

Lesson 1: Personal Testimony

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Make introductions since this is your first time together.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Skip since this is your first meeting.
3. **Prayer and worship.**

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Jesus gave his followers the Great Commission (Mt 28.18-20). We are called to make disciples, not church-attenders; go, not come; all nations, not some; teach obedience, not knowledge. The Great Commandment (Mt 22.36-39) is the driving force behind the Great Commission.

5. **New Lesson.** Read Mark 5.1-20.

Head:

- What was the man's condition before he met Jesus?
- What happened when he encountered Jesus?
- What does the man want to do once Jesus enters his life?
- What does Jesus tell him to do?
- What does it teach you about Jesus values?

Heart:

- How might the man have felt before encountering Jesus?
- How might he have felt after?
- How does the man feel about Jesus final instructions?
- What about this story resonates with you?
Where do you identify?

Hands:

- If you haven't yet allowed Jesus into your life, what's preventing you from taking that step?
- Ask God whom he wants you to "go home to..." and tell how much the Lord has done for you."
- Make a list of twenty people you can share this with.
(Leader, demonstrate your one minute testimony.)
- Write your testimony on half a sheet of paper.
Like the demon-possessed man, explain your life before Christ, your encounter with Christ, and how your life is different since he entered.

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Practice reading your testimony multiple times. It should take less than a minute. Practice sharing without reading. Still keep it under a minute. Have a few people share their testimony with the group.
7. **Set Goals.** Pray and ask God with whom on your list he wants you to share. Based on the Holy Spirit's leading, select five people the group can pray for an opportunity to share your testimony with this week.

Lesson 2: The Gospel of the Kingdom

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Ask the group how each is doing. Listen.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing testimony.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

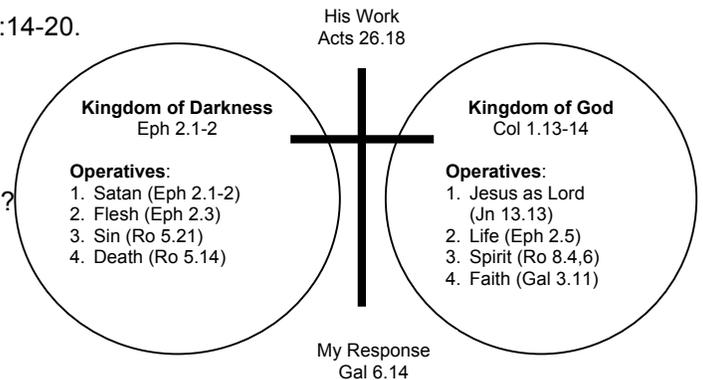
Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Review the Great Commission. Go, not come; all nations, not some; obedience, not knowledge. The Great Commandment as the heart behind the Great Commission.

5. **New Lesson.** Read about the first disciples in Mark 1:14-20.

Head:

- What are the messages Jesus proclaims (v.15)?
- How do the two messages arise when Jesus encounters the fishermen (v.17)?
- What invitation and promise does Jesus offer (v.17)?
- What is their response (vv.18-20)?
- What do they give up to follow Jesus (vv.18,20)?
- Are these bad things they give up?
- What does this teach you about Jesus' expectations for his followers?



Heart:

- How might the fishermen have felt when they heard Jesus' call?
- How might they have felt leaving things to follow Jesus?
- As you consider your call, what are you feeling?
- What challenges get in the way of you following?

Hands:

- Ask each person in which Kingdom he/she resides. If in the Kingdom of God, briefly describe when he/she made the move.
- Learn to share the Two Kingdoms illustration.
- Who on your list is the Holy Spirit leading you to share this with?

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Share the Two Kingdoms illustration with others by drawing on a napkin, business card or scrap of paper.
7. **Set Goals.** Pray and ask God with whom on your list he wants you to share. Based on the Holy Spirit's leading, select five people the group can pray for an opportunity to share your testimony or the illustration with this week.

Lesson 3: Baptism

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Ask the group how each is doing. Encourage each other. At this point you may feel discouraged that more are not entering the Kingdom, or that you have not taken advantage of opportunities to share.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Explain the Heavenly Father's heart. God wants us to pray for his will and his Kingdom (Mt 6.9-10). It is God's desire that all men will be saved (1Tim 2.3-4). If we ask according to his will, he answers (Jn 15.7; 1Jn 5.14-15). If you keep asking God for what you know he already wants to give, he will certainly answer.
5. **New Lesson.** A sacrament is an outward sign or symbol of an inward work. The sacrament of baptism is a public declaration of identifying and being identified with Christ (Ro 1.1-14; Col 2.11-14). Repentance and belief are inherent in the decision to be baptized (Mark 1.4-14). Read about Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8.26-40.

Head:

- What is the Eunuch's social position?
- In what is he interested? How do we know?
- On what is the Eunuch depending to know God's heart?
- In the end, how does God provide understanding?
- What does Philip do to share the good news?
How does he do it?
- What does this teach you about how God works?
- How long does the Eunuch wait to get baptized? Who baptizes him?

Heart:

- How might the Eunuch have felt as he read the Prophet Isaiah?
- How might the Eunuch have felt when he met Philip and heard the message?
- As you consider baptism, what are you feeling?
- What challenges get in the way of you being baptized?

Hands:

- Have you been baptized? If not, schedule your baptism; don't wait. Review your testimony from lesson one and share it at your baptism. Invite your friends.
- Have you led someone to Christ who has not been baptized after his/her decision to follow Jesus? Ask that person what is preventing him/her from obeying Jesus' command (Mt 28.18-20)?

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Determine where you will take individuals who desire baptism. Normally, people speak Jesus' words in Mt 28.18-20, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
7. **Set Goals.** Continue to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel and testimony with those on your list. Baptize those who repent and believe.

Lesson 4: Abiding

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Allow the group to care for each other.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom and calling people to baptism. Share testimonies of the different responses people have had to the gospel.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Explain sailors waiting for the wind to blow – they keep every piece of material up and taught so that they might catch wind. Similarly, we wait for the Holy Spirit to blow. Preach the gospel and obey Jesus with abandon, so that you can catch the wind where he is moving!

5. **New Lesson.** Read the metaphor of John 15.1-11.

Head:

- What are the three gardening symbols (vv.1-5)?
What does each represent?
- What cleans or prunes the branches (vv.2-3)?
- What is the precondition to fruitfulness (vv.4-6)?
- What are the promises of abiding (vv.7-8)?
- What is associated with abiding (vv.9-11)?

Heart:

- What are the essential elements of abiding?
- Do we more value fruit, or abiding? Why?
- What does your “fruit” look like?
What does that indicate?
- What do you feel about the statement:
“Just as the Great Commandment is the context for the Great Commission, abiding is the context for producing fruit. We cannot produce in order to abide.”

Hands:

- Do you have consistent scheduled time with the Lord? Just as life flows from the vine to the branch, we must be vitally connected to Jesus through regular time with him. Commit (and schedule) time to spend with the Lord through prayer and reading of the Word.
- What is that one thing in your life or in your heart in which the Lord is calling you to obey? What is he asking you to do, or lay down? Write it down and share with the group so that they can ask you.

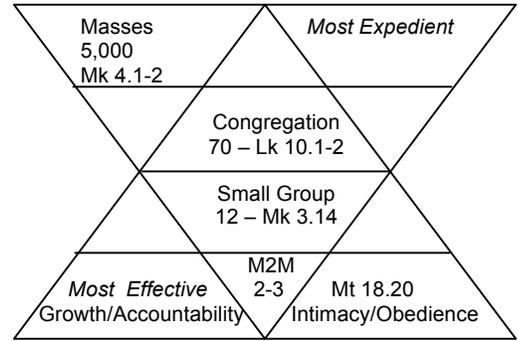
Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Share with each other what your time with the Lord looks like. Explain your environment and means of connecting with and hearing from the Lord. For the next week, try out a means suggested by another that you don't currently employ.
7. **Set Goals.** Continue to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel and testimony with those on your list. Baptize those who repent and believe. Commit to spending a scheduled devotion time at least five days over the next week.

Lesson 5: Deep Relationships

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Allow the group to care for each other.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. Ask each person how his/her devotional time went over the past week and how they obeyed him.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.



Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Review Mt. 28.18-20. Go, not come. All nations, not some. Make disciples, not church attenders. Explain the graphic. Compare group size to disciple-making effectiveness.

5. **New Lesson.** Read the Mk 3.13-19 Lk 6.12-13.

Head:

- How much consideration did Jesus give to choosing close friends?
- Why did Jesus choose these close friends (Mk 3.14)?
- What are the advantages of deep relationship (Mk 4.33-34; 9.2)?
- What are the costs (Jn 13.21-27)?
- What are the promises of deep relationship (Mt 18.20; Pr 27.17; Jn 13.34-35)?

Heart:

- How might Jesus have felt in choosing the Twelve? The Two?
- What are your hopes and fears associated with a close relationship?

Hands:

- Commit to meeting with one or two others of the same sex using the A-Team Questions (right). Continue to meet with this small group as well.

Accountability Team (A-Team)

1. In what way have you experienced God at work in the last week? How did you join him?
2. Have you obeyed the promptings of the Lord this week?
3. Have you been honoring, caring, and understanding in your important relationships this week?
4. Have you yielded to temptation sexually, financially, in your words, thoughts, or deeds?
5. Have you engaged in any addictive behavior?
6. Is there anyone you need to forgive?
7. Is there any other sin you need to confess?
8. Have you told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? (Did you lie to me?)
9. What is an insight from God's Word you'd like to share?
10. How are you actively engaged in advancing the Kingdom?

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Split up into groups and go through the accountability questions. Be honest and transparent with each other.
7. **Set Goals.** Continue to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel and testimony with those on your list. Schedule time outside of the small group gathering to spend time socially. Accountability is always best done in the context of relationships. Get to know each other on a personal basis

Lesson 6: Church

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Allow the group to care for each other.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. Ask each person how his/her devotional time went over the past week and how they obeyed him. Ask who was able to meet in an A-Team.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Church is not programs or structures. Church should be what ends up happening as a natural response to people wanting to follow us, be with us, and be like us as we are following the way of Christ. Matt Smay & Hugh Halter. *The Tangible Kingdom*.

5. **New Lesson.** Read the Acts 2.36-47.

Head:

- What are the titles given to Jesus (v.36)?
- What is the response to Jesus' identity (vv. 37-41)?
- To what do the New Believers commit (vv. 42-47)?
- What are the actions and feelings of the new church (vv.42-47)?
- What was the purpose of meals in light of Lk 22.19-20?

Heart:

- How might the believers have felt as the community grew?
- How might they have felt as they engaged in community?
- What are your hopes and fears associated with community?

Hands:

- Evaluate your group against the church in Acts 2.
What elements of church are you missing from your group?
Are those elements being addressed? If so, where?

Three "C"s of Church

11. **Covenant.** The members believe they are a church and are committed to becoming like Christ.
12. **Characteristics.**
 - Worship and Prayer
 - Fellowship and Community
 - Obedience to the Word
 - The Lord's Supper
 - Evangelism and Baptism
 - Giving
13. **Caring Leadership.**

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Consider having a meal together, and while doing so, share the Lord's supper. If you would like to consider other tangible ways of being the church (corporate evangelism, collecting an offering to benefit an agreed upon charity/cause, etc.), incorporate those into your time together.
7. **Set Goals.** Determine as a group in what ways you desire your group to fulfill the purposes of the church. Set goals in accordance with that desire

Lesson 7: Stewardship

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Allow the group to care for each other.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. Ask each person how his/her devotional time went over the past week and how they obeyed him. Ask who was able to meet in an A-Team.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Share Romans 12.1-2.
Worship is: (1) an humble act of gratitude (“in view of God’s mercy”), (2) sacrificial.
Worship results in: (1) transformation, (2) discernment of God’s will.

5. **New Lesson.** Read the John 12.1-8.

Head:

- Was this the first time Jesus had been in this home (vv.1-2)?
- What was Mary’s radical act of worship (v.3)?
- What was the legitimate objection (vv.4-5)?
- What was the illegitimate objection (v.6)?
- What was Jesus’ response to the radical act (vv.7-8)?
- How much of the perfume did Jesus want spent on Him?

Heart:

- How might Mary have felt as she offered this extravagant gift?
- How might Jesus have felt as she offered this gift?
- From this encounter, what do you think Jesus values?

Hands:

- Make a list of the **Time, Talents, and Treasures** with which God has blessed you?
- Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord to give you a picture of what a sacrificial act of gratitude would look like from the resources he has already given you.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
- Mt 6.21*

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** As a token of their gratitude for God’s abundant blessing, The Israelites gave back to God 10% of everything God had given them (Nu 18.20). With this offering, the Israelites supported Kingdom work. What Kingdom work are you supporting, individually, and as a group?
7. **Set Goals.** Discuss with the group if you would like to commit to supporting Kingdom work. Perhaps giving to the needy (Acts 4.43-44), a church or mission (2Co 9), or a missionary (1Co 9.14).

Lesson 8: World Vision

Look Back:

1. **Pastoral Care.** Allow the group to care for each other.
2. **Loving Accountability.** Ask each person how he/she did sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. Ask each person how his/her devotional time went over the past week and how they obeyed him. Ask who was able to meet in an A-Team.
3. **Prayer and worship.** Thank the Lord for what He has done; ask His help with concerns.

Look Up:

4. **Vision Casting.** Apple illustration.
How many seed are in an apple? About 10.
How many trees are in an apple? Between 1 and 10.
How many apples are in an apple? Hundreds.
How many disciples are in you?
What is the key to one apple becoming many? Jn 12.24-25
5. **New Lesson.** Read the Matthew 9.35 – 10.15.
Head:
 - How does Jesus see the crowds?
What metaphor does he use for them (9.36)?
 - Why does he call it a harvest (9.35-36)?
 - What are the two solutions to the crowd's problem (9.38;10.1-5)?
 - Where are the Twelve to engage and avoid (10.5-7)?
 - What is the message they are to share (10.8)?
 - Who are the Twelve to look for (10.11)?
 - How will they know that they have found him (10.11,14)?

Heart:

- How might the Twelve have felt in being sent out?
- How had Jesus prepared them for being sent out?
- What are the things that hinder or complicate your going out?
- How does the prospect of going out make you feel?

Hands:

- Are you a laborer? If not, what do you need to become one?
- Of the three main areas of your life (i.e. where your **Live, Work, and Play**), where are opportunities to share the gospel? Commit to praying for individuals in an area or two.
- Who is the "worthy" man or woman in your relational network? Make a plan to "move into his/her home" to share the gospel and begin teaching Lesson One. Share the plan with the group.

Look Ahead:

6. **Practice.** Practice sharing your testimony and the gospel from Lesson One, since this will be the first thing you share with your worthy man or woman.
7. **Set Goals.** Look to labor with a worthy person and share with him/her what has been shared with you in this process.