

# Training Faithful Trainers

## INTRODUCTION

### THE END VISION

Let's begin with an exciting question:

***What would our nation be like if everyone loved and obeyed God?***

Unfortunately, this is not reality. In most countries less than 5 percent of all people have a real and meaningful relationship with Jesus.

The world's population is over seven billion people—most of whom do not love and obey God. To reach them all for Jesus is humanly impossible! But with the power of the Holy Spirit, God can use you to reach vast numbers of spiritually lost people.

### THREE GREAT COMMANDS

**Jesus commands us to love God.** God created us for a relationship of love, and He commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22.37). We show our love through our obedience to Him: *"If you keep my commandments, you will remain in My love"* (John 15.10). Therefore if we want to grow in intimacy with God, we must obey Him.

**Jesus commands us to love people.** God also desires for us to live in harmony as His people, so He commands us to love one another (Matthew 22.39). Love is not words or feelings, but actions. We can express love in many ways, but the greatest eternal value is found by being mutually accountable to one another to love and obey God.

**Jesus commands us to make disciples.** God wants all people to be reconciled to Him, but each person must hear the message, repent, and follow Him in obedience. Jesus commands His disciples to go and make disciples. Faithful witnesses passed the gospel on to us today, and we must pass it to others to multiply His Kingdom. Let's examine Matthew 28.18–20:

***All authority has been given to Me...*** Jesus is the highest authority in the universe. He has complete sovereignty as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, therefore we must obey Him!

***Go...*** We can't depend on people to come to us—we must go to them.

***Make disciples...*** A disciple is an apprentice learner who follows the Master. Disciples follow Jesus in their lifestyle and go fishing for Jesus by catching people for the Kingdom (Mark 1.16–17). We make disciples, not just converts!

***baptising them...*** In order to baptise someone, he or she must decide to follow Jesus. This means we must first share the gospel message and bring that person to a point of decision.

***teaching them to obey...*** We must teach believers to obey Jesus – including this command. Therefore, a disciple is a disciple-maker! We train them to be trainers who train others, passing it on through many spiritual generations.

***I am with you always.*** Jesus goes before us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Once we start moving in His power, we will begin to see God at work to create movements that reach many people and multiply His Kingdom.

### THE NEW TESTAMENT AIM OF THE CHURCH

These three great commands are foundational—every instruction in Scripture traces back to them! Jesus gave these commands so we know how to please God, so we should obey them every time we meet together.

*A simple way to remember these commands is to use the words Accountability, Intimacy, and Multiplication (AIM).*

KEY IMAGE: BATON



### MEMORY VERSE

*The things which you  
have heard from me...  
entrust these to faithful  
men who will be able to  
teach others also.*

**2 Timothy 2.2 (NASB)**

## REACHING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

It is God's will that every person have the opportunity to know Him and His great love for them. God wants to use you as an "ambassador" to reach your family and those closest to you! Throughout the Bible, we see many examples of people who reached their family first:

<b>Who?</b>	<b>The story</b>	<b>What lesson do we learn?</b>
<b>Noah</b> Genesis 6–8	God commanded Noah to build the ark. He preached good news that others could be saved from the flood. No one saw any danger, and no one was saved.	Only Noah's family was saved.
<b>Rahab</b> Joshua 2.17–20	A woman of Jericho who provided protection for the spies sent by Joshua.	God spared her whole family.
<b>Gerasene Man</b> Mark 5.1–20	A demon-possessed man who was healed by Jesus. He was sent to share the good news with his own people.	Everyone was amazed at the change in his life.
<b>Conelius</b> Acts 10.1–33	A man of great reputation who sought after God. Peter came to his house and shared the gospel with him.	His whole household was influenced by the message.
<b>Lydia</b> Acts 16.10–15	A business person who was a dealer in purple cloth. Paul came and shared the Good News with her.	She and her household believed and were baptised.
<b>Jailer at Philippi</b> Acts 16.25–34	Guarded the prison where Paul and Silas were held. After an earthquake shook the door open, Paul shared the gospel and the man was saved.	He and his household believed and were baptised.
<b>You</b>	God wants to use you to reach your entire family.	At the very least, witness to your own family.

! **At this point, hand out this lesson sheet and let the participants practise teaching one another what you taught them.**

## THE TFT TRAINING PROCESS

Give each participant a copy of *The TFT Training Process* (handout). Help each trainer to understand how the *Training Faithful Trainers* method works and what you will expect from each other in the coming weeks.

## DEVELOPING YOUR PEOPLE LIST

Jesus said, "*the fields are ripe for harvest*" (John 4.35). This means there are many people out there who are ready to hear the Good News. Our task is to find them and tell them the news. When the Holy Spirit prepares people to believe, they will come to faith fairly quickly. But they must hear the message first.

- Make a list of all the people you know, starting with your family, friends, and acquaintances.
- On your list, mark off those who know Jesus. Remember to thank God for saving these people!
- The remainder are those who need to hear the Good News. These are the people with whom you will share the Good News over the next several weeks.

## SHARING YOUR PERSONAL STORY

It is a great joy to lead others to Jesus! The most effective way to share about Jesus is to tell your personal story.

- Write your story in three parts: your life *before* Jesus, how you *met* Jesus, and how He has *changed* your life.
- Keep it short. You should be able to tell your story in less than 2 minutes!
- Rehearse it several times, then practise it aloud with someone else.
- When you train others, be sure to share your story first as an example.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**WRITE** your people list starting with those closest to you and listing everyone you know.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
*2 Timothy 2.2*

**READ** from the Bible:  
*John 10.24–29      Romans 6.3–11*  
*2 Corinthians 5.17–21      1 John 5.11–13*

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

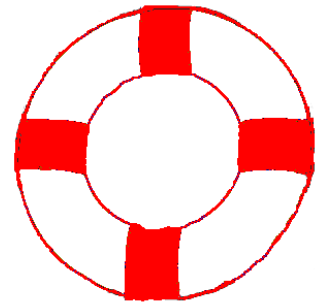
# 1 God is Our Saviour

GOD SAVES US AND GIVES US A NEW LIFE

*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

**1 John 5.12**

KEY IMAGE: LIFE RING



## A REVIEW OF THE GOSPEL STORY

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

**1 God loves you and has wonderful plans for your life.**

What does the Bible say about God's intention for us?

*Jeremiah 29.11; John 3.16; John 10.10*

**2 We have all sinned and are separated from God.**

What does the Bible say about people and sin?

*Isaiah 53.6; Isaiah 59.2; Romans 3.23; Romans 6.23*

**3 Jesus died to pay the price for your sin.**

What does the Bible say about being saved from our sin?

*Romans 5.8; 2 Corinthians 5.21; Ephesians 2.8-9*

**4 God invites you into a relationship with Him, but you must accept it.**

What does the Bible say we need to do?

*Acts 3.19; Romans 10.9; Revelation 3.20*

**5 New disciples can't stand alone—they need a disciple maker.**

*Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 2.42; 2 Timothy 4.2-3*

Has God done what He needs to do...shed His blood for your sin?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Have you done what you need to do...turn to God and believe?

☐ YES ☐ NO

You can ask God to save you right now:

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for creating me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. Now I realise I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. I commit myself to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Amen.*

## THE PROMISES OF SALVATION

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

**1 You can be sure you are saved.**

In 1 John 5.13, what does the Bible say about being sure of your salvation?

**2 You have God's seal, a guarantee that you belong to Him.**

In 2 Corinthians 1.21-22, what does God do when you are saved?

**3 You are secure, and no one can take you away from Jesus.**

In John 10.27-28, how does God protect you when you are saved?

? Are you certain you are saved? ☐ YES ☐ NO

## CELEBRATING YOUR NEW LIFE

When we are saved, we have a brand new life with God. We are “born from above” into God’s family! You will want to remember the day you asked Jesus to come into your life to give you new birth.

### *My Spiritual Birth Certificate*

On \_\_\_\_\_ (date) I invited Jesus  
into my heart to be my Saviour. Jesus forgave my sin and I gave  
Him control of my life. Now I am a child of God. I am a new  
creation. I have begun a new life!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

The Bible says that anyone who is in Christ is a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5.17). If you are saved, your life will change!

Have you experienced any of the following changes in your life?

- ☐ inner peace
- ☐ feeling God’s love
- ☐ joy of being forgiven
- ☐ awareness of your sin
- ☐ desire to read the Bible
- ☐ ability to defeat sin
- ☐ attitude of caring for others

## THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Baptism literally means “to dip someone into water” to show others that he or she has become a disciple of Jesus. Baptism shows that a person is serious about following and obeying Jesus.

### 1 Baptism is a step of obedience.

- Jesus commands us to baptise those who become disciples (Matthew 28.19).
- You should be baptised immediately after you are saved.
- When you lead someone to Jesus, baptise that person as soon as possible.

*What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptised...*

— Acts 22.16

### 2 Baptism tells a visual story.

- It is a reminder of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6.3-11).
- It is a picture of what happened inside your heart: your old life was buried, and you became a new person in Christ.

*You are buried with Christ...raised to new life.*

— Romans 6.4

- It is a symbol of the washing away of your sins (Matthew 3.1; Acts 22.16).

### 3 Baptism shows your identity with Jesus and his church.

- Jesus was baptised to identify with God and dedicate Himself to God’s work.
- Everyone who repents and believes should be baptised (Acts 2.38).

Many people were “baptised” as infants to show their parents’ dedication to God. But if you are a believer, God wants you to demonstrate your faith the biblical way through believer’s baptism. If you have not been baptised as a believer, follow Jesus in obedience and show others what He has done in your life. Make a definite plan to be baptised very soon.

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

## ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**PRACTICE** telling the gospel story until you can share it confidently.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
1 John 5.12

**READ** from the Bible:

Matthew 6.5–15

John 3.14–21

John 14.16–27

Hebrews 12.4–11

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

# God is Our Loving Father

GOD INVITES US TO SHARE WITH HIM PERSONALLY

*If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

**John 15.10**

KEY IMAGE:  
LARGE HEART AND SMALL HEART



USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH  
THESE POINTS

## YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER EXPRESSES HIS LOVE FOR YOU

God created us to love us. He loves you dearly! The Bible says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us..." (1 John 3.1). God also demonstrates His love to each of us in many practical ways:

### 1 God shows us His love for us through provision.

God created people and gave us everything we need (Genesis 1.26–30). We can trust that He will continually meet our needs and teach us to be content in all circumstances.

*And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*  
— Philippians 4.19

### 2 God shows us His love for us through forgiveness.

Our Heavenly Father loved us enough to die for us so we could be forgiven and reconciled to Him.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*  
— John 3.16

### 3 God shows us His love for us through discipline.

Loving parents must sometimes punish their children to teach them right from wrong. In a similar way, God often expresses His love through painful situations or punishment to train us in the right way to live.

*Do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.*  
— Hebrews 12.5-6

*Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.*  
— Revelation 3.19

## EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

The Bible teaches us, "We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4.19). God loved us first, showing us how to love Him and one another. There are many important ways that we can show our love for God:

### 1 Show your love for God through devotion.

If you really love someone, you spend time with them. God wants you to meet with Him each day. In the busyness of life it is good to devote some "quiet time" just for God, to talk with Him through prayer, and listen to Him through reading His Word. We do this to strengthen our love relationship with God, and to grow to become like Jesus.

Our purpose for doing this is to strengthen our love relationship with God, and to grow to become like Jesus.

*From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son.*  
— Romans 8.29 (LB)

## 2 Show your love for God through prayer.

In Matthew 6.9-15, Jesus taught us how to pray using what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” This is actually a model that teaches us what Jesus wants us to include in our prayers:

**VERSE 9** Jesus wants us to give God our praise.

**VERSE 10** Jesus wants us to seek God’s purpose.

**VERSE 11** Jesus wants us to request God’s provision.

**VERSE 12** Jesus wants us to ask for God’s pardon.

**VERSE 13** Jesus wants us to desire God’s protection.

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

! **Stop now and use the TFT Prayer Worksheet (handout) to write a prayer to God.**

A few things to remember when you pray:

**JAMES 1.5-6** Pray without doubting.

**JAMES 4.2-3** Pray without selfishness.

**LUKE 18.1** Pray without losing heart.

**1 THESSALONIANS 5.17** Pray without ceasing.

## 3 Show your love for God through obedience.

The ultimate test of love for our Heavenly Father is our obedience to Him. Every day, examine yourself to be sure you are obeying Him. You must remember that you can never have intimacy with God without obeying Him!

*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching...*

— John 14.23-24

## YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNAL

In Old Testament times, memorials were an important way for the people of God to remember what the Lord had done for them. Some memorials were nothing more than a simple pile of stones to signify a milestone in their journey with God! Offerings, prayers, writings, special holidays, and elaborate objects made of gold are other examples of memorials which were used by people in Bible times.

It is good for us to have reminders of what God is doing in our lives. A useful memorial is a journal where you can record your special experiences and insights from God. This can be as simple as a little notepad where you can jot down your thoughts. You will find that God will often speak to you while you are reading His Word and while you are praying.

You can also use your journal to write your prayers if you find it difficult to pray verbally. This week, start keeping a journal as a memorial of your experiences with God.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**WRITE** your thoughts and experiences of God—Start keeping a Spiritual Journal.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
*John 15.10*

**READ** from the Bible:  
*Matthew 6.19-34      Colossians 1.9-14*  
*Colossians 2.6-14      1 John 2.5-17*

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

# God Is Our King

GOD REIGNS AND RULES OVER US IN HIS KINGDOM

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**Matthew 6.33**

KEY IMAGE: CROWN



USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

## GOD AND HIS KINGDOM

The Bible teaches us many important characteristics about our Heavenly Father:

God is eternal.

He has always existed, and He will exist forever.

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.* — Psalm 90.2

God is powerful.

He created all things in the universe. He has the ultimate power over nature.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* — Genesis 1.1

God is sovereign.

He has complete authority as King who reigns in His Kingdom.

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.* — Matthew 6.13

The Kingdom of God is the reign and rule of God. Jesus came to establish God's Kingdom here on earth, and He spent much of His time teaching about this Kingdom.

God's Kingdom is not like earthly kingdoms! In fact, in many ways it is quite the opposite:

Mark 10.43	<i>To be great, you must be a servant</i>
Luke 6.29	<i>We must not fight back when threatened</i>
Matthew 19.30	<i>Those who are first will be last, and the last will be first</i>
Acts 20.35	<i>Giving is more important than receiving</i>

## YOUR PART IN THE KINGDOM

When you belong to God, you have special privileges in the Kingdom:

You have your identity in God.

You are a citizen of the Kingdom! God is our King and we are His servants.

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.* — Ephesians 2.19

You have the sufficiency of God—He is enough.

The world says significance is based on wealth and fame. God says we have our significance in Him!

<i>My grace is sufficient for you.</i>	— 2 Corinthians 12.9
<i>In Him you have been made complete.</i>	— Colossians 2.10



You have power from God.  
Pray and ask God to use you to do mighty things!

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH  
THESE POINTS

*I (Jesus) tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.  
He will do even greater things than these.* — John 14.12

*Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.* — 1 John 4.4

## THE OPPOSING EVIL KINGDOM

Besides the Kingdom of God, there is one other kingdom. This is an evil force called the domain of darkness which is led by Satan and his demons.  
If you are a follower of Jesus, you were rescued from this dark kingdom!

*Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son.* — Colossians 1.12-13

Satan is God's enemy! If you follow God's way, Satan will be your enemy as well, and he will try to destroy you!

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* — 1 Peter 5.8 (see John 10.10)

Satan uses the things of the world to lure us away from God. He uses our inner cravings and desires to tempt us and lead us into sin.

*Do not love the world nor the things in the world...For all that is in the world, the lust of the **flesh** and the lust of the **eyes** and the boastful **pride** of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts...*  
— 1 John 2.15-17 (NASB)

### What are the three types of sin mentioned in 1 John 2.15-17?

The lust of the flesh.  
The lust of the eyes.  
The boastful pride of life.

### Give a Few Examples

food, sensuality  
greed, sex appeal, sexual desire  
power, arrogance, seeking attention

Study Ephesians 6.10-17 and learn how to fight against this dark kingdom.  
Remember, you have God's power available to you to help you win the battle against evil!

## THE THRONE OF YOUR HEART

Have you ever thought about who is in charge of your life? Each of us is born with a desire to be in control of our own lives—to be the king sitting on the throne of our own heart. But God wants to be King of your life instead!

How do we do this? We must first die to self. This means we choose to obey Him instead of satisfying our own selfish desires. It means letting God have control of all the areas of our life: our time, our money, our relationships, our decisions. If we do this, Satan can never get a foothold!

*If anyone would come after me (Jesus), he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

— Luke 9.23

Are you willing to place God on the throne of your heart? Look at Matthew 6.33, the memory verse for this week. In this verse, Jesus promises that if we put God and His Kingdom first, He will provide us with all that we need. We will have peace and joy in our hearts, and His Kingdom will grow stronger!

### ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**WRITE** a brief story of how you've experienced God's power in your life.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
Matthew 6.33

**READ** from the Bible:  
Matthew 22.34-40    Matthew 28.16-20  
Romans 12.1-2    Colossians 1.15-20

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.



# 4 God Is Our Lord

GOD LEADS HIS CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

*He is also head of the body, the church...He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

**Colossians 1.18**

## JESUS IS IN CHARGE

Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. An important expression of the Kingdom is the church. When many people hear the word church, they think of a building, but the New Testament church has nothing to do with buildings!

A church is a local gathering of disciples who obey Jesus and cooperate to achieve God's purpose. God has appointed His Son to have a very special place in the church: Jesus is Lord, the one in authority who oversees it and gives it direction.

In the human body, the head controls the rest of the body. The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the head of the church which controls the functions of the body (Colossians 1.18). Without the Head (Christ), the church (the "body" of Christ) can never function properly!

## THE NEW TESTAMENT AIM OF THE CHURCH

Do you remember the *Three Great Commands* from our first session? Let's review them:

Jesus commands us to love God

**MATTHEW 22.37** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Jesus commands us to love people

**MATTHEW 22.39** Love your neighbour as yourself.

Jesus commands us to make disciples

**MATTHEW 28.19-20** Go and make disciples, baptising them...teaching them to obey.

These three great commands are foundational practises for every church. Jesus, the Lord of the church, gave these commands so we know how to please God. They give the church meaning and direction.

We must be sure every disciple learns to obey these commands! A simple way to remember them is to think of the words *accountability*, *intimacy*, and *multiplication* (AIM):

**Accountability** reminds us to "Love your neighbour as yourself"

Obeying this command results in our growth in true partnership together to do God's will.

**Intimacy** reminds us to "Love the Lord your God"

Obeying this command results in knowing God personally and becoming more like Jesus.

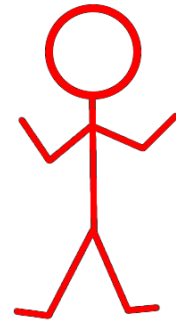
**Multiplication** reminds us to "Go and make disciples"

Obeying this command results in reaching people and helping God's Kingdom grow.

**How have we been practising these three commands in our TFT group?**

! Study the "AIM Pattern" (handout) to visualise and understand the pattern we use have been using in our group. What would churches be like if every disciple followed this pattern?

KEY IMAGE: HEAD AND BODY



USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

THE NEW TESTAMENT AIM OF THE CHURCH IS

to develop *accountability* to one another

to grow in *intimacy* with God

and to bring about the *multiplication* of the Kingdom.

## THREE KINDS CHURCHES

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH  
THESE POINTS

Churches come in all shapes and sizes, but there are three major types:

### 1 Traditional Church

These churches usually have their own building. They generally meet in formal services on Sundays.

They hope church members will share their faith and bring people to services to help their congregation grow. Some believers share the Gospel, but most rely on the minister or church program to reach lost people.

### 2 cell Church

This is a church consisting of multiple groups of about 10 people each, called cells. Each cell gathers at a church member's home. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

They hope that each cell will grow quickly and split into two new groups. Some cells grow, but others do not.

### 3 CPM Church

These churches are the key to Church Planting Movements (CPMs) which occur in many parts of the world today. They are purposely kept small, simple, and informal so any believer can start them and lead them.

Every disciple is expected to obey God. They hold one another accountable, particularly in sharing the Gospel. Every disciple learns to be a trainer who will train others. Every disciple is taught to depend on God, expecting Him to work powerfully in their lives.

These churches focus on multiplication rather than growth in size. This is the kind of church we are seeking to establish. CPM churches multiply rapidly and reach many people!

## A LIFESTYLE OF SACRIFICE

The gospel message is all about the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life to save us. Every believer should celebrate what He has done for us, and we should learn to develop a lifestyle of sacrifice to become more like Jesus.

### We Celebrate Jesus as a Sacrifice for Us

At the "Lord's supper," Jesus showed us a way to celebrate His work on the cross:

He took bread and broke it, saying it was His body broken for us.

He took a cup, saying it was His blood spilled out for us.

Whenever a church gathers, we can honour Jesus by celebrating the Lord's Supper. This helps us remember what He did for us on the cross, and it reminds us to be "broken and spilled out" as we serve the Lord.

### We Commit Ourselves as a Sacrifice for Jesus

We can demonstrate our love for Jesus through our willingness to sacrifice for Him:

<b>FASTING</b>	This sacrifice involves denying ourselves of something pleasurable (usually food) to help us keep our focus on God. <i>Luke 9.23; Matthew 17.21; Matthew 6.16–18; Acts 13.2</i>
<b>TITHES</b>	This sacrifice involves giving our money for God's work. <i>Malachi 3.8–10; Hebrews 7.1–10</i>
<b>OFFERINGS</b>	This sacrifice involves giving our time, a talent, work, or a gift. <i>Mark 12.41–44; Luke 6.38; 2 Corinthians 8–9</i>
<b>LIVING SACRIFICES</b>	This sacrifice involves giving our whole life to God. <i>Romans 12.1; 2 Corinthians 12.9–10</i>

## ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**MEMORISE** the three parts of AIM and the commands of Jesus which they help us to remember.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
*Colossians 1.18*

**READ** from the Bible:  
*Genesis 12.1–4      Psalm 67.1–7*  
*John 15.18–21      Romans 10.8–15*

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

# 5 God Is Our Sender

GOD EXPECTS US TO MAKE DISCIPLES AT ANY COST

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

**John 20.21**

## THE FATHER'S HEART FOR THE WORLD

Throughout Bible times, people failed to grasp God's desire to reach the world. As a result, they focussed on themselves for hundreds of years, while millions of other people in the world lived and died without knowing the one true God!

Our Heavenly Father's desire to reconcile the world to Himself was not a new idea. We find clues to God's heart for the world all the way back to the beginning of Scripture:

- GENESIS 12.1-4** God's desire to bless all families of the earth.
- 1 KINGS 8.41-43** That foreigners would know and fear Him.
- PSALM 67** God's salvation among all nations.
- ISAIAH 56.6-7** A house of prayer for all the nations.
- JOHN 3.16-17** God's love for the world.
- 2 PETER 3.9** God's desire for everyone to come to repentance.

## THE FIRST AND LAST IMPRESSION OF JESUS

Jesus spent His entire ministry proclaiming the Good News. He gave emphasis to sharing the Gospel message from His first words to His last words!

- 1 **Jesus' first impression**  
**MARK 1.14-20** Come and I will make you fishers of men.
- 2 **Jesus' last impression**  
**MATTHEW 28.19** Go and make disciples of all nations.

When He left the earth, Jesus entrusted us with the task of continuing His work of sharing the Good News with everyone. He has sent us! We must go and tell!

*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*

— John 20.21

*How can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?*

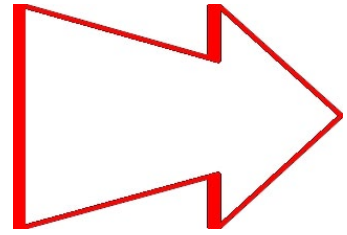
— Romans 10.14-15 (The Message)

## FOUR CALLS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

God wants us to be faithful to share the Good News.

- 1 **The call from** above  
*Isaiah 6.8; Matthew 28.18-20*
- 2 **The call from the** inside  
*Jeremiah 20.9; 1 Corinthians 9.16-17; Acts 4.18-20*
- 3 **The call from the** outside  
*Acts 16.9*
- 4 **The call from** below  
*Luke 16.19-31*

KEY IMAGE: ARROW



USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

## BOLDNESS IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH  
THESE POINTS

Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus to earth to proclaim the Good News which gives everyone the opportunity to be saved. But Jesus was met with fierce opposition, and He was eventually put to death for His faith.

### ? What did it take to stop Jesus from sharing the Good News?

Jesus sent His disciples to proclaim the Good News. We read in the book of Acts that many believers were persecuted, imprisoned, and even put to death for their faith. In spite of fierce opposition, they continued to proclaim the Gospel message, because they valued God and His Kingdom more than their own lives. They shared boldly—even unto death!

### ? What did it take to stop the first believers from sharing the Good News?

Jesus warned that everyone who follows Him is likely to encounter trouble from the world, just as He did:

*If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world...If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.*

— John 15.18-20

You have a choice: to follow Jesus and His way, or to follow the world's way. If you follow Jesus, you can expect opposition.

Jesus suffered for you. Are you willing to suffer for Him?

*Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*

— Matthew 10.32-33

*For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.*

— Philippians 1.29

### ? What will it take to stop you from sharing the Good News?

## THE CREATION TO CHRIST STORY

The Gospel is the story of how God has worked to bring sinful mankind back to Himself. The *Creation to Christ* story (handout) begins with the creation of the world, how it was spoiled by sin, and how God provided a remedy for sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The story concludes with an invitation for the person to follow Jesus.

Though the story may seem long, you can learn it in parts. Use the dot points to prompt your memory. It should take you about 10 minutes to share the entire story.

Take time to practice this story today. This week, practice it several times until you can share it confidently.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**PRACTISE** the *Creation to Christ* story until you can recite it well.

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
*John 20.21*

**READ** from the Bible:

*John 14.26-27*

*John 16.5-15*

*2 Timothy 3.16-17*

*James 1.21-27*

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

# God Is Our Teacher

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE

*But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

**John 14.26**

KEY IMAGE:  
BIBLE WITH BEAMS FROM ABOVE



USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

## OUR PRIMARY TEACHER: THE HOLY SPIRIT

God reveals Himself in three distinct ways: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. In Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit was available only to special leaders such as certain kings and prophets. But God promised that one day He would send His Spirit to earth, giving everyone access to Him.

*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...*

— Joel 2.28

Jesus taught us about the Spirit and the work He would do. He promised that when He left the earth, the Spirit would come to live among us and within us. The Spirit of God can have a powerful effect on each of us if we allow Him to work in our lives:

The Holy Spirit convicts us.

*When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt...* — John 16.8

The Holy Spirit teaches us.

*The Holy Spirit...will teach you all things...* — John 14.26

The Holy Spirit guides us.

*He will guide you into all truth...* — John 16.13

The Holy Spirit empowers us.

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...*  
— Acts 1.8

Just as He promised, God sent the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, we can read about this exciting story and see the amazing work of the Spirit!

## OUR PRIMARY TEXTBOOK: THE BIBLE

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written by over 40 authors over a period of about 1,500 years. We call it the Word of God because our Heavenly Father speaks to us through the Bible. It tells us everything He wants us to know about His character, His intentions, and His ways.

The Bible was written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is no ordinary book! It is powerful and life-changing. It has authority in our lives because it is from God. Therefore, we must pay careful attention and obey what God teaches us.

In 2 Timothy 3.16-17 we discover the primary purposes of the Bible:

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for...*

**TEACHING**

It tells us what is right.

**REBUKING**

It tells us what is not right.

**CORRECTING**

It tells us how to get right.

**AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

It tells us how to stay right.

*...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

## OUR PRIMARY TASK: OBEDIENCE

The Holy Spirit and the Bible help us to understand God and His will. But knowledge and understanding are not enough. The Bible teaches us to be “doers” and not just “hearers” (James 1.22). We must obey what God teaches us!

Obedying God is not an easy task! Because we are human, we get distracted and quickly lose interest. Therefore, we need accountability to one another to continue obeying what the Lord is teaching us.

Whenever we read from God’s Word, we must search for what He is trying to teach us. Then we must be sure to obey. The Holy Spirit teaches us through the Bible so we can obey God and grow in intimacy with Him.

God desires that every person has the opportunity to hear His message. Our most important step of obedience is to share the gospel, inviting people into relationship with Him. We must go and make disciples. Remember, a disciple is a disciple maker, so obeying God in this way results in the multiplication of the Kingdom!

The measure of a true disciple is obedience to God. Jesus says, “*Whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5.19). Obedience is our primary task!

## TOOLS FOR STUDYING AND OBEYING GOD’S WORD

There are many methods for studying the Bible. Unfortunately, most methods tend to emphasise knowledge without reinforcing obedience to God! The most effective method will emphasise obedience, and it will be simple and easy to learn. The simpler it is, the more likely people will be able to teach others how to study and obey God’s Word.

Today, we will learn a method called *SOS* which you can memorise and use immediately and in the weeks to come. Whenever you are ready to study the Bible, pray and ask God to give you understanding. Then take time to discuss these three very simple questions:

- S** What does it say?
- O** What must I obey?
- S** With whom can I share what I have learned?

## THE NEXT SIX MONTHS: THE GOSPEL OF MARK

This is the last of six basic lessons about God and what it means to follow Him as a disciple. You must continue to meet together, following the AIM pattern just as you have been doing:

- keeping one another *accountable* (“love your neighbour as yourself”)
- growing in *intimacy* with God (“love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind”)
- practising skills that *multiply* the Kingdom (“go and make disciples...baptising them...teaching them to obey”)

Starting next week, you will begin studying the life of Jesus in the Gospel According to Mark. Read Mark 1.1–20 this week and be prepared to share what God is teaching you to obey. Look at the Mark studies listing and the SOS Bible Study chart (handouts) in preparation for what you will begin next week. And remember, continue sharing the gospel with people so they can have the opportunity to know Jesus!

In concluding these TFT lessons, take time to study the *Foundational Principles* (handout). These are important guidelines to follow as you train others to be disciple makers.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**OBEY** at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

**SHARE** your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

**MEMORIZE** the memory verse:  
*John 14.26*

**READ** from the Bible:  
*Mark 1.1–20*

**TRAIN** at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.