent and believe.

Romans 10:9-10 . . . *if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess, and are saved.* Salvation is a result of genuine, personal belief in Jesus as Lord of all, as well as the acceptance of His authority over the life of each saved individual. In addition, genuine salvation is displayed through the verbal confession of the believer, accompanied by a lifestyle that reflects repentance.

1 Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* The journey of a genuine Christ-follower is devoted to developing a deeper walk of faith in Him. As a result, the benefits of God's gift of eternal life will be manifested in each believer.

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* A saved person can rest assured that nothing can ever separate them from the love of God because they are secure in Christ Jesus.

💡 Whether or not you are well prepared, communicating the truth of Jesus Christ could have eternal significance in the lives of others.

📄 **Acts 26:17-18**

These verses record Jesus' instructions to Paul about sharing His truth with the Gentiles. As we commit to profess the salvation message, our prayer should be that God will empower us to effectively do so.

🔑 Study and memorize the following definitions in preparation for being questioned by those considering salvation.

📄 **Ephesians 2:8-9**

- **Grace:** God's undeserved, unmerited, divine assistance to enable us in every way to accomplish His will.

📄 **Hebrews 11:1**

- **Faith:** Being certain, or confident, about the things of God regardless of whether they are visible. Faith has its origin in Jesus and is further developed or perfected through a growing relationship with Him.

📄 **Romans 3:22-24**

- **Justification:** God is just and therefore will not allow sin to go unpunished. Because God's appointed penalty for sin is death, that penalty or debt must be paid for us to be justified or restored to a relationship free from sin and guilt before the Lord. The gift of righteousness, or justification, takes no work on our part. It is the result of God's gift of grace.
- **Redemption:** The means by which a person is justified. Jesus' sacrificial death paid the enormous penalty for our sin. That payment was exchanged for our penalty of sin, redeeming us from sin and death. Our debt of sin was not cancelled but paid in full through Jesus' death on the cross.

📄 **Colossians 1:21-22**

- **Reconciliation:** Since sin opposes our holy God, living in sin separates us from Him. Where sin made us enemies of God, acceptance and belief in His grace pardons us from sin, allowing us to be united with and reconciled to Him.

📄 **1 Thessalonians 4:3; Proverbs 15:9; Romans 6:22**

- **Sanctified:** To set oneself apart to the Lord in continuous diligent pursuit of His righteousness. Sanctification is a process and takes intentional effort on the part of each believer.

🔑 Ask God to equip you and enable you to be fully prepared to share with others the salvation message of Jesus.

👉 **FISHING FOR MEN:** Begin praying for the person God would have you disciple. Humbly ask Him to fully prepare and equip you for His service.

Results of Salvation

📄 **1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:13-14**

In the Old Testament, prior to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, King Solomon built a temple for God. Upon completion, God's presence filled the temple. In the New Testament, after Jesus' return to heaven, God provided every believer with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. This is why a believer's body is referred to as the "temple of the Holy Spirit."

 When are believers sealed with the Holy Spirit?

 **Romans 15:15-16**

 Why did the apostle Paul preach the gospel?

 How would you explain to others the essential role the indwelling Holy Spirit has in the sanctification process?

Communion

After a person accepts Christ, the Lord desires for them to participate in communion. Therefore, it is beneficial for you to explain this very significant and meaningful ordinance.

 **Luke 22:14-20**

There are key points that should be conveyed here, especially to new Christians. First of all, Passover was celebrated to commemorate God delivering His people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. Jesus, the perfect Passover lamb, would soon deliver mankind from the bondage of sin. The symbolic meaning of Passover was lived out through Jesus' death on the cross: His body was broken and His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins (**Matthew 26:26-28**). This was done to fulfill the new covenant (**Hebrews 7:22**).

 **1 Corinthians 11:26**

Although Jesus was not specific in how often His followers should partake of communion, Jesus did tell His disciples to observe communion in remembrance of Him and all that He had done for them. In doing so, we continue to proclaim the significance of Jesus' death until He comes again.

 **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**

Believers should also understand the manner in which communion is to be observed. Because Jesus is most concerned about the condition of our hearts, we are to examine our hearts prior to participating in communion to be certain everything is right before Him. If we come to the Lord's communion table with sin in our hearts, it dishonors Christ by making light of the very reason we take communion. As disciples, we should partake in the celebration of communion with a humble, repentant heart out of recognition of and respect for the life and death of our Lord Jesus.

 In discipling others, especially new believers, help them to grasp the significance of communion and what it will look like to partake of communion prior to participating in it.

Baptism

 **Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16**

It's important to realize and communicate that baptism is not required for salvation, but it is required for personal obedience. When a person receives the gospel, the Bible shows the first act of obedience as baptism.

Baptism can be explained as a public testimony to what has already taken place in the life of a believer. Imagine for a moment that you had just returned from a trip overseas and were showing your family pictures from the trip. In a similar way that your pictures show the trip that has already taken place, baptism is a public display of what has already taken place in the life of a believer.

 **Acts 19:1-5**

Luke records some men who were considered disciples yet did not have a full understanding of true salvation. Notice that Paul didn't make assumptions about the spiritual condition of these people.

 Why is that important?

 Please be mindful that there may be times when you're discipling someone that thought they were saved, but they have come to realize they had believed incorrectly and are lost. In this case, what should you do?

 Since accepting God's gospel of grace, by faith, is essential to salvation, stop to take the necessary time to help the person clearly understand God's gift of grace and invite them to receive it through faith in Christ Jesus.

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (**Romans 1:16**)