



INFLUENCING YOUR WORLD

From the Moving Toward Maturity Series



Barry St. Clair



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ISBN: 9781610472562

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Published by NOVO Ink – www.novoink.com

First and Second Editions published by Reach Out Youth Solutions, 1991 and 2002

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The usage of the pronouns "his/he/him" has been used throughout this book for the sake of continuity and uniformity. The reader should assume these references refer to both male and female.

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SPECIAL THANKS

To Rod Minor and Debbie Hayes for originally working on this project with me.

To Burt Stouffer and Ernest Pullen for designing and packaging the *Moving Toward Maturity* Series.

To my late wife Carol and my children Scott and Cameron, Katie and Bart, Jonathan, and Ginny, who have loved me and encouraged me in my ministry.

To Lawanna, my wife, my fellow struggler in death and life, and my heart's companion for the second half of my life.

To the Lord Jesus Christ for teaching me the realities in this book.

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

Jesus wants to use you to help others. People need a healing touch from Jesus, and that touch comes through us. That's what ministering to others is all about.

Even as you look at the people around you, people have deep hurts. They need someone who says, "I care." Through this book you can learn how to touch people's lives, minister to them and therefore, influence your world.

Paul said that we are to be equipped "for the works of service" (Ephesians 4:12). As we minister like that, we move toward maturity – toward "the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth" (Ephesians 4:13-14).

This book helps you take the next step toward maturity. Giving yourself to others is very hard work – demanding, draining, and tiring. It takes maturity to do it. But what satisfaction you experience when a person says, "God has used you to change my life." Even more satisfying will be to hear Jesus say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23).

Influencing Your World is the final book in the *Moving Toward Maturity* series. For best results in your spiritual growth, begin with *Following Jesus* (Book 1) and work your way through all the books.

The other books are:

Getting Started

Following Jesus (Book 1)

Spending Time Alone with God (Book 2)

Making Jesus Lord (Book 3)

Giving Away Your Faith (Book 4)

God's desire and my prayer for you is that the things you discover on the following pages will become not only a part of your notes, but a part of your life. May all that's accomplished in your life be for God's honor and glory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

PURPOSE

This book will help you learn to see the needs of people all around you and respond to them. It will help you discover the ministry God has for you now and provide you with the motivation and strategy to minister to others. Learning to minister to others is another aspect of discipleship.

A disciple is a learner and a follower. As you make Jesus Lord, you will learn about and become more like Jesus Christ. As that happens, you will be able to say with the Apostle Paul:

We Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him (2 Corinthians 2:10, TLB).

Before you begin doing the sessions in this book, ask Jesus Christ to bring to completion all He wants to do in your life.

Remember: God cares more about what is being developed in your life than about what you write in this book.

USES FOR THIS BOOK

1. **SMALL GROUPS:** You can use this book as a participant in a Discipleship Group led by an adult leader.* Each member of this group signs the commitment sheet on page 11, and agrees to use the book week by week for personal growth.
2. **INDIVIDUALS:** You can go through this book on your own, doing one session each week for your own personal growth.
3. **NON-BELIEVING FRIENDS:** You can ask a friend who has expressed an interest in Jesus Christ but who is not yet a believer to join you in a weekly time of studying and sharing together with the hope that he/she will follow Jesus.
4. **DISCIPLINING YOUNGER STUDENTS:** After you have mastered and applied each session in this book to your own life, you can disciple a younger person or younger discipleship group. Begin with *Following Jesus*.

*The Leader's Guide for the *Moving Toward Maturity* series can be purchased from Reach Out Youth Solutions. See the order information in the back of this book.

PRACTICAL HINTS

(How to get the most out of this book)

If you want to grow as a Christian, you must get real with God and apply the Bible to your life. Sometimes that's hard, but this book can help you if you will:



1. Begin each session with prayer.
Ask God to speak to you.



2. Use a Bible that's easy to read.
Try the *New International Version*.



3. Work through the entire session.
 - > Look up the Bible verses.
 - > Think through the answers.
 - > Write the answers.
 - > Jot down any questions you have.
 - > Memorize the assigned verse(s).
(Use the Bible memory cards in the back of the book. Groups should select a single translation to memorize, in order to recite the verse(s) together.)



4. Apply each session to your life.
 - > Ask God to show you how to act on what you're learning from His Word.
 - > Obey Him in your relationships, attitudes, and actions.
 - > Talk over the important issues to you with other believers who can encourage and advise you.

IF YOU'RE IN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

- > Set aside two separate times each week to work on the assigned Session. If possible, complete the whole Bible Study during the first time. Then during the second time (the day of or the day before your next group meeting), review what you've learned.

- > Take your Bible, this book, and a pen or pencil to every group meeting.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I, _____, hereby
dedicate myself to the following commitments:

1. To submit myself daily to God and to all that He wants to teach me about growing as a follower of Jesus.
2. To attend all weekly group meetings unless a serious illness or circumstance makes that impossible. If I miss more than one meeting, I will withdraw willingly from the group if it is determined necessary after meeting with the group leader.
3. To complete the assignments without fail as they are due each week.
4. To be actively involved in my local church.

I understand that these commitments are not only to the Lord but to the group and to myself as well. I will do my very best, with God's help, to completely fulfill each one.

Signed _____ Date _____

S E S S I O N 1



Seeing hurting people

The girl eating lunch across the table from you says she needs to see you alone after lunch. When the two of you get together she tells you that she's pregnant. She has decided to have an abortion, but she's all torn up inside about it and begins to cry.

How would you feel? Write down your thoughts and emotions as you might experience them in that situation.

People all around you have deep, significant needs and God wants to give you the desire to meet those needs.

One summer I worked for my dad on a Christmas tree farm. My job was to mow between the trees and trim the trees so that they would grow correctly. In the heat of the summer I spent most of my time sweaty, dirty, and exhausted. An older man name named Mr. Jones worked with me. He was the kind of person who could work steadily 12 hours a day and not get tired. My style was to work in frantic spurts and I spent most of my time exhausted. That summer I often asked myself, "Why am I

doing this?" I wanted to quit. But I kept going because Mr. Jones encouraged me and worked with me. Secondly, I loved and respected the man for whom I worked (my dad). I wanted to do a good job for him.

God desires that our love and respect for Him would motivate us to sweat, get dirty, and get exhausted to meet the needs of people.

Jesus speaks directly about this in Matthew 9:35-38. Study this passage of Scripture to see how Jesus views the needs of people.

How do you view the needs of the people around you?

These verses tell us that Jesus had *compassion*.

- > Compassion means feeling for people. We share in their hurts, their pain, their sorrow.
- > Compassion means we care for people so deeply that we cry for them.
- > Compassion means having a broken heart for people in need.

Jesus had broken-hearted compassion for people. And He wants to express His compassion to others through us. In order for that to happen we must see people through the eyes of His broken heart. What did He see? (Matthew 9:35-38).

THE SIZE OF THE NEED



Read Matthew 9:36. What clue tells you how Jesus viewed the size of the need?

Moving Toward Maturity Series

A large number of people meant a large number of needs. Let's describe the way that looks in today's world.

Do you realize that every 2.8 seconds a new baby is born? There are 10,300 people born every hour; 247,000 people born every day; 90 million people born every year.

- > From Creation until 1850 there were 1 billion people in the world.
- > From 1850 until 1930 there were 2 billion people.
- > From 1930 until 1960 there were 3 billion people.
- > From 1960 until 1975 there were 4 billion people.
- > From 1975 until 1980 there were 5 billion people.
- > From 1980 until 2000 there were well over 6 billion people.
- > 50 percent of all the people who ever lived are alive today.

(Statistics from Josh McDowell, "Our Challenge" – a message given at the Youth Evangelism Leadership Conference.) Of the more than 6 billion people in the world, 3 billion have never heard the name of Jesus Christ. One hundred fifty thousand are dying daily without Christ. Have you ever thought about how big the world's needs are?

For example, did you know that 1 in 4 South African women ages 20 to 29 is infected with AIDS? Seventy-nine percent of those who died of AIDS last year were African? Half a million African children were infected with AIDS just last year? And that's only one continent!

How does what you've read so far in this chapter expand your view of the world's problems? Describe your thoughts and feelings.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEED



Read Matthew 9:36 again, looking at how Jesus described the needs of the people. Find the three words/phrases He uses. Use a Bible dictionary to find out what these words mean.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

As a result of your study, how do you think Jesus wants you to see people's needs?

Our whole society is full of people like Jesus described: "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." In one hour...

- > 114 young people will run away from home.
- > 28 will give birth to illegitimate children.
- > 44 under age 19 will abort babies.
- > 1,370 will take some form of drugs.
- > 376 will get drunk.
- > 570 will experience the trauma of a broken home.
- > 456 will be beaten, molested, or abused.
- > 58 will attempt suicide – I will succeed.

(From "Give Me a Reason to Live" TV special, Youth for Christ.)

Whom do you know that is "harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd"? Pick out three people that you see during your lunch period that fit this description. What kinds of problems are they dealing with?

Describe the needs that show up in their attitudes and behavior.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Problems</i>	<i>Needs</i>
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		



Look in Romans 1:25 and discover what Paul says is the root of people's sufferings.



Read Romans 1:18-32 and make a list of symptoms of the problems that come from worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator.

Paul makes three points in these verses that graphically describe today's student culture.



Education without Truth

(Romans 1:18-23)

Open expression of the Christian faith has been restricted in schools. If we mention the truth of Jesus Christ on our campuses, it brings tremendous hostility. How do you see that expressing itself on your campus?

Though we don't know all the results of "education without truth," we do know some. The National Institute of Education estimates that monthly:

- > 5,200 junior high and senior high teachers are attacked by their students.
- > 282,000 students are assaulted.
- > There are 112,000 robberies.

(From the National Institute of Education as reported in *Youthletter*, Evangelical Ministries, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.)

School violence and murders have escalated to epidemic proportions. Students and schools are experiencing many deep problems for which Jesus is the only answer.

2 Sex without Purity

(Romans 1:24-27)

Sexual permissiveness is rampant on the campus (and everywhere) today. On television, 88 percent of all sex scenes takes place outside of marriage. You can see what kind of impact this can make on you and your friends. If you are an average student, by graduation you will have watched 15,000 hours of television but only attended class 12,000 hours. You will have watched 350,000 commercials that largely use sex to sell their products. ("What TV Does to Kids," *Newsweek*.)

How does TV affect you and your friends?

How does "sex without purity" affect students on your campus?

3

Life without God

(Romans 1:28-31)

This shows up most dramatically in the family. Home problems cause tremendous stress among students. Think about how home problems are affecting the people around you. What problems do you see in those people?

General Mills did a study called "Raising Children in a Changing Society." This study concludes that: "Parents are self-oriented, not ready to sacrifice for their children." This selfishness leads to other problems...

- > Half the teenagers in America come from single-parent families.
- > The average family spends only 38 minutes in meaningful conversation each week.

These problems are causing students to cry out for help. And when they see no answer, many of them commit suicide.

Suicide is at epidemic proportions on the campus. Radio speaker and writer Paul Harvey writes of Rod David from Tucumcari, New Mexico – a young man who was admired and successful. The 6' 3", 205 lb. athlete was the leading point-getter at the AAA state track meet. Rod was the defensive football player of the year in New Mexico and a top college prospect, yet he turned a shotgun on himself and ended his promising life in his 18th year. Can you imagine why?

Rod David was one of thousands of young people who commit suicide each year. The suicide rate continues to rise. Students who commit

suicide feel helpless, much like the people Jesus described as being “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This helpless feeling is rooted in the fact that our society offers no answers to their basic needs.

Students across America and the world, and even at your school, are more ready to hear the Solution now than ever before. The intensity of the problems causes them to look just as intensely for solutions. And that’s where you come in.

THE SOLUTION TO THE NEED



Read Matthew 9:37-38. What clues for the solution to human needs do you see?

Jesus speaks of three solutions to the needs we’ve discovered.

1

Jesus is the Ultimate Answer

In this passage Jesus speaks of being “the Lord” of the harvest. The emptiness of the people around us can only be filled by Jesus, the Lord.

Do you see Jesus as the ultimate answer for problems people around you are facing? Why or why not?

2

God Is Looking for Laborers

Jesus speaks of the need for laborers in the harvest. Why, in your opinion, are there so few laborers on the campus?

3

You Are Part of His Solution

Jesus speaks of “praying to the Lord of the harvest” to send out those laborers. Every believer is called to be a laborer. But not all become laborers.

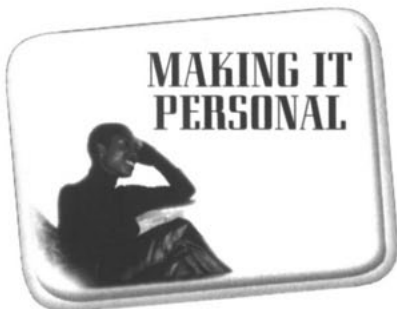
When we pray to be laborers, God will show us people and the world from His perspective. Then we will have compassion – a broken heart – and a desire to let God use us to make a difference in our world.

GOD WANTS YOU

to pray to
be a laborer.

During

the next 10 weeks you will learn to become a lunchtime laborer during your lunch period.



Lunchtime Laborer

Here’s how you can pray to become a lunchtime laborer who can meet the needs of people at your school at lunch or any time:

1. Recognize the power. In the midst of all the problems, both in you and in the people around you, where does the power come from to make a difference? Jesus said, “Pray to the Lord of the harvest.” The Lord has the power and the authority to change things. Begin now to pray that He will change things through you.

2. Realize your personal worth. You are not just a “body” that sits in church or walks around the halls at school. You’re not just a person with problems or one who can’t do anything about the problems in your world. You are a person with infinite personal worth. Why? Because you

are a child of God. That's the greatest privilege and highest honor. When a person says, "I work for _____," he is proud of the company he works for. Who do you work for? You work for Jesus the Lord. There is no privilege or honor higher than that.

3. *Request the burden.* Ask God to break your heart for people. Ask Him to give you compassion. Ask Him to make you able to cry over the needs of people.

4. *Relate with skill.* God doesn't need an untrained soldier shooting a hole in his foot or a laborer who puts a gash in his leg with a hoe. He needs skilled laborers. Ask Him to give you the skills to become an excellent laborer.

5. *Risk the action.* When you see a need, meet it. When you see someone who is hurting, reach out. When you see that someone needs a friend, be one. When you see that someone is discouraged, talk to him. When you see that someone is lonely, love him.

Write down what you need to pray about this week concerning each of these five steps. Focus particularly on people you see during your lunch period. Write down the name of one person and one action to take to meet one of his needs this week.

Person _____

Need _____

Response _____

Complete this session by memorizing Matthew 9:36-38.



Assignment

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: I Thessalonians 1:1-6

Day 2: I Thessalonians 1:7-10

Day 3: I Thessalonians 2:1-9

Day 4: I Thessalonians 2:10-12

Day 5: I Thessalonians 2:13-16

Day 6: I Thessalonians 2:17-20

Day 7: I Thessalonians 3:1-5

2. Complete *Session 2*.

3. Get involved in the group ministry project.

S E S S I O N 2

STEP
OUT



Responding to God's Call

You go through the lunch line at school. You pick up a knife, fork, spoon, napkin, and plate. Which is the most essential when it comes to eating? One is *not* more essential than another. Each one serves a purpose.

Write down the name of:

- > Your dad _____
- > Your pastor _____
- > Someone you respect in your church _____

- > A high school student in your church _____

Which one of these people is the right one to minister to others? Maybe you picked your pastor. But is he more essential to minister than the others in your church? No. Each person serves a special purpose in ministering to others. God is calling you to minister to others!

TWO MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GOD'S CALL

Misconception #1

God calls people to full-time Christian service only. Only the pastor or church workers are called; all the others are "second-class" Christians.

Misconception #2

God calls people to an occupation only. God calls people to be doctors, car salesmen, lawyers, or electricians.

CORRECTING THE TWO MISCONCEPTIONS

In light of these wrong ideas, let's make two corrections that will get us back on the right track concerning God's call.

Correction #1

The call of God is to know and love Jesus Christ.



Summarize each of the following passages to understand God's call to the people in the New Testament church. Remember that these passages are written to all believers, not just to missionaries and pastors.

-> Romans 8:30

-> Ephesians 4:1

-> 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

-> 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

-> 2 Timothy 1:8-9

-> 1 Peter 5:10

-> 2 Peter 1:3-4

-> Jude 1

-> Revelation 17:14

Correction #2

The call of God is to a particular task.



What does Ephesians 4:12 say about our call?

By the Holy Spirit, each individual Christian receives his call from God to serve in the church and in the world. You may decide to be a doctor, an electrician, a lawyer, a builder. But God still calls you to be a minister – whatever you do and wherever you are.

God's first concern is not what job you choose, but that you respond to His call to know and love Him and to minister to others.

God's First Concern

is not what job you choose, but that you respond to His call to know and love Him and minister to others.

CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS

What is involved in God's call to minister to others? Read Jeremiah 1. Write down all the insights you discover concerning God's call to Jeremiah.

Four issues in Jeremiah 1 will help you step out in response to God's call to minister.



The Call

When God called Jeremiah, He spoke to him! In the same way when He calls us, He speaks to us. How?

Reread Jeremiah 1:2-4 and underline the four distinct times when God spoke to Jeremiah.

God placed Jeremiah in the world at a strategic time. In the same way God has placed you in the world at a strategic time. Write a paragraph on the circumstances in your world – the circumstances that surround you at school – and why you feel God has placed you where you are at this particular time.

God has put you in the right place at the right time, and He calls you to be His person there. Over and over God affirmed His call to Jeremiah. In the same way God will affirm His call to you, especially when you are in the midst of difficulty and discouragement as Jeremiah was. When are some times that you need God to speak to you?

Again read verse 5. As He did with Jeremiah, God determined before your birth what your call to ministry would be. God has picked your parents, family, and school so that you could become perfectly prepared to make your contribution to His cause. Now He wants you to discover the calling He has for you. Think of some ways that you have seen God work in your life to prepare you to contribute to His kingdom. Write your thoughts here.



The Concern

What excuse did Jeremiah give for not following God's call?
(Jeremiah 1:6)

Jeremiah felt inadequate. Because of that he had an excuse not to do what God had called him to do. In the same way, our feelings of inadequacy draw out excuses from us about why we can't respond to God's call. What excuses have you used?

All of us feel inadequate to do God's work. Paul expressed it perfectly in 1 Corinthians 2:3. How did he feel?



Now look at Philippians 4:13 and 19 and write his prescription for overcoming inadequacy here:

Feelings of inadequacy can wipe us out. When I was 26 years old, I was asked to lead the youth work of our entire denomination. I felt overwhelmed and inadequate for three reasons: (1) I was the youngest person they had ever called to work in a major position in that denomination. (2) I didn't have much experience. I had been the youth minister in only one church, and now they wanted to give me the responsibility for the youth ministry nationwide. (3) I didn't have much confidence in my abilities. They expected me to speak to thousands of young people at one time. I had spoken many times before, but not to that many people. At my first speaking experience, I found myself sandwiched between two dynamic speakers before 18,000 high school students. I felt inadequate! All of us find ourselves in situations where we feel inadequate. It provides a great opportunity to depend on and trust God. But inadequacy is not a reason to avoid God's call to minister to others.



The Confirmation

As you read Jeremiah 1:7-9, find three ways Jeremiah had to step out in order to confirm God's call on his life.



Step 1 – Obey. What phrase did Jeremiah use in verse 7 to express what God said about obeying Him?

In other words, when God says “Jump,” our response should be, “How high?” We do whatever He says. If we trust God enough to obey Him, then through Him we can fulfill whatever task He has for us.



Step 2 – Don't Be Afraid. How did God calm Jeremiah's fears? (verse 8)

Somehow we *fear* that if we obey God and follow His call, then He is going to send us to be missionaries in Boogaboogaland for the rest of our lives. What we don't realize is that when we fulfill God's call, whatever it is, we are living life at its very best.



Step 3 – Discover God's Anointing

According to Jeremiah 1:9, what does it mean to be anointed?

When God anoints us, then we go beyond our strength into His power.



Read Jeremiah 1:11-19. God used two illustrations with Jeremiah to confirm His call to minister. What are these illustrations and what do you think they mean? It may help to look in a Bible commentary.

God uses graphic illustrations today to confirm our call to minister. He has for me.

One afternoon at our Christmas conference the students went out to share their faith. My daughter and I went with them. We prayed that we would have a good experience talking to people about Jesus Christ. The first lady we came to stood outside on the porch of her poverty-stricken home. I told her we would like to talk with her about Jesus Christ if she was interested. She said, "Oh, yes, please come in." I asked her if she was a believer and she replied, "I want to be." She told me about her son David who had been on drugs and alcohol. He had beaten his wife and was now divorced. But a year before Jesus had changed his life. He called his mom three days before I arrived and asked her if God had touched her life yet. He said, "I want you to know Jesus, and I'm praying that God will send some people by your house over Christmas to talk to you about your relationship to Christ." There we were! We prayed with her and she accepted Christ. That was one of the many strong confirmations of my calling to minister to others.

Don't make the mistake of underestimating your call. When you are anointed by God, He will use you to make a difference in your world.



Look at Jeremiah 1:10. How does God describe the effect of Jeremiah's call?



The Cost

Very few worthwhile things come without a price. If it hasn't cost you anything, then probably you are not carrying out your call. Remember that Christ give His life to carry out His call. What have you sacrificed so far for your call? What do you need to sacrifice now?



Read Jeremiah 1:18-19. What does God say to Jeremiah about the cost of carrying out his call?

What do you think it will cost you to carry out your call?

-> At home _____

-> With your friends _____

-> At school _____

Compared to the joy, the cost is very small.

Go

through these seven steps answering each question and asking God to confirm His call in your life.



1. Pray for direction. What is God's plan for me?

2. See the need. What do I feel a burden for?

3. Experience motivation. When I think about doing this, does it motivate me? _____

4. Dream dreams. Do I have a vision for it?

5. Share the dream. Do I talk about it with excitement?

6. Confirm with others. Do other people see me doing this?

7. Execute the ministry. What actions has God given me to take now?

I know God has called me to . . .

**Complete this session by memorizing
Jeremiah 1:7.**



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

- Day 1: I Thessalonians 3:6-10
- Day 2: I Thessalonians 3:11-13
- Day 3: I Thessalonians 4:1-8
- Day 4: I Thessalonians 4:9-12
- Day 5: I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Day 6: I Thessalonians 5:1-3
- Day 7: I Thessalonians 5:4-11

- 2. Work on the group ministry project with the rest of the group.
- 3. Complete *Session 3*.
- 4. Consider at least one way God can use you specifically as a “Lunchtime Laborer” during your lunch period. Try it out this week.

S E S S I O N 3

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST



Praying changes things

Look around the cafeteria and find one person that you or your youth group has tried unsuccessfully to befriend. List the things that you have tried to do to become friends with that person.

Why do you think what you have done hasn't helped?

The bottom line is that no real ministry in the lives of others can take place without concentrated, consistent prayer for others. Why?

All the ministry you can do on your own – without God’s specific involvement – ends up like a person who is cramped inside a small box. Without concentrated, consistent prayer for others (intercessory prayer), you’re boxed in. When you pray, the sides of the box that hem you in are removed. Then your potential for ministering to others becomes unlimited.

So, before you start ministering to others, you must evaluate. Are you a “person who prays”...

- > When you get in trouble?
- > Only during your quiet time and at meals?
- > When you hit the sack (“Now I lay me down to sleep...”)?

Or are you a “praying person” ...

- > Praising God every day?
- > Knowing that without God you can’t do anything of lasting value?
- > Wanting Jesus Christ to be made known?
- > Confident in God’s ability to change things?

Are you a “person who prays” or are you a “praying person?”



Jeremiah 33:3 gives us one of God’s greatest promises about becoming a “praying person.”

According to Jeremiah 33:3, how can we see God make a difference in the lives of others through our prayers? Look at the three sides of the triangle of that promise.





SIDE 1: THE PRAYER – “CALL TO ME”

Why Don't We Call on God in Prayer for Others?

It seems that we are short on:

- > Awe. We have very little sense of how awesome God is.
- > Need. We are not desperate enough to realize that unless God does it, it won't happen.
- > Passion. We are not passionately sold out to Jesus Christ and His cause.
- > Power. We are not sure God will come through.

Why Do We Need to Call on God in Prayer, Especially for Others?

You might ask, “God knows the answer before we pray, so why pray?”

An orchestra prepares for a concert. The violinists read the score and learn their parts, as do the trombone players, the trumpeters, and the clarinetist. The conductor knows the score as well. When the time comes for the concert, the house is packed with people waiting in anticipation. Do the musicians think, “We know the music and the conductor knows the music, so let's all go home because there is no sense in playing this”? No! When all the musicians are playing their parts under the direction of the conductor, the music comes alive.

Yes, God knows the score. We may even think we know it. But when we play the music of prayer, it causes the dynamics between God, us, and the people we pray for to come alive. Our world will be moved when it sees the awesome power of God at work through our prayers.

How Can We Call on God in Prayer for Others?



Look up Matthew 7:7-8. What three actions does Jesus command us to take when we pray for other people?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Look up each word above in a Bible dictionary, and then come up with your own definition.

Word

Definition

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The point of these verses is illustrated by my friend whose son turned away from God. Because he was so concerned for his son, this man fasted and prayed until his son turned back to Christ nearly a month later. That is an example of getting serious about calling on God in prayer for others.



SIDE 2: THE PROMISE – “I WILL ANSWER YOU”

The Bible is full of promises about asking and receiving.

Read John 14-16 and record all the promises in which

Jesus says that if we pray, He will answer and give us what we ask.



Read John 15:1-8. What does God want us to do in order for Him to fulfill His promises to us?

God will answer your prayer on the basis of three vital elements.

1

The Connection (vv. 1-4)

Jesus talks about a mysterious, vital connection. Just like branches are connected to the vine, we are connected to Christ. This vital connection between God the Father and us is established through our relationship to Christ.

2

The Condition (v. 7)

When we have the vital connection, then we will know how God wants us to pray for others. The condition is stated, "If you abide in Me, and if My Word abides in you." The "abiding" happens as we spend time with God daily. Then we can ask *anything* and it will be given to us. Why? Because what God wants will be what we want.

3

The Conclusion (v. 8)

The result of this vital connection and meeting God's condition is that we will "bear fruit" in our own lives and will begin to see fruit in the lives of those we pray for. We will begin to see God answer our prayers.

A youth leader told me about a mission trip his church took several months after I spoke there on prayer. One night during the trip, he was driving and hit an icy spot. The vehicle flipped over twice as it plummeted down the side of a mountain. To his amazement, except for minor scratches, it seemed that everyone was OK. But they couldn't find a six-year-old girl. Twenty minutes later, they found her pinned under the car; she was blue, not breathing, and crushed. Using CPR, they started her breathing again. They continued CPR for an hour and a half until the ambulance came.

At the hospital they discovered the girl had a broken neck, broken back, collapsed lungs, and a brain hemorrhage. Every 15 minutes the doctor would come out and say, “She’s not going to make it, and if she does, she will be a vegetable.” The students prayed for her all night.

The next morning they flew the girl to Salt Lake City. When they took her off the plane, she had regained consciousness. At the hospital, doctors discovered *absolutely nothing wrong with her* – no broken bones, no collapsed lungs, no brain damage – nothing at all? And yet, all her injuries had been documented by X-rays at the other hospital. God worked through the prayers of those students to heal her. What a miracle!

God’s answer may not always be this dramatic, but He always answers when we abide in Him!



SIDE 3: THE POWER – I WILL “TELL YOU GREAT AND UNSEARCHABLE THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW”

What are the limits to our prayers?



Look at Matthew 18:18. Using a Bible dictionary look up the words “bound” and “loosed” to discover exactly what this passage means.

The potential of praying for others is unlimited. However, as someone has said, “We cannot expect great answers to prayer unless we offer great prayers for God to answer.”

When you pray:

Pray big! Pray specific!

How do we do that?

Goal #1 – Love without Limits

Rewrite Matthew 22:36-38 – the Great Commandment – as your prayer in your words.



The beautiful thing about loving others in prayer is that no limits exist concerning how far our love can go. What if you could travel anywhere in the world to anyone in need and reach out your hand to help that person. Prayer allows you to have such a limitless reach. As far as God can go, either geographically, culturally, physically, or spiritually, prayer can go. Our request actually touches people where they are because God is already there to touch them according to what we ask (David Bryant, *Concerts of Prayer*, Regal).

When we pray we can
love people without
limits.

Goal #2 – Life without Limits

Rewrite Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission – as your prayer in your words.



**“Why pray for peanuts when
God wants to give us
continents?”
– Dawson Trotman**



God is moving in our world – giving us continents – through the prayers of believers. Let’s look at a few examples.

- > In Germany, the German Evangelical Alliance set aside a week of prayer for 650 cities in Germany. That week 1 million people gathered at 5,000 locations to pray.
- > In Poland, a ministry called The Oasis of Light and Life began to pray for revival among Poles. As a result, 80,000 young people became involved in evangelism training, Bible study, and prayer.
- > Millions have gathered in Seoul, Korea between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. daily to pray. At one church 15,000 have gathered on Friday nights to pray all night. Twenty thousand prayer cells have met across the city.
- > In China, 34 million believers gather in house churches to pray. Twenty thousand people a day come to know Christ.

Frank Laubach, the famous educator, said, “Prayer is the mightiest force on earth. Enough of us, if we started praying enough, could save the world – if we prayed enough.”

**When we pray,
we can experience life
without limits.**

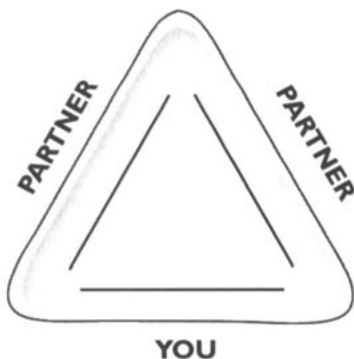
Practically,

how can you pray for others?
What clues do you find in Matthew 18:19-20?



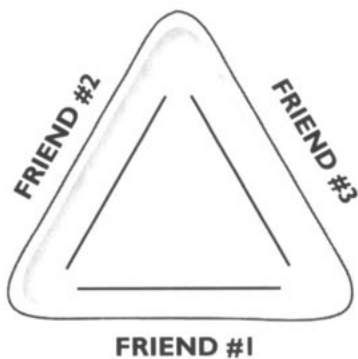
Jesus gives us a simple strategy.

1. The partners. Jesus tells us to gather in twos and threes to pray (Matthew 18:20). So let's do it! In the triangle write your name plus the names of two other believers you want to pray with.



2. The people. We are told in Romans 10:1 to pray for unbelievers.

In the triangle below write the names of three non-believing friends who need God's touch in their lives.



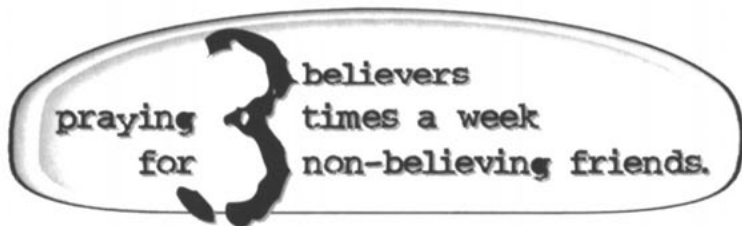
3. The potential. Even though this strategy is simple, it has great *potential* ...

- > Because you have two other people praying for you and with you.
- > Because as you pray for others, you will touch your school and your world.
- > Because as each person chooses three non-believers to pray for – that's nine for the group – you will

see many of them come to Christ.

-> Because as this strategy spreads to others in your youth group, hundreds, even thousands, of people will be prayed for.

4. The plan. Three times a week get with your two partners and pray for your three non-believing friends until you finish the book. Keep notes on what you pray for and the answers you receive.



Complete this session by memorizing Jeremiah 33: 3.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Day 2: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

Day 3: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Day 4: 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12

Day 5: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Day 6: 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12

Day 7: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

2. Complete *Session 4*.

3. Participate in the group ministry project.

4. Implement the Prayer Triplet Strategy with your two partners. Carry this out at least until you finish this book.

5. Focus your prayer on asking God how He wants to use you during your lunch period as a "Lunchtime Laborer."

S E S S I O N 4



THE GREATEST THING

Loving People

During your lunch period, you see that one of your friends looks really sad. When you ask if there is anything you can do to help, he pours out the story of his parents' recent divorce. What can you do to express love to your friend?

Ministry is most effective in meaningful relationships. But building a relationship is like having to pass your driving test before getting your license. You've got to know the driver's manual and practice to pass the test. Just as the driver's manual and practice are basic in learning how to drive, love and action are basic in a relationship.

One of the exciting signs two people are in love is when they hold hands. To love others we need to learn how to "hold God's hand" and to "hold each other's hands."



1 Corinthians 13 defines that kind of love. Write down the highlights from that chapter below:

Before we discuss what love is, let's find out what love *is not*.

LOVE IS NOT

First Corinthians addresses the issue of the church splitting up into groups and following different leaders, each competing with the other.



Look at 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

Paul says to them, "I don't care if you're the greatest, most spectacular person in the world. If you don't have love, you don't have anything." What he might say today is:

- > I don't care if you're the greatest debater at your school (speaking in tongues of men and of angels).
- > I don't care if you have the ability to tell everyone in your class what they're going to make on their SAT scores (prophetic powers).
- > I don't care if you're the valedictorian (understand all mysteries and all knowledge).
- > I don't care if you're the most spiritual person in your youth group (have faith to move mountains).
- > I don't even care if you become a martyr (give up all that you have and deliver your body to be burned).

Without love, you can do nothing.

Competition keeps us from having deep, loving relationships with others.

We can compete to see who is going to be the best, but that does not matter to God. Instead of competition, God wants to develop loving relationships through compassion.

Competition Clashes with Compassion

Competition means rivalry – two or more people against each other. They clash; then they compare.

Not all competition is bad. Healthy competition pushes us to be our best. But self-centered competition causes us to want to be first, to get the most attention, to be the most popular – not matter what the cost – no matter who we have to hurt to get there.

Competition Can Hamper Relationships

Why does competition hamper relationships? Because we concentrate on being “one up” on the other person instead of loving that person.



According to 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, there are three results of operating from an attitude of competition. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Let's look at 1 Corinthians 13 to see what an attitude of competition does to squelch compassion.



1 Competition Creates Jealousy (v. 4)

The definition of *jealousy*: Deep feelings of dislike toward anyone who has something you wish you could have. It is an attitude of

possessiveness – such as wanting somebody else's date. Jealousy squelches compassion because it supposes that God has treated us unfairly. When we act out our jealousy, it hurts others.

Are you jealous? Try this test. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 is most jealous), write how you feel when your best friend:

- _____ Gets better grades
- _____ Is more popular
- _____ Is better looking
- _____ Has a better job
- _____ Has better parents
- _____ Has nicer things

God has a solution for jealousy.



Look up Proverbs 17:14 and James 3:16. Write down how God wants you to handle jealousy:



Competition Creates Boastfulness (v. 4)

The definition of *boastfulness*: Being anxious to impress others (for example, spending money you don't have so you can look good).

Boasting squelches compassion because it causes us to exaggerate so that we are not telling the truth. It places the focus on us so that it takes the glory away from God.

Are you boastful? Try another test. Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10:

- _____ Do you try to impress people when you meet them for the first time?
- _____ Do you feel insecure around important people?

_____ Do you exaggerate?

_____ Do you crave the applause of others?

How can you handle the problem of boasting?



Look up Galatians 6:14 to find God's solution:



Competition Creates Arrogance (v. 5)

The definition of *arrogance*: Being bloated with self-conceit and pride. The picture of arrogance is a balloon that someone has blown up until it's about to burst.

Arrogance squelches compassion because it keeps others at a distance – we don't want them to burst our balloon. It makes us big and God small.

Are you arrogant? Take this simple test. Rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10:

_____ Do you see yourself as superior?

_____ Do you wear a mask?

_____ Are you prideful?

_____ Do you keep your distance in relationships?



Look up 1 Peter 5:5-6. What is God's solution for arrogance?



Competition Creates Rudeness (v. 5)

The definition of *rudeness*: Acting in an inconsiderate, unthoughtful,

and disrespectful way that causes you to seem obnoxious. For instance, it is rude to tell your girlfriend's mother her cooking tastes like dog food.

Rudeness squelches compassion because it causes us to lose sight of our standard of respect.

Are you rude? Try another test. (Don't be rude and not take the test!) On a scale of 1 to 10, how often would you:

- _____ Interrupt others?
- _____ Talk while others are talking?
- _____ Make fun of others?
- _____ Act obnoxious to get attention?
- _____ Look the other way when someone is talking?
- _____ Honk at another driver?
- _____ Neglect to say thank you?



Look up Romans 12:10 to discover how God wants you to handle rudeness. Write His solution here:



Competition Creates Selfishness (v. 5)

The definition of *selfishness*: Seeking your desires at the expense of God and others.

Selfishness squelches compassion because it causes you to watch out for number one. It causes you to fall into the trap of "I'm right and you're wrong."

Are you selfish? Time to take another test! (This is worse than final exams!) Mark on a scale from 1 to 10:

How often do you insist on your own way when someone in your family:

___ Wants to watch a different TV show?

___ Asks you to get off the phone?

___ Wants to borrow something valuable?

___ Needs help and you have other plans?



Look at Philippians 2:3-4 and record God's way of overcoming selfishness:



Competition Creates Irritation (v. 5)

The definition of *irritation*: Becoming frustrated with people. For instance, when you get mad and beat up your little brother, you are irritated.

Irritation squelches compassion because it causes us to live on the edge of being upset. It causes us to get angry.

Are you irritable? Let's take another crazy test. On a scale from 1 to 10, how often:

___ Do you get angry when things don't go your way?

___ Do you have a "short fuse"?

___ Do you let little things get to you?

___ Do you get frustrated with your family?



Ephesians 4:26 tells us how to overcome irritation. Write down God's solution.

7

Competition Creates Resentment (v. 5)

The definition of *resentment*: Storing a memory of any wrong done to you (for example, not speaking to someone who didn't invite you to her party). Picture a score sheet recording every time someone does something for you on one side and against you on the other side. When people do things against us, rather than for us, we can build up resentment.

Resentment squelches compassion because it causes us to hold a grudge and causes us to become bitter.

Are you resentful? On a scale from 1 to 10, how often:

_____ Do you feel like people have hurt you?

_____ Do you bring up past hurts?



Look up Romans 12:19-21 and record God's solution to resentment.

8

Competition Creates Rejoicing in Wrong (v. 6)

The definition of *rejoicing in wrong*: To enjoy hearing about the problems of others. For example, participating in the latest gossip about who broke up with whom is rejoicing in wrong.

Are you "rejoicing in wrong"? Try this *last* test. (Whew!) On a scale from 1 to 10, do you:

_____ Enjoy the juicy stories of the latest break up?

_____ Have negative thoughts about people?

_____ Make ugly comments about others?

_____ Find fault with others?



Look up Ephesians 4:29 to discover God's solution to the problem of rejoicing in wrong. What is it?

Because competition is so much a part of our world, everyone is affected by it. Yet we need to get rid of our attitudes of competition (what love is *not*) in order to replace them with attitudes of compassion (what love *is*). Here are some things to include as you pray for this:

- > Reveal to me how competitive I am.
- > Work the competitive attitude out of me using any means You have to use.
- > Replace my competitiveness with compassion.

LOVE IS

Read 1 Corinthians 13 again. What is this radical, powerful, supernatural love of God like, and how does it affect our relationships?



Love is Patient (v. 4)

The definition of *patience*: To have the power not to panic, retaliate, or blame others under difficult circumstances. Without patience, you become short-tempered and frustrated. For example, when your parents do something you don't like, you might kick the bed and pout.



Look at 1 Peter 2:21-23 to see how Jesus expressed patience.

Write one example of when you've been patient.

Love is Kind (v. 4)

2

The definition of *kindness*: To act considerately toward others even when they are not acting that way toward you. Kindness goes farther than patience. When a person has patience, he hangs in there. But when he has kindness he becomes aggressive in giving and serving no matter how the other person responds. For example, when your friend spills a drink on you, you get up and buy him another drink. Without kindness, you disregard the feelings of others, becoming mean, negative, and critical.

 **Read Luke 6:35-36.** How did Jesus practice kindness?


Write down one example of a time you were kind.

3

Love Rejoices in the Right (Truth) (v. 6)

The definition of *rejoicing in the truth*: To experience the joy that comes when your life, purpose, desires, and motives are in line with God's truth.

When a person is loving, he is not mushy or gooey; he is tough. He will not go against God's truth. He will not accept sin. For example, when your best friend starts messing around with sex, you're willing to lay your friendship on the line by confronting him with it.

 **From John 8:32 and 8:42-45,** determine how God wants you to rejoice in the right:

When have you rejoiced in the right?



Love Bears All Things (v. 7)

The definition of *bearing all things*: The ability to hang in there in tough circumstances. Our love covers what is irritating in another. That means we don't focus on the faults or mistakes of another. And it also means handling injury, insult, and disappointment to ourselves. For example, when your little sister acts obnoxious (which could have started on the day she was born), you look beyond it and love her.



Study Matthew 26:36-46 to see how Jesus exhibited this persistent love toward His disciples.

When has your love borne all things?



Love Believes All Things (v. 7)

The definition of *believing*: To have continual confidence in the other person even when that person has let you down. You see the best in people and give them the benefit of the doubt. You believe God will work out the situation even when the other person has done you wrong. For example, when your friend has lied to you several times, you don't believe the lie, but you don't give up on him.

Without a believing love, we are suspicious and accuse others, pointing out their faults and judging them. We have a cynical attitude that writes people off.



Look at Matthew 26:34 and John 21:15-19 to see how Jesus believed all things in His relationship with Peter.

Write one specific example of when you have had to "believe all things" about someone else.

6

Love Hopes All Things (v. 7)

The definition of *hoping*: To optimistically expect that another person's potential will become a reality. You refuse to accept failure as the final word. You are willing to give a person another chance. For example, if your parents are struggling with their relationship, you can pray for them and continue to "hope all things."

Without hope, you experience pessimism, despair, and depression. You lose hope in God's ability to deal with your situation.



In 1 Peter 1:3, Jesus shows the ultimate in hope. What is it and how does it work?

When have you had to "hope all things"?

7

Love Endures All Things (v. 7)

The definition of *endurance*: To hold up under difficult circumstances so you can turn difficult circumstances into positive experiences.

A person who loves bears up under the hardship of persecution, mistreatment, suffering, and even death. He has guts and refuses to be overwhelmed. He is aggressively conquering and overcoming. For example, if your dad and mom get divorced or die, you refuse to give up, but instead keep on trusting God and loving the people around you. Without endurance, we become bitter and try to escape.



Look at Hebrews 12:2 to see the ultimate example of enduring all things. What is it?

When have you had to “endure all things”?



Love Never Ends (v. 8)

The definition of *unending love*: To continue to care about another person over the long haul. Love has an eternal quality. A person who loves continues to be committed to the end. Love that never ends has three absolutes: it is permanent (v. 8), complete (v. 12), and supreme (v. 13). Without unending love, we give up, become wishy-washy, and don't follow through on our commitments.



Look at John 15:9. What does it tell us about how love never ends?

Write down one specific example of a relationship that you want to last forever.



NOW

for the big question: How can you practice God's love toward other people? You may look at all of these qualities and realize you don't live up to many of them. But that's not the issue. *Jesus is the issue. Because Jesus lives in you, you have ALL these qualities already.*

Read 1 Corinthians 13 using the word “Jesus” every place the

word “love” appears. Because you have Jesus, you have all the love you need. Ask Him right now to begin expressing His love through you.



Now go back to “Love is Not.” Add the numbers you gave on your ratings for each category. Then put your score for each category in the equation below and divide to come up with your average.

	Total		Average
Jealousy	_____	+ 6 =	_____
Boasting	_____	+ 4 =	_____
Arrogance	_____	+ 4 =	_____
Rudeness	_____	+ 8 =	_____
Selfishness	_____	+ 4 =	_____
Irritation	_____	+ 4 =	_____
Resentment	_____	+ 2 =	_____
Rejoicing in wrong	_____	+ 4 =	_____

Which one has the highest average? _____

Most likely, that is the area God wants to change. Spend 30 minutes studying this characteristic in the Bible by looking it up in a concordance or topical Bible. Record your discoveries here. It is God's love expressing itself in you that will change this area of your life.

What is the first step God wants you to take in developing love in this area?





Go back to "Love Is." Determine the characteristic you feel is your biggest strength. What is it?

Spend a few minutes thanking God for it.

Write down two specific ways that you can express that characteristic of love this week.

Complete this session by memorizing I Corinthians 12:4-8a.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Day 2: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Day 3: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-18

Day 4: 1 Timothy 1:1-11

Day 5: 1 Timothy 1:12-14

Day 6: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Day 7: 1 Timothy 1:18-20

2. Complete *Session 5*.

3. Work on the group ministry project.

4. As a "Lunchtime Laborer" focus your love on one person during your lunch period every day.

S E S S I O N 5



**GIFTED
SUPERNATURALLY**

Discovering your spiritual gift

Look around the cafeteria during your lunch period and pick out three people you consider most gifted. Who are they? Why do you consider them gifted?

Some people are good athletes, some are real brains, some have all the looks, some have exciting personalities, and some don't seem to have any ability. Abilities come from physical birth. But when you were born spiritually, you became gifted – supernaturally.

GIFTED – ME?

Have you ever been asked the question, “What is your spiritual gift?” How did you react to that question? Maybe you reacted in one of these ways:

- > “I’m not getting into this because once you start to discuss spiritual gifts, handling snakes can’t be too far behind.”
- > “I play the piano on Sunday mornings.”
- > “If you don’t speak in tongues, you don’t have any gifts.”
- > “I don’t have the foggiest idea.”
- > “I’ve been to a couple of seminars and I know this whole subject, so tune me out.”

Whatever your answer, think about this: *You can minister to others best when you know and exercise your spiritual gift.*



Read Romans 12:1-8 where Paul discusses spiritual gifts.
Outline the main points.

Spiritual Gifts:

are given to Christians
by the Holy Spirit for
accomplishing God’s work
through us.

The big issue is: How do spiritual gifts affect our lives?

God Gives Spiritual Gifts at Salvation

In Romans 12:6 the Apostle Paul uses the phrase “according to the grace given us.” We become Christians by God’s grace.



Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What does it say about God’s grace and salvation?

We can therefore conclude that:

- > Grace is a gift.
- > Grace comes to us through Jesus Christ.
- > With Jesus comes the Holy Spirit.
- > With the Holy Spirit comes spiritual gifts.

God wants to give us the very best. Like someone picking out the perfect gift for a friend’s birthday and then delivering it personally, God picked out the perfect gift of His Son and then delivered the gift personally. We receive the Gift the moment we invite Jesus into our lives. Spiritual gifts begin the moment we receive the Gift.



What does 1 Peter 4:10 say about the spiritual gift that God has for you?

Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift.

God Gives Supernatural Gifts

Circle the word “gifts” in Romans 12:6. In *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Revell), W.E. Vine defines gifts as God’s “endowments upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit.”



What does 1 Corinthians 12:11 say about why these gifts are supernatural?

If these gifts are supernaturally from the Spirit, then...

1

Spiritual gifts are not natural talents or abilities. For example, a beautiful singing voice is not a spiritual gift; it is a natural talent. I have a friend who has a beautiful voice. He could sing before he was a Christian, and he can sing since he has become a Christian. He hasn’t been given the gift of singing; he has the talent of singing.

As Christians, we don’t measure our effectiveness for Christ by our talents and abilities. Whatever we have to offer God *naturally* just isn’t enough. Spiritual gifts allow us to tap into the *supernatural* resources of God. They make us effective!

2

We don’t need to seek spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are given to us by God. Look back at 1 Corinthians 12:11 and underline the phrase “just as He wills.” What do we seek: the Giver of the gifts. As we seek the Giver, He will show us what gifts He has given us.

3

We are to let God’s gifts work powerfully through us. Ephesians 6:12 says we are in a battle. What kind of battle are we fighting?

The passage goes on to talk about the armor we need for the spiritual battle. But what’s under the armor? If the soldier is going to win the battle, having the right armor is only part of his equipment. He also needs a powerful, muscular body. Spiritual gifts are the muscles behind our

ministry to others. As we use our spiritual gift in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will experience minimum weariness and have maximum strength in ministering to others.

God Gives Gifts for Service

Underline the phrase “let him use it” in Romans 12:6. What do you think that phrase means?



Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 to discover how unique and important it is to use your spiritual gift. Summarize what you found out.

Once you have discovered your spiritual gift, you will have opportunities to learn how to use your gift for others.

LEARNING ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

So how do you find out what your spiritual gift is?

First, let's identify the different spiritual gifts in the New Testament. Paul splits them into three categories.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 and circle the three groups of gifts that Paul mentions:

- > “different kinds of gifts” – grace gifts
- > “different kinds of service” – service gifts
- > “different kinds of working” – working gifts

Each of these three groups of gifts serves a different purpose. Let's take a closer look.

1

Grace Gifts

These gifts give us *motivation* for ministry. They serve as the basic inner drive which God places in each Christian to relate to, encourage, and help other people.



Look up Romans 12:6-8 and list the grace gifts.

MOTIVATIONS – inner drives to minister

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

2

Service Gifts

These *ministries* give us opportunities to serve others within the church.



Read Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and list the gifts found there.

MINISTRIES – opportunities to serve

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

3

Working Gifts

These are the *manifestations* of the gifts as a result of the Holy Spirit working through our lives. They are the outward expressions of spiritual gifts.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and list the working gifts.

MANIFESTATIONS – outward expressions

1. _____ 6. _____
2. _____ 7. _____
3. _____ 8. _____
4. _____ 9. _____
5. _____ 10. _____

DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

To discover your spiritual gifts, let's begin by learning what your motivation gift, or grace gift, is. That gift motivates you to minister to others. Scripture supports the view that each Christian receives only one motivation gift. See if you agree. Look at and summarize these verses:

1 Corinthians 7:7 _____

1 Timothy 4:14-15 _____

2 Timothy 1:6 _____

1 Peter 4:10 _____

What conclusion did you draw?

From each person's *grace gift* (motivation) can come a variety of different *service gifts*. Then, when someone exercises his *service gift* through his ministry, any number of *working gifts* can be manifested. Let's focus on these grace gifts that will motivate us for ministry.



According to Romans 12:4-8, at least seven gifts fall into the category of grace gifts.

- > **Prophecy.** A prophet brings messages from God to people, usually revealing ungodly motives and attitudes in others.
- > **Serving.** A servant demonstrates love by meeting practical needs.
- > **Teaching.** A teacher researches and validates truth, and is willing and capable to help others see this truth.
- > **Encouraging.** An encourager stimulates the faith of others.
- > **Giving.** A giver entrusts resources to others to carry out the ministry.
- > **Leadership.** A leader coordinates the activities of others to achieve common goals.
- > **Mercy.** A merciful person identifies with and comforts those who are in distress.



Personal Survey

Here's an example of how the different gifts might be expressed. While you are eating lunch, a 9th-grader comes out of the cafeteria line and loses control of his tray. It hits the floor with a tremendous crash, and food flies everywhere. Everyone is hooting and laughing. What would you say?

_____ Prophet: "That's what happens when you're not careful."

_____ Servant: "Let me help you clean it up."

_____ Teacher: "You fell because the tray was too heavy on one side."

_____ Encourager: "Next time, walk more slowly and carry it with both hands."

_____ Giver: "I'll buy you another lunch."

_____ Leader: "Tom, let's clean up – you get the mop and, Sue, you get the tray."

_____ Merciful person: “Don’t feel too bad. It could happen to the best of us.”

Which of these seven ways would you respond? The way you responded will give you an idea of what your gift might be.



Practical Hints

These practical hints will help you discover your spiritual gift:

1. *Pray.* Sincerely ask God to show you what your spiritual gift is.



What clue does James 4:2 give you about prayer, and how it might relate to your gift?

2. *Study.* Make a thorough study of spiritual gifts in the Scripture.



According to 1 Corinthians 12:1, what do you need to avoid?

3. *Believe.* Trust that God has given you a gift. Jesus lives in you, and God has promised a gift to you.



According to Romans 12:3, what approach do you need to take to trust God?

4. *Open up.* Open your heart and mind to what the Lord has for you. Don’t reject your gift because of your past experience, fear, or preconceived ideas.



According to Psalm 119:18, what are the results of opening up to God?

5. *Confirm.* Your desires, your experience, and the counsel of others all fit into this discovery process.



What does 1 Corinthians 12:11 tell us about how this discovery process works?

Use these practical steps to confirm your gift:

- > Examine your personal desires. What do you enjoy doing most? That is your first clue to what your gift is, but it is not conclusive.
- > Experiment with your gift. Don't say, "I don't know what my gift is, so I'm not going to do anything until God shows me." Try out the gifts you think might be yours.
- > Talk to people you respect. Ask your pastor, youth minister, and discipleship group leader what they think your gift is.

6. *Respond.* With gifts come opportunities to use them. As you minister to others, you will discover and confirm your gift.

USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

How do you serve others with your gift?



Read Romans 12:4-5. What clue do you find about how God wants you to use your gift to minister to others?

Balance these two thoughts as you prepare to use your gift to minister to others.

- > Your gift is to *encourage the body of Christ*. Remember, God has given us the great commandment to love Him and to love others (Matthew 22:36-38). By showing love and using your gift, you build up the body.
- > Your gift is to help *evangelize the lost*. Christ has told us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). When you properly use your gift, God can use you to reach the world for Christ.

When you think you know your gift, go through the steps of confirmation listed in this chapter.

Answer these three practical questions:



1. What questions do I have about spiritual gifts?

2. Which of the six practical hints do I need to follow in order to discover my gift? (Refer to “Discovering Your Spiritual Gift.”)

2. This week how can I discover more about what my gift is and/or put my gift into practice? (Refer to “Using Your Spiritual Gift.”)

Complete this session by memorizing I Corinthians 12:4-6.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: I Timothy 2:1-4

Day 2: I Timothy 2:5-10

Day 3: I Timothy 2:11-15

Day 4: I Timothy 3:1-7

Day 5: I Timothy 3:8-13

Day 6: I Timothy 3:14-16

Day 7: I Timothy 4:1-5

2. Complete *Session 6*.

3. Participate in your group project.

4. As a “Lunchtime Laborer,” try out your spiritual gift during your lunch break this week.

S E S S I O N 6

WITH A
TOWEL



Serving unselfishly

You are eating lunch with your friends and the school nerd worms his way next to you. As soon as he sits down, he starts eating off your tray and making stupid wisecracks. Everyone is embarrassed – including you.

Do you know someone like this?

How do you keep your cool in a situation like this?

Your natural response is probably to call this guy a jerk. Instead, Jesus offered a better way: serve him. The symbol of service is a towel. Towels dry us. And it's no problem to throw a towel on the floor to wipe our

feet on. But what about using it to wipe the feet of others? That's what Jesus did.



John 13:1-17 gives us the prime example of serving others. Write your response to what Jesus did by answering this question: What is Jesus trying to communicate to us about serving?

To minister to others we need to learn how to serve them.

Most of us do not naturally serve others. We look out for number one. So how do we change? Pull out the towel! To develop a servant's lifestyle we need to take four steps to exchange selfish attitudes for attitudes of service.

Serving is

**giving yourself
to help others.**



FROM SELFISHNESS TO SERVANTHOOD

Luke 22:24 parallels the passage from John 13:1-17. In this scene the disciples are eating their last meal together. They are arguing about who is going to be the greatest.



Study Luke 22:20-24 and note some of their attitudes.

The bottom line is that they were acting selfishly. How selfish we are too!

- > We've grown up in the ME generation.
- > We're trained to look out for number one.
- > Our heroes are people who excel at selfishness.

How can we break out of this cycle of selfishness?

In John 13:1-4, John tells us what motivated Jesus' servant attitude. These same attitudes will break our selfishness and make us servants.

A Right Relationship to God

What can you discover from verse 1 about Jesus' relationship to God?

Jesus was in such close communication with His Father that He knew what His Father was doing and how to respond to Him.

We will break out of selfishness into servanthood . . .

A Right Relationship to People

"He now showed them the full extent of His love" (v. 1). In your mind, how does love relate to serving others?

when we are in close communication with God.

What Jesus did in washing His disciples' feet illustrates the same thing that took Him to the Cross: love. He showed the full extent of His love first by washing their feet; later He showed it by dying for them.

We will break out of selfishness into servanthood . . .

when we experience and express to others the full extent of God's love.

A Right Relationship to Ourselves

What did Jesus know about Himself? (v. 3)

Jesus knew who He was.

You would think that since He knew who He was, He would have put Himself on a pedestal and said, "Serve Me." That's probably what I would have done, saying something like this: "I've got it all under control. I've come from God and I'm going to God, so I'm the greatest. Put Me on the throne." Precisely the opposite took place with Jesus. The greatest man who ever lived came as a servant.

Only a secure person can serve. Someone who is not secure has to be served in order to boost and protect his ego.



Mark 10:45 tells us Jesus' mode of operation. What was it?

Jesus came not to be served but to serve. He wants that for us as well. The Bible is full of passages that show us how to become a servant.



Look up the following passages and apply each one to your responsibility and opportunity to serve.

Matthew 8:9 _____

Matthew 10:14-25 _____

Matthew 16:24 _____

Matthew 24:45-51 _____

Luke 12:35-48 _____

Luke 16:1-13 _____

Luke 17:7-10 _____



FROM TALKING TO WALKING

The roads of Palestine were not paved. In dry weather these dirt trails were inches deep in dust. In the rain, they became liquid slush, several inches deep of thick mud. People wore sandals in Jesus' day – soles held on the feet by a few leather straps. There was no protection against the dust and mud on the roads.

It was the custom for the host to provide a servant at the door of a house with a great waterpot to wash the feet of the guests as they entered. Sandals were left at the door. If a home did not have a slave, then a guest who arrived early would graciously wash the feet of those who came later.

The day of the Last Supper, none of the disciples would take on that lowly task. All they could think about was how great they were. The room was full of proud hearts and stinking feet. If no one stepped forward to wash feet, all the others would pay the price because in New Testament times they laid down at the table, leaning on one elbow on a pad on the floor. One person's feet were stuck in another person's face. It's hard to ignore a face full of dirty, stinking feet.

In the midst of all the arrogant conversation, Jesus got up and pulled off his outer tunic. With a towel, a pitcher, and a pan He began to wash the disciples' feet (John 13:4-5).

Imagine that you're one of the disciples. How do you think you would have responded to this whole scene?



Jesus offers some ways to stop talking about serving and to start doing it. Before you look at those steps, describe the "nerd" whose name you wrote down at the beginning of this chapter.

View that person as a specific example of someone you can serve. Using these practical clues, you can serve that person and the other people around you every day.

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

Jesus was eating and enjoying the meal just like everyone else, but when He saw a need, He met it. He “got up from the meal” (v. 4). He was willing to get out of His “comfort zone” and do what needed to be done.

What step do you need to take to get out of your comfort zone and to serve the person you described?

Lay Aside Whatever Hampers You

Jesus then “took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist” (v. 4). He got *everything* out of the way that would keep Him from serving. He even rid Himself of His robe because it was hampering Him from doing what He needed to do. Without hesitation He laid it aside.

What do you need to lay aside to serve the person you described?

Prepare to Serve

Jesus gathered the equipment He needed to serve His disciples – a towel, a basin, and water (vv. 4-5).

What equipment do you need to serve the person you described?

Get Right in the Middle of Things

Then He “poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet” (v. 5). Jesus got right in the middle of those grubby feet.

What do you need to do to get involved with the person you named?

My friend, Bill, matches his walk with his talk. He serves like that. He's always on the edge of his seat. If the phone rings, he jumps to get it. If someone drops a piece of paper, he moves quickly to pick it up. If the doorbell rings, he answers it. He's always "on the edge" to serve.

These suggestions will help you get started with some creative ideas for moving from talking to walking.

- > Do little things.
- > Guard the reputation of others.
- > Be courteous, saying "please," "thank you," and "you're welcome."
- > Invite people home (after getting your mom's approval).
- > Listen.
- > Bear the burdens of others.
- > Make time for people.
- > Pray for people.
- > Talk about Jesus.

FROM PRIDE TO HUMILITY

3

The roles reverse: Jesus has a right to be proud, but He is humble. Peter should be humble, but he is proud. He refuses to let Jesus wash his feet (John 13:6-10).

Peter expresses pride in two ways as Jesus tries to wash his feet.

**Pride is a disease.
It makes everyone sick but
the one who has it.**

- > Peter is reluctant. "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?"
Defensively, he questions Jesus to keep from receiving what Jesus has to give him.
- > Peter is resistant. "You shall never wash my feet," he says, as he draws his feet under him to keep Jesus from washing them.

The other morning I walked out of my house at 7 a.m. As I locked the door and turned toward my car, I saw a young woman standing right in front of me in the middle of rush hour traffic with a nightgown, slippers, and a ski jacket on.

"I'm so embarrassed," she said. "My truck died after I took my husband to the train station. I hate to ask you this, but would you take me home?"

I told her I would be glad to. As we got in my car, she must have apologized 15 times for the way she looked and for asking me to take her home. I could understand why she was embarrassed. But more than that, she had trouble receiving the help I wanted to give her.

Having humility means
we are able to give and
receive graciously.

FROM FEAR TO FREEDOM

After Jesus had washed His disciples' feet, He sat down again. It was time for some reflection and instruction. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked (John 13:12). Their reply was probably, "Sure, you washed our feet. Thanks a lot." But He wanted them to think deeply and to see the significance of His action.

Read John 13:13-17 to determine the deeper significance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

The main point is in verse 15. What does that statement say to you about serving others?

Students often have two reactions to serving.

- > “If I serve others, they will take advantage of me. They will walk all over me, and I don’t want them to do that.”
- > “It’s one thing to act like a servant sometimes, but it’s something else when people treat me like a servant all the time. I’m not sure I want to make this a lifestyle.”

If you have one of these reactions, then instead of serving by washing their feet, you will want to:

- > Burn their feet with boiling water.
- > Freeze their feet with ice cold water.
- > Put their feet in a washing machine and take the skin off.
- > Dry clean their feet so it takes the hair off their legs.

Write

down three actions you will take this week to minister to the person you described as a nerd.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Complete this session by memorizing John 13:14-15.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

- Day 1: I Timothy 4:6-8
- Day 2: I Timothy 4:9-12
- Day 3: I Timothy 4:13-16
- Day 4: I Timothy 5:1-8
- Day 5: I Timothy 5:9-15
- Day 6: I Timothy 5:16-20
- Day 7: I Timothy 5:21-25

2. Complete *Session 7*.
3. Participate in your group ministry project.
4. Serve the irritating "nerd" in the three ways you decided. As a "Lunchtime Laborer," look for ways to serve others as well.

S E S S I O N 7



NO
LIMITS

Giving God's way

As you eat lunch – munching on mystery meat and corn that tastes like cardboard – a 9th-grader, who comes from a family that doesn't have much money, sits down beside you. When you talk to him, you find out that he desperately needs \$20. How do you respond?

Most people don't want to give. They would rather get. But to minister means giving to others. God wants us to understand giving; it is mentioned 1,552 times in the New Testament alone.

Maybe no one has ever explained giving to you before. But as you look at what the Bible teaches, I hope you will get a fresh perspective on giving. That includes not only giving money, but also time, energy, and other resources.

“Give me a hand” is a phrase we use often when we need help. In giving, the issue is: Do I have open or closed hands to give to others?



Read 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Write a paragraph on what is happening in these chapters. You may need to look at a Bible commentary to get the whole picture.



Now focus on 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What do these verses say about giving?

CLOSED HANDS

Not having God’s perspective on giving means you have *closed hands*.

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly” (v.6). Here is the picture: A farmer goes out to plant his crop. He has plenty of seed but keeps it in the barn. He only plants a little bit of seed. When the fall harvest comes, he goes out to reap; he gathers up only a little because he has sown only a little.

Many years ago the Chinese farmers lived by the theory that they could eat all their big potatoes and keep the small ones for seed. They did this for sometime. They gained a new understanding of the law of life when year after year their potatoes got smaller and smaller – until they were the size of marbles.

A person with closed hands plants “small potatoes” – saving the big things of life for himself. But God says, “Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7).

Do you get uptight? Depressed? Frustrated? Worried? Guess what: You’ve got a serious case of the “gets” instead of the “gives.” How do we catch a case of the “gets”?

1

Misunderstanding the Purpose of Money

People think money is something that you hoard. But money is simply a medium of exchange.



Read Job 1:21. How did Job describe this concept?

You've never seen a
hearse with a U-haul!

2

The Love of Money

The lure of the “good life” – new clothes, a new stereo, a new car – never provides us with enough. Why? Because GREED is never satisfied. This poem expresses such a greedy philosophy.

Get all you can.
Can all you get.
Sit on the can,
and poison the rest.



What does 1 Timothy 6:9-10 say about the love of money?



Keeping Up with the Joneses

The relentless ads on TV, in magazines, and on billboards bombard us constantly with the message, "You've got to have it all now." Then we feel we can't live if we don't have what everyone else has.



Read Luke 12:15, where Jesus speaks to "keeping up with the Joneses." How does He say we should approach the problem?



Guilt from a Lack of Honesty

This kind of guilt comes from dishonesty, like cheating in financial matters or lying to ourselves to satisfy our material desires. Our tendency is to cheat and lie when we get in a tight financial spot.



James 4:1-3 tells us why. What happens?



Pressure from Debts

Debt is owing money on a depreciating asset: clothes, car, stereo, or whatever. It means living beyond your means. It's easy to get caught in the credit trap and get in debt.



Read Romans 13:8 to discover what God says about going in debt.

What happens when we violate that principle?

- > We get “under the pile.” “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7).
- > We become paralyzed and cannot help other people. “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8).

One person I know got so “under the pile” and paralyzed by his debt that he wished his father would die. Then he would inherit money to pay his bills. God does not want you in that position.



Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-15 to see what the “grievous evil” of closed-handedness can cause.

OPEN HANDS

Now let's look at God's perspective – *open hands*.

“The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, RSV).

God wants us to be givers. How can we do that?

1 Sow Bountifully

“*He who sows bountifully.*” Picture the farmer again. This time he goes to the barn and brings out all the seed. He puts his hand in the sack and with an open hand begins to toss the seed out on the ground.

Why are there so many poor, starving people in the world? It's because many people have more than they need and they won't share it. That is brought about by selfishness. There is plenty of food to feed everyone in the world.

Wealth is like that seed. It shouldn't be stored.
God's plan is for us to give.

Can God trust you with His resources? Why?

God will
give us as
much as He
can trust us
with to give
to others.

2 Make a Decision

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind." Most people decide to give according to what they can afford. That is *reason giving*. We say, "Let's see, I have \$_____, so I will give \$_____." Instead, we need to operate from *revelation giving*; we need to consult God on how much He wants us to give (Jack Taylor, *God's Miraculous Plan of Economy*, Broadman).

Do you operate from *reason giving* or *revelation giving*?

3 Avoid Wrong Motivation

"Not reluctantly or under compulsion." "Reluctantly" pictures a tightfisted person who doesn't want to part with his money. "Under compulsion" portrays a person who gives because of pressure.

Can you see any wrong motives in the way you have given money in the past? What were they?

4

Enjoy Cheerful Giving

“God loves a cheerful giver.” The Greek word for cheerful is *hilaros* – from which we get the word *hilarious*. In Hebrew, the word translated *hilarious* means “to cause to shine.” When we give cheerfully, our faces light up. Being cheerful givers means that we can smile and get a big kick out of giving. You may not have that attitude now, but the way to get it is to start giving until you enjoy it.

Are you a cheerful giver? How do you know?

5

Reap Bountifully

“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” The Bible promises that at harvest time all we have sown will multiply and come back to us. For example, William Colgate of Colgate toothpaste gave God 10¢ of every dollar he earned as a young man. Later as his business prospered, he gave 20 percent, then 50 percent. After all his children were out of college he gave 100 percent of his income to God.

Reaping bountifully includes more than having a lot of money. It’s the treasure of family and friends... along with many other things! Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

**Give and
it will
be given
to you!**

GOD’S GIVING HAND

Why can we have an open-handed approach to giving? Because our Father is committed to blessing us through our giving. Let’s look at 2 Corinthians 9:8 to see how He operates.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8, RSV).

1

God's Ability

"*And God is able.*" God can do anything because everything comes from God, everything moves toward God, and everything in between operates by God.



How does Psalm 24:1 describe that truth?

God is the SOURCE
of all wealth.

2

God's Grace

"*To provide you with every blessing.*" God gives to His children out of His vast resources.



Look at Romans 8:32 and discover the kind of giver God is.

God is the SUPPLIER
of all wealth.

3

God's Abundance

"In abundance." God promises that He will give us not only what we need, but more than we need.



Read Ephesians 3:20 for that promise.

**God is the SURPLUS
of all wealth.**

4

God's Blessing

"So that you may always have enough of everything." God gives out of His abundance to meet our every need.



Check out His promise in Philippians 4:19. How does He meet our needs?

**God is the SUFFICIENCY
in all wealth.**

5

God's Provision

"And may provide in abundance for every good work." God meets not only our needs, but the needs of others through us.



Look at Galatians 6:9-10 to see how He expressed that.

God is the **SUSTAINER**
of all wealth.

Several years ago, my wife and I stopped getting a regular paycheck. We raised our salary and so had to trust God for our money every month. We decided, "We're broke, so let's go all the way." All through our lives we had given 10 percent of our money. At that point we decided to give 15 percent. Why not? Ten percent of zero is nothing, and 15 percent of zero is nothing. It was then that we learned the reality of God's ability to provide not only for our needs, but also for the financial needs of others.

In order to minister to others effectively, we need to take what we have learned about giving and put it into action.



1. Give. The Old Testament Law teaches us to give a tithe – 10 percent of our money. And the New Testament says we are to be “cheerful givers.” If we are not giving 10 percent, we are robbing God. But we need to move beyond that and ask God how much more He wants us to give in order to be cheerful givers. What percentage of your money are you giving to God now?

What percentage of your money does He want you to give?

2. Get out of debt. Proverbs 22:7 tell us why we need to get out of debt and stay out. What does it say?

If you're in debt, get out. If you can't get out of debt by paying off your bills in one month, then you need to get counsel from your parents, youth minister, or discipleship group leader on how to get out of debt.

- > Are you in debt? _____
- > How much? _____
- > Can you get out in a month? _____
- > What steps are you going to take to get out of debt?

3. Lend. When we lend money, we expect people to repay – often with interest. But look at what Jesus says about that as recorded in Matthew 5:42.

The problem with lending and expecting a return on the loan is that:

- > We get people obligated to us.
- > We become resentful when they don't repay us.
- > We harm our friendship.

So how do we handle it when someone needs to borrow money from us and we want to help him? WE GIVE THE MONEY NOT EXPECTING IT TO BE RETURNED.

- > To whom have you loaned money? _____
- > Do you expect it back? _____
- > Is this causing you to resent that person? _____
- > If so, you need to have a heart-to-heart talk with him. If a conversation is necessary, record the results below.

4. Budget. God has made you a “steward” of the money He has given you. Look in a Bible dictionary to discover what “steward” means.

To be a good steward of God’s money we need to answer these questions before each purchase.

- > Did I ask God to either confirm this purchase or remove my desire for it?
- > Do I need this item?
- > Do I have the money to pay cash?
- > Is it high on my priority list?
- > Have I shopped for the best buy?

To learn to spend money wisely, work out your budget including 10 percent of your income to tithe, at least 5 percent for additional giving, and 5 percent for savings.

5. Save. What does Proverbs 13:22 say about saving money?

If we save, we will have more money. Then when needs arise, we can meet more needs because we have more money to give away.

We have the privilege
of giving to the
greatest cause in the
world - the cause of
Jesus Christ.

Complete this session by memorizing 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible Readings:

Day 1: 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Day 2: 1 Timothy 6:3-10

Day 3: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Day 4: 1 Timothy 6:17-21

Day 5: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Day 6: 2 Timothy 1:8-12

Day 7: 2 Timothy 1:13-18

2. Complete Session 8.

3. Work on your group ministry project.

4. Make a realistic and workable budget.

5. As a "Lunchtime Laborer," look for people with a financial need (not a want) and give that person money without him knowing who gave it.

S E S S I O N 8

IN THE DIRT



Caring for people

Imagine...lunch is over, and you're trying to help the person next to you by taking his tray and emptying it for him. When you pick it up, he suddenly moves his arm and flips the remains of the corn dog and french fries with catsup and mustard all over the front of your sweater.

Which of the following responses would you make?

- "I'll never help him again."
- "It doesn't pay to help people."
- "I'm really ticked about my sweater."
- "That's just part of helping people."

When we minister to others, we can count on getting dirty. When people hurt, they want to know we care. Charles Schultz's cartoon character,

Linus, plucked petals from a daisy while reciting, “Does anybody up there (out there, down there) care?”

And we show them we care by “grubbing it out in their dirt.”

Luke tells a marvelous story about getting dirty while caring for other people.

God wants us to get dirty caring for other people.



Read Luke 10:25-37 and record the main point of the story:

Who is your neighbor – is it friends at school, the girl in English class, the weird kid with the locker next to yours, or the old man who lives down the street? Jesus, the master storyteller, responded to that question with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which you just read. Let’s review the script.

ACT I: THE PAIN (V. 30)

A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho alone. It was a very dangerous road to travel. On the way, this man ran into some trouble. What happened to him?

People all around us are just like that. They may look like us and dress like we do, but inside they are stripped, beaten, and half-dead. Do you know someone who has been

-> “stripped” – of his parents, his friends, or his relationship to God? Who? _____

Describe that person:

- > "beaten" black and blue – on his body or in his feelings? Who?

Describe that person:

- > "left half-dead" – assaulted by the enemy in a way that causes self-hate, depression, or thoughts of suicide? Who? _____

Describe that person:

ACT II: THE DISDAIN (VV. 31-32)

Many people disdain getting dirty and therefore have become insensitive to people's needs.

Two of the characters in the Parable of the Good Samaritan are like that.

The Priest

He saw this man on the side of the road and still passed by. Why? He knew that if he touched this man he could become "ceremonially unclean." The priest was not sure if the man was dead or not. But Jewish Law said that if a person touched a dead man, then that person would be unclean for seven days (Numbers 19:11). That meant he would not be a good Jew and other Jews would look down on him. Because of that, he passed on by.

Getting dirty for others may mean risking your reputation with your friends.

Would your church friends begin to question your reputation if you started hanging around with someone who was in trouble with drugs – even though you knew God led you to minister to him?

Would you get dirty to help someone else if it might mean losing your reputation with your friends? Why or why not?

The Levite

The Levite wanted to protect himself. In those days, robbers used decoys. One robber would act like a wounded man. Then when an unsuspecting traveler stopped by, the other one would rush out and rob him. Because of this, these religious men had a motto: “Safety first.” Protect yourself and take no risks when it comes to helping someone else.

But let’s not condemn these men too quickly. We get caught in these traps as well. How often have you passed by a person who was out of gas on the side of the road? Or a person at school who had just dropped his books? Would you “get dirty” for someone else if it meant taking a risk? Why or why not?

Getting dirty for others may mean taking risks.

ACT III: THE STAIN (vv. 33-35)

Jews hated Samaritans so much that when Jesus mentioned the name "Samaritan" it made the lawyer bristle. Jews didn't want to have anything to do with Samaritans. They would go to any lengths to avoid Samaria when they were traveling from Judea to Galilee (a straight shot through Samaria). To the Jews, the Samaritan was definitely the villain and not the hero. So when Jesus used a Samaritan in His illustration, His disciples knew He needed a course in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

So, the Samaritan came along and saw the same thing the Jewish priest and the Levite saw. But he stopped to help. Here was a man who was not afraid to get dirty for someone else. Name one person who has gotten dirty for you. What does that person mean to you?

Name one person who would get you dirty if you tried to minister to him.

Now let's learn from the Good Samaritan how we can get dirty. He did it by....



Going – "As He Traveled" (v. 32)



In **Matthew 28:19-20** when Jesus tells us to "go," what does He tell us to do along the way?

List the places you go every day where you can minister to the person you mentioned on this page.

2

Loving – “He Took Pity on Him (v. 33)

This is the turning point in the story. It’s the difference between the Samaritan and the other two men. The Samaritan had compassion for people that sprang from an inner desire to please God; all that the others had was external religion.

We can have the same inner desire that the Good Samaritan had because Christ lives in us.



From John 15:9-17, discover how that compassion is supposed to work in our lives.

**It’s easy to get Christianity
into our heads, but it’s
tough to make the
journey into our hearts.**

What difficulties are you having in letting your compassion flow freely from your heart toward others?

What is one way you can show compassion to the person whose name you wrote on page 98?



Coming – “Went to Him” (v. 34)

The Samaritan overlooked the risks. He skipped the question, “Will he take advantage of me?” He dodged the bullet of apathy and got involved. Jesus got involved with people as well.



Read Luke 8:40-48 and write down how Jesus responded to the situation.

In order to get dirty we have to jump in with both feet and GO FOR IT! What one way can you get involved with the person named on page 98?



Touching – “Bandaged His Wounds, Pouring on Oil and Wine” (v. 34)

In order to bind the man’s wounds he had to touch him. Imagine what the beaten man looked like. Describe him:

What do you think helping him did to the Samaritan’s clean robe?



Read Luke 5:12-16. Jesus wants us to touch other people like He did. What did it involve for Jesus to touch others?

Sometimes all it takes is a touch – a hug, a pat on the back – to make the

difference. In what ways can you touch the person you mentioned in order to minister to him?



Sacrificing – “Then He Put the Man on His Own Donkey” (v. 34)

When he sat the beaten man on his beast, that meant the Samaritan had to walk. He didn't say, “I can't do this because I'll get blisters on my heels.” The Samaritan was willing to sacrifice in order to meet the need.



Read Jesus' statement in Luke 9:23-25. What are the three steps involved in sacrifice?

What is one specific sacrifice you can make in order to minister to the person whose name you mentioned?



Being Inconvenienced – “Took Him to an Inn” (v. 34)

The Samaritan inconvenienced himself – he went out of his way. He probably hadn't planned to go to that inn before; but he went in order to take care of his neighbor.



See Matthew 5:41. How far does Jesus say we need to be willing to go to minister to others?

What can you do to go out of your way for the person you mentioned?

7

Caring – “And Took Care of Him” (v. 34)

We know that the Samaritan spent the night because the Bible says “the next day” (v. 35). His time was important, but he was willing to give it. This is one way we know that the Samaritan took care of him.

Time is our most precious possession, but we need to give it to meet the needs of others.



Look at Ephesians 5:15-16 to see how Paul says we need to use our time.

How can you use your time to minister to the person whose name you mentioned?

8

Giving – “He Took out Two Silver Coins” (v. 35)

These coins were denarii. When he paid them to the innkeeper they were worth two months’ board. The Samaritan was willing to give his money generously in order to minister to his neighbor.



In Luke 6:38 Jesus tells us what will happen to us when we give like that. Summarize what He says below.

Name one specific way you can give your money to meet the needs of the person whose name you mentioned.

9 Continuing -- “Look After Him, and When I Return” (v. 35)

The Samaritan followed through. He kept on looking after the man. He completed the project that he started.



In Galatians 6:9-10, the Apostle Paul tells us what our response needs to be toward following through with people even when we don't feel like it. What does he say?

Name one way you can follow through in caring for the person whose name you mentioned.

10 Expending -- “I Will Reimburse You for Any Extra Expense You May Have” (v. 35)

The Samaritan was saying, “If there is any other expense, I will take care of it.” He went way beyond the minimum requirement in helping his neighbor.



1 John 3:17-18 gives us the reason for going beyond the minimum requirement and the way to go about it. What does it say?

How can you go beyond the minimum requirement in helping the person whose name you mentioned?

In our church an 18-year-old girl has had several “Good Samaritans” take care of her. When she was eight years old, her parents abandoned her in a big city. For the next five years she was homeless and lived on the streets. This led to her involvement with drugs and eventual addiction to heroin. When she was 13, the state took custody of her and placed her in a foster home. For several years she was moved from one foster home to another, often living on the streets. This lasted five years.

One day, she met a guy in our church named Cliff. Cliff invited her to go to church with him. She didn’t want to because she was afraid of what people would think of her. Finally, after much encouragement, she went. To her surprise, people reached out and accepted her.

She soon saw her need for Christ and committed her life to Him. Some of the girls in our church bought her new clothes. One girl, who had previously used drugs, took her under her wing. One of the men in our church is guiding her as she grows in her faith in Jesus Christ. Others are teaching her to read and write. To bring the story full circle, this young lady still with many problems, has led her first person to Christ.

She is no different than the man on the side of the road in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. And the people in your school who need you to minister to them have similar needs.

ACT IV: THE GAIN

When we have a lifestyle of getting dirty for God, then we will reap the benefits that come with it. Jesus tells us what those benefits are.



Read Matthew 25:31-40 and write down what He says will happen to us on the day of judgment.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Day 2: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Day 3: 2 Timothy 2:14-19

Day 4: 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Day 5: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

Day 6: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Day 7: 2 Timothy 3:6-9

2. Complete *Session 9*.

3. Participate in your group ministry project.

4. Moving beyond being a "Lunchtime Laborer", identify one person you want to get dirty for like the Good Samaritan. Get started "getting dirty" this week.

S E S S I O N 9

MULTIPLY
YOUR
LIFE



Reproducing yourself in others

Look around as you eat in the cafeteria this week. Find someone who has a real desire to grow as a Christian. Write that person's name here.

Now describe everything you know about that person.

Do you think that person would meet regularly with you so you could help him grow? _____

You may have responded:

- He wouldn't want to meet with me.
- I feel so inadequate.
- I wouldn't know where to start.
- What would I tell him?

Most people feel inadequate, but God wants to use you.

Douglas Hyde was a Communist before he committed his life to Christ. In his book *Dedication and Leadership* (Harper & Row) he tells of a man who came to him after a lecture one night and said, "Ca...ca...ca...can I become a Co...Co... Communist?" In all his career Hyde had never seen such an unlikely person want to become a Communist. He knew the unbreakable rule of the Communist Party -- "Every person a potential Communist, every person a potential leader in Communism." But this man just did not seem to fill the bill. Almost speechless, Hyde told him to come back the next week for an answer.

During the week Hyde met with his superiors. They told him: "You know the unbreakable rule. This man can become a Communist." Hyde protested about how bad off this man was, but his superiors insisted.

The next week Douglas Hyde told the man that he could become a Communist. That man joined the Communist Party and moved up through the ranks until he headed the world distribution of Communist literature.

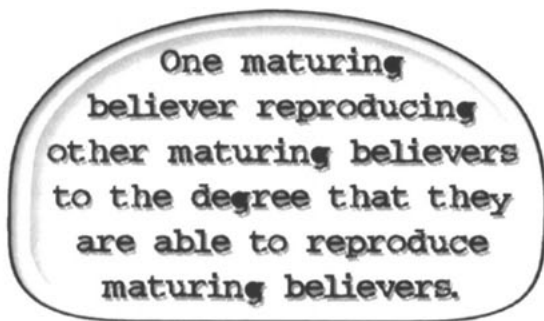
MAKING DISCIPLES

Every person who has the *desire* can become a Christian. And every Christian who has the *desire* can be a leader of others. You have demonstrated that kind of desire by working through the first four books of the *Moving Toward Maturity* series. God has used your leader in this process to discipline you in your walk with Christ. What your leader has done with you, the Bible calls "making disciples."

How has being discipled helped you grow strong in your relationship to Jesus Christ?

From what you have experienced in your own life, how would you describe disciple-making?

In Jesus' last command to His disciples He gives this clear direction: "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Here is one way to define disciple-making.



YOU CAN BE A DISCIPLE-MAKER!

Using this definition, how can you become a disciple-maker? Let's look at it like this:

Disciple-making is like building a homecoming float. You need certain building materials to make the float a winner: lumber, nails, chicken wire,

tissues, and other items. If we are going to be disciple-makers, then we have to have the essential supplies. Those supplies are identified in 2 Timothy 2:1-2.



Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2. See if you can discover the essential materials for making disciples:

Now let's see how your list of discipling materials compares to the list below.



Stay Close to Christ

Focus on the phrase "be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (v. 1). Using a Bible commentary or Bible dictionary, discover what that phrase means.

A high school student got a summer job painting stripes down the highway. With great enthusiasm he painted 5 miles of stripes on his first day. The next day he painted 2 miles, the next day three-fourths of a mile, the next day 200 yards, and the next day he painted 10 feet. The supervisor called him in, telling him he set a company record for painting stripes on the first day, but on the last day he had done worse than anyone on the job. The supervisor asked him what the problem was. He replied, "I just kept getting farther and farther away from the paint bucket."

Unless we stay close to the bucket, we will lose our effectiveness too. Our "bucket" is Jesus, and if we don't stay close to Him, we will lose our

ability to operate in the Spirit and to make an impact on the lives of others.



Read John 15:1-8. What is involved in staying close to Christ?

The Point:

**Stay
close to
Christ.**

Your ability to disciple others does not depend on your great personality, your creativity, your skills, or your good looks; it depends on staying close to Jesus Christ.

What is the main thing you need to do in order to stay close to Christ?



Make a Friend

Read 2 Timothy 2:2 and circle the words “you” and “me.” Paul and Timothy had a close friendship. What does 2 Timothy 1 tell you about the depth of that friendship?

After spending some time with my friend Lee, I discovered he was confused about his relationship with God. We started getting together every week. As a result, he accepted Christ. After that we spent even more time together. Through our friendship, he became a bold witness on

his campus. Later he became the editor of the largest Christian newspaper for college students in America. Now he is the editor of the largest Christian magazine in the world. He called me last Thanksgiving to thank me for the time I invested in him to help him know Jesus and grow in Him. From that experience I learned that true discipleship is built on close friendships that center on Christ.



From 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 what do we learn about the kind of friendships we need to build in making disciples?

The Point:

**Develop
friendships with
your disciples.**

With whom do you have that kind of friendship? Reflect on how you became such close friends. You can use these ideas in building other disciple-making friendships.



Reflect Jesus' Character

Go back to 2 Timothy 2:2 and underline the word "commit" or "entrust."

One way to look at this word is that it is like putting something in a safety-deposit box. That's where people keep their valuable deeds, stocks, and bonds. When they go to the bank to open the safety-deposit box, they can't open it with their key only. Two keys are necessary. The bank's key and renter's key turn together to open the door to all the valuable items.

“Commit” means two people relate to each other in partnership with the Spirit of God. They open up and discover the riches of Christ’s character in each other, then reflect the character of Jesus Christ to others by their attitudes, thoughts, actions, and habits.



In 2 Corinthians 3:18 the Apostle Paul tells us how that works. What does he say?

Some of the riches Paul passed along to his friend Timothy. You will want to pass them along too. They are found in 2 Timothy 3:10-11. What are they?

In what specific ways do you think you reflect Christ?

The Point:

Through the Spirit in us we reflect the character of Christ.



Be Real with Others

Paul speaks of reflecting Christ “In the presence of many witnesses” (2 Timothy 2:2). By that he means *be real*. Have you ever thought, “To disciple someone, I need to be super-spiritual and close to perfect, with everything absolutely cool in my life”? You’ll find no one is like that! Again and again, experience shows that people respond best to people who are “real.”

Kent, a student I was discipling, came over to help me move some

furniture. Behind the first couch were Tinkertoys, moldy raisins, building blocks, and other assorted junk. He looked embarrassed. Then we moved a hide-a-bed. When we folded it out, a big glob of stuffing came out. He blushed and the look on his face said, "Cheap couch." The last couch we moved measured 86 inches long and 38 inches high. We had to get it through a door 79 inches high and 29 inches wide. When we started through the door, Kent pinched my fingers. I yelled at him. I rammmed his fingers into the wall. For two hours we scraped the paint off the walls and the doorway pushing and pulling, sweating, and getting exhausted – totally frustrated. We never did get the couch through the door.

He saw me in a real-life situation. No longer was I on a spiritual pedestal. But instead of respecting me less, his seeing my weaknesses drew us closer.



Look up 2 Corinthians 12:9. What did one of the greatest disciplers say about how he handled his weaknesses?



In 1 Corinthians 2:3-5 we are told how and why we can be real as we disciple others. What do these verses say?

When we're open about our weaknesses it helps others keep their eyes on Jesus.

The Point:

Be yourself with other people.

When do you have the most difficulty being open and transparent? Why?



Find the Right Disciples

Go back to 2 Timothy 2:2 and circle the words “reliable men” or “faithful men.” Look up that phrase in a Bible dictionary and write the definition. (By the way, it definitely includes women.)



Psalm 42:1-2 and Psalm 63:1 express the desires of a faithful person. What are they?



In 1 Thessalonians 1:3 how does Paul describe his disciples:

A faithful person can be described as **FAT**:
FAITHFUL – doing what God desires
AVAILABLE – willing to take time to grow
TEACHABLE – desiring to learn

As president of the student body, a big football star, and the steady date of the head cheerleader, Todd looked like a pretty good candidate for being a disciple. He even expressed a desire to be involved. Yet I sensed that deep down he was not committed. He said he wanted to be discipled, but I kept putting him off. At that point he wasn't faithful, available, or teachable.

After he graduated he was left without the glory of football, without the applause of the student body, and without the girlfriend. (She dumped him.) He was humbled and began to desire God above all other things. At that point he became a FAT person – faithful, available, and teachable.

The Point:

Recruit only
the faithful.

Who would you like to recruit as disciples?

Describe how those people are FAT.

6

Pass the Baton

Look again at these words from 2 Timothy 2:2: “you,” “me,” “faithful men,” and “others also.” These phrases speak of “passing the baton” from one spiritual generation to another.

Paul’s discipling stretched beyond Timothy to four generations of disciples:

- > Generation 1 – Paul
- > Generation 2 – Timothy
- > Generation 3 – Faithful men
- > Generation 4 – Others

Disciple-making extends beyond the person you are discipling to the rest of the world.

I disciplined Bill while he was in college, and Bill led John to Christ. The summer after John’s conversion, he and Bill went to the Soviet Union. Bill spent hours that summer discipling John. Bill and John went to the Moscow church where they met Eugene, who was not a Christian but

spoke English. John took Eugene back to his room and talked to him about Christ. Eugene said he had already been considering Christianity, but he still wasn't ready to commit his life to Christ. Several months later John received a letter from Eugene telling him that he had become a Christian. He later received permission to emigrate. Eugene moved to the United States, got his education, and began a radio broadcast that reached between 5 and 15 million people in the Soviet Union every week before communism fell.

That is passing the baton.

- > Generation 1 – Barry
- > Generation 2 – Bill
- > Generation 3 – John
- > Generation 4 – Eugene
- > Generation 5 – Millions of others

Think about one person whose name you wrote on page 106. Who are his or her friends?

The Point:

Pass the baton
by discipling
others.

Could one of these friends come to Christ and grow?

- Yes No

Who? _____

Who are his other friends?

Could he lead one of these friends to Christ and help him grow?

Yes No

Who _____

Jesus has expressed His desire for us “to go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). Then He tells us how to do that. What does He say? (Matthew 28:20)



In order to become a discipler of others we need some practical steps to begin:

1. Pray. Ask the Lord to use you to make disciples.

- > To make you an example – a model that younger students can follow.
- > To convince you that this is the right way for you to invest your time. Then you will know that this is His ministry for you.
- > To show you how to get started.

2. Dream. Dream about what could happen in your school and church as you disciple other students. Write out your dreams concerning how you want God to use you.

3. Select. “Who should I disciple?” you ask. Follow these guidelines to find the right person.

- > Ask God to show you the right ones. Often the people we would select are not the ones God has for us.
- > Determine what qualities are needed in the people you will disciple. (See I Thessalonians I for some of the qualities to look for.)
- > Find people who are FAT – faithful, available, teachable.
- > Look in your youth group and at school for students who are younger than you. Get suggestions from your youth worker.
- > Involve the people you select in a short-range project. Before you commit yourself, get him or her to help you do something that will require a sacrifice – such as helping you clean your car, helping your mom and dad with a project at home, or helping your youth minister with a project at church. That is one of the best ways to discover if he has the qualities listed above.
- > Talk one-on-one about getting together for discipling. Set up a time to tell him about what you want to do.

4. Commitment. When you talk to each person:

- > Recruit him to the cause of Christ, not to go through a book.
- > Tell him how much this can mean to his life. Tell him what you have gotten out of it.
- > Tell him how much it will cost him. Look at Luke 9:23 with him. Explain what it has cost you.
- > Ask for a commitment. Get a copy of *Following Jesus* and go over page 7, “Purpose,” and page 11, “Personal Commitment.” Make sure he understands completely what is involved.

5. Preparation. Get your own copy of the *Moving Toward Maturity Leader's Guide*. Read and follow the instructions in the introduction. Take each suggestion seriously. The better you prepare, the better your discipleship time will go.

6. The session. Gather the group and go through *Following Jesus*. Form a discipleship group. Get each person a copy of the book. Follow the instructions in the *Moving Toward Maturity Leader's Guide*.

7. Evaluation. Meet with your discipleship group leader or youth worker once every two weeks to talk about how things are going.

To complete this session memorize 2 Timothy 2:2.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week, using the following Bible readings:

Day 1: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Day 2: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Day 3: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Day 4: 2 Timothy 4:9-15

Day 5: 2 Timothy 4:16-22

Day 6: Titus 1:1-4

Day 7: Titus 1:5-9

2. Complete Session 10.

3. Work on the group ministry project.

4. Meet with your discipleship group after getting everything prepared to begin *Following Jesus*.

5. Continue taking action as a "Lunchtime Laborer" and "getting dirty for God."

S E S S I O N 10



FROM HERE TO THERE

Creating a ministry strategy

How many more lunches are you going to eat in the cafeteria this year?
_____ (Don't let your stomach lining go into spasms when you answer this.)

That represents the number of opportunities you have left for possible ministry before everyone scatters for the summer.

If you're at the end of the school year, think about how great it's going to be to eat your mom's lunch (peanut butter and jelly). Consider how many opportunities you will have to minister to the people around you this summer.

For nine weeks we have talked about ministering to others. Of all the things you have done during these nine weeks as a part of this group, what one thing have you enjoyed the most?

What is the most important insight you've gained about God?

What is the most important insight you have gained about yourself?

What have you learned about ministering to others that is of the most value to you?

By now you have a good grasp on what is involved in ministering to others. But how do you bring all of it into a focused plan that will cause you to have the maximum influence on the people around you?

Imagine you are in a room with a high ceiling. Tied to the ceiling is a sign that says "My Ministry." How are you going to get that sign? You can't climb through thin air to pick it up. You must use a ladder to reach it.

Your ladder is the "Practical Ministry Strategy." It will help you:

- > Get after it. Don't waste God's time on things that don't matter.
- > Get on top of it. Some people are run ragged going from one activity to the other. Don't lose perspective on what you are doing and why.

We find our Practical Ministry Strategy in Matthew 10.



Read Matthew 10 and write a paragraph outlining Jesus' ministry strategy for His disciples.

The ladder to discovering your ministry will have five rungs:



OUR PURPOSE DRIVES OUR MINISTRY

(Matthew 10:1,5)

When we understand our life purpose, then we are motivated to minister to others. Jesus took three actions to help His disciples discover their purpose. He takes the same three actions with us. According to Matthew 10:1, 5a, Jesus called the disciples, gave them authority, and sent them.

Called by Jesus

To help His disciples discover their purpose...Jesus “called His 12 disciples to Him.” He didn’t call them to a job, a school, a cause, an activity, or a church. He called them “to Him.” *They were called to a relationship with Jesus – to know Him, to love Him, and to please Him.*

We are called to the same relationship. Out of that relationship we begin to reflect Him in our relationships to others.

Our purpose:

**to know, love
and please Jesus.**

Given authority by Jesus

Jesus “gave them authority.” In Acts we see the disciples preaching, healing, and carrying out other ministries. They were not doing this by their own strength, but through the authority of Jesus Christ. How did they get His authority?



Look at Matthew 28:18. How much authority did Jesus have?



Hebrews 1:3 expresses how powerful Jesus' authority is. What does Jesus' powerful Word do?

**Our ministry ability
comes from having Jesus'
authority.**



What does Luke 10:19 tell us about our authority?

Sent by Jesus

"These twelve Jesus sent out." The disciples, under Jesus' authority, went out into the world to minister to others. They, and those they influenced, "caused trouble all over the world," (Acts 17:5-7) because they proclaimed Jesus King.

Jesus sends us out with His authority to turn the world upside down.



What is your life purpose?

Include these three essential points as you write it: To know, love,

and please Jesus Christ, to receive His authority, and to be sent out by him.

**Our mission is to
be sent out.**

Now go back to *Following Jesus*, page 29, to see how you answered the same question earlier. How does that response compare with your purpose now?

How do you see yourself living out your purpose?

Knowing our purpose moves us to the next rung on the ladder of our ministry strategy.



OUR PRIORITIES DECIDE OUR MINISTRY

(Matthew 10:5-6)

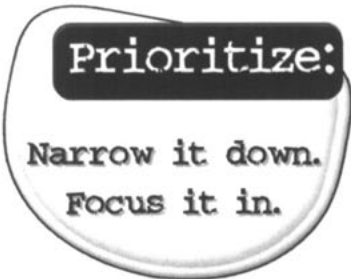
Jesus tells the disciples what things are not the priorities of their ministry. What does He tell them not to do?

That narrows it down. Then Jesus tells them what to do. What does He say?

That focuses it in. Jesus looked across the world and saw millions of people. All of them needed Him, but He concentrated His disciples' efforts on one limited group of people (priority) to accomplish His ultimate purpose. You look at all the people in the world, the needs, and the ministry possibilities. You say, "I want to do it all, but where do I start?" Jesus says, "Narrow it down, focus it in."

In order to discover your ministry priority, consider:

- > Your purpose
- > The needs of others that burden you
- > Your call
- > Your spiritual gift



(You will want to go back and review your responses in chapters 1, 2, and 5 to determine your ministry priority.)



Now, describe in detail what you think your ministry priority is.

Go over this with your discipleship group leader.

Discovering our ministry priority moves us to the next rung.

3

OUR PURSUIT OF GOALS DIRECTS OUR MINISTRY

(Matthew 10:7-8)

Jesus tells His disciples, "As you go" . . . In other words, He is telling them, "As you move toward your ministry priority." Then He gives them five almost impossible goals (v. 8). What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

As the disciples heard these goals, they probably said, “(Gulp!) Jesus, we’ve watched *You* pull this off, but good grief, there’s no way we can do that. This scares us to death. Raise people from the dead? Give us a break.” Certainly we would have responded that way too.

Jesus might have said, “Let’s review, men. Remember when we talked about authority? All of it belongs to Me. And I’ve given it to you. Because I do these things, you can do them too. Freely you have received; freely give! If you possess Me and My power, then you have no right to keep it to yourself. You must give it away.”

Setting big goals tends to scare us. So we settle for mediocrity because we set “man-sized goals” instead of “God-sized goals.” But because we have Jesus’ authority we can set God-sized goals. That’s what is so neat about Jesus. He stretches us into the impossible.



As you set goals for achieving your ministry priority, consider:

- > Do they fit into your purpose?
- > Do they reflect your ministry priority?
- > Are they measurable and specific?

For example, one student wrote: My goals for reaching athletes (ministry priority) are:

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1. To train six days a week so I can compete with excellence.
2. To develop a core group of five students to help me reach other athletes.
3. To share Christ with 15 athletes and invite them to come to my church to grow in Him.



Write out three faith goals that will take you toward your ministry priority?

Goal 1 _____

Goal 2 _____

Goal 3 _____

Pursuing specific faith goals moves us to our next rung.



OUR PLANS DEVELOP OUR MINISTRY

(Matthew 10:9-39)

Jesus gives His disciples an eight-step plan to accomplish their ministry. Read the verses that go with each step.

- > Step 1. Simplify your lifestyle (vv. 9-10).
- > Step 2. Select your companions carefully (vv. 11-15).
- > Step 3. Step out with shrewdness (vv. 16-17).
- > Step 4. Speak in the Spirit (vv. 18-20).
- > Step 5. Stand firm (vv. 21-25).

- > Step 6. Set aside fear (vv. 26-31).
- > Step 7. See that Jesus gets the glory (vv. 32-33).
- > Step 8. Sacrifice everything (vv. 34-39).

You know each of these steps applies to each of your goals. As you focus on each goal use these eight steps to lay out the plan for how you will accomplish that goal.



In these verses, Jesus gives a positive plan of action to get us to our goals. In prayer ask God to show you how each of these steps applies to each of your goals. As you focus on each goal use these eight steps to lay out the plan for how you will accomplish that goal.

Include these in the Practical Ministry Plan on page 132. Continue to update this every month.

By developing our ministry plan, we move up to the next ministry rung.

5

OUR PAYOFF DEPENDS ON OUR MINISTRY

(Matthew 10:40-42)

Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive a reward for their ministry. What does He say will cause His disciples to receive their reward (v. 42)?

William Barclay tells of Pizarro, the bold Spanish adventurer. He offered his little band a tremendous “choice between the known safety of Panama and the unknown splendor of Peru. He took his sword and traced a line in the sand. ‘Friends and comrades,’ he said, ‘on that side are toil, hunger, nakedness, the drenching storm, desertion and death; on this side, ease and pleasure. There lies Peru with its riches; here, Panama and its poverty. Choose each man what best becomes him. For my part, I go south.’ And he stepped across the line” (*The Daily Study Bible*, Harper & Row).



Jesus is inviting you to step across the line. To say it another way, He is inviting you to walk up the ladder of ministry. He didn't promise that it would be easy, but He did say the rewards would be great. Are you ready? If so, go for it!

Develop

your "Practical Ministry Plan."

(See page 132.)



Complete this session by memorizing **Matthew 10:42**.



ASSIGNMENT

1. Have a time alone with God every day this week by using the following Bible readings.

Day 1: Titus 1:10-16

Day 2: Titus 2:1-5

Day 3: Titus 2:6-10

Day 4: Titus 2:11-15

Day 5: Titus 3:1-7

Day 6: Titus 3:8-11

Day 7: Titus 3:12-15

NOTE:

Even though you have completed the *Moving Toward Maturity* series, you will want to continue to spend time alone with God, memorize Scripture, and offer Jesus to people every day.

2. Carry out your “Practical Ministry Plan.”
3. Continue to meet with your group to carry out the group project each week.
4. Continue to meet with your discipleship group.
5. As a “Lunchtime Laborer” continue to minister to people in your cafeteria. As someone who wants to “get dirty for God,” meet people’s needs wherever you find them.

PRACTICAL MINISTRY PLAN

- > My Life Purpose:

- > My Ministry Priority:

- > My Ministry Goals and Plans:

1.

-
-
-
-

2.

-
-
-
-

3.

-
-
-
-

My reward: how do I see God rewarding me for my ministry?

Now

Eternity



BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

Each memory verse on these cards is printed in the *New International Version* (NIV). The verses correspond with the Bible studies in this book.

ALWAYS CARRY THE CARDS WITH YOU.

Use what helps you most:

- > Put a rubber band around them.
- > Carry them in an envelope.
- > Place them in your wallet or pocketbook.
- > Put them on the visor of your car.
- > Carry them in your Bible.
- > Daily review each verse you've learned.
- > Have someone check your progress each week.
- > Apply each verse to your daily life.

1. HARVEST FIELD Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV)

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then 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."

2. GO Jeremiah 1:7 (NIV)

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."

3. CALL TO ME Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

"Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

4. LOVE 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

5. DIFFERENT GIFTS 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

6. WASH FEET John 13:14-15 (NIV)

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

7. CHEERFUL GIVER 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8. GREATEST COMMANDMENT Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

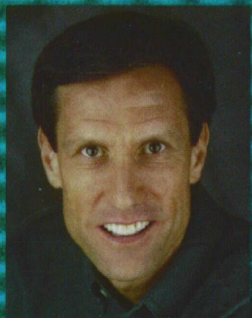
9. DISCIPLE OTHERS 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

And the things you have heard Me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

10. REWARD Matthew 10:42 (NIV)

“And if anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

Barry St. Clair desires to influence as many teenagers as possible to follow Christ. As the president of Reach Out Youth Solutions, he speaks to thousands of students each year and has written more than 20 books, including the Moving Toward Maturity series. Barry travels all over the world equipping youth leaders, parents and students. Through his leadership, thousands of churches have implemented strategies for Jesus-focused youth ministry. Barry played on the #3 basketball team in the country and has run the Boston Marathon. He and his wife, Lawanna, have eight children and live in Atlanta, Georgia.



MOVING TOWARD MATURITY SERIES OVER 1,000,000 BOOKS IN PRINT!

What makes you an influential person? Serving! Jesus led as a servant. He wants you to become one too. The people around you have deep hurt and pain. They need a friend who cares. That's you! God wants to use you to touch people's lives. This book will help you influence your world as you:

- See hurting people
- Respond to God's call
- Change lives through prayer
- Love people
- Discover your spiritual gifts
- Serve unselfishly
- Give away your money
- Get dirty for God
- Reproduce yourself in others
- Create your unique ministry

Other books in the Moving Toward Maturity series are:

- *Getting Started*
- *Following Jesus*
- *Spending Time Alone with God*
- *Making Jesus Lord*
- *Giving Away Your Faith*
- *Time Alone with God Notebook*
- *Leader's Guide*