# leader guide

MAKE DISCIPLES, THAT MAKE DISCIPLES, THAT MAKE *DIS*CIPLES

# dGroup guide

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dGroup guide

This is a resource for you, our dGroup leaders! The webpage of this guide can be found at:

www.restChurch.net/dGroup

# rest Church Welcome to discipleship!

\*We encourage you to read Appendix 9 (p.181 in the old book) in the back of the book prior to asking people to join your dGroup.



- QUICK TIPS BEFORE YOU BEGIN • Have all of your materials together and know them.

 Read through each week's content prior to your meeting

• Meet in a semi-quiet place to remove distractions.

• Read "Appendix 9," (pgs.183-190 in the old book p.215 new) for common dGroup questions.

 Make sure each group member has a book; you can find it on Amazon by searching: Growing Up Robby Gallaty, or the updated version at Lifeway.com

 Set an alarm on your phone at the start of your meeting so that you have a time limit and are respecting the time of your group. Letting your group know when you will end ahead of time creates room for sharing as there is an "off-ramp" for people to actually leave the meeting.

 Start with the end in mind. Reiterating to your dGroup that the goal of this is multiplication. The expectation is that when your group is over, each member of your dGroup will start their own groups.

HOLY SPIRIT MOVEMENT!

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**BIBLE ORIGIN + HISTORY** 

## Page 44

SHARE JESUS WITHOUT FEAR

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# WEEK #1 MATTHEW 9:36-38

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#### Introduction: Get To Know

- Introduce self + share your testimony 1 Peter 3:15 is a great spring-board for this.
- Have each group member share their testimony or Church background.

\*You can refer to "Appendix 2," (p.163 old book/p.195 new book) for more questions to get to know your group. These are really great questions to ask!

• Ask if anyone needs prayer or has praise

• Then, pray for one another - blessings or challenges. Pray for the guidance of God the Holy Spirit during this week's dGroup meeting.

\*The goal of this meeting is integration; NOT just information.



#### Questions: Ask Your Group

Q:1 - "What are your goals as we start this discipleship journey?"

Q:2 - In your own words, "Explain the purpose of dGroup?"

Q:3 - "What do you think we can do to make sure this group is transformational and NOT JUST informational?"

Q:4 - "Does everyone have a physical Bible they can bring?" \*Our recommendation for you is to make sure everyone has an ESV study Bible. If not, what a great gift to purchase for your group members!

Q:5 - "Does everyone have their own copy of 'Growing Up,' they can bring?"

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#### Set Expectations: Explain To Your Group

- Bring your physical Bible + Growing Up book when we meet each week.
- Do your assignments before we meet each week.
- Memorize your weekly verses.

• Show up each week (Short of a major crisis, make room in your schedule for this) You may apply a {3 strikes} system for accountability.

• Explain how you will communicate with your group during the week, (in the Church app, text, FB messenger, etc.,) and that you EXPECT them to respond during the week.

• Explain the end goal of dGroup = They replicate this group over and over.

• This is "Fight Club" or feel free to use a better analogy. Explain that what's talked about in dGroup stays in dGroup. Confidentiality within your group is key for accountability, transparency, vulnerability and growth. Make it clear not to discuss private details your group shares with anyone outside of your group (short of them wanting to harm themselves or others). Also, if you ever have a question on whether something "needs" to be shared or confronted, you can always consult a member of your Pastor team in confidence for wisdom.

• Give an "off ramp," your first meeting. This first meeting is the best time to see if your group members really want to stay in your group or not. Give them an "easy off ramp," and tell them they don't have to join your group. In fact, it's better they don't join your group for the health of your other group members if they aren't willing to commit to your set expectations. Maybe it's bad timing or maybe they had different expectations of the group, or whatever it may be. Believe the best in them and give them an out. Remember to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and give them an out at the very start. This will save both, you and them from a painful or awkward "breakup" later on down the road.

#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verse - Matthew 9:36-38.

\*See "Extras," below for context of Matthew 9

\*See "Appendix 6," (p.173 old book/p.207 new book) for Sample Memory Card examples. // side note // For memorization, I type the text out on an Instagram Story and then save that photo in my phone to an album so I can quickly recall the text without having to keep up with notecards. But, do whatever works best for you in your memorization techniques and share it with your group.

#2 - Remind your group to read the Introduction (p.XIX old book + p.1 new book) and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#### Assignments: {Continued}

#3 - Have them list their expectations of a dGroup and what they think the end goal should be. (As the group reads through Growing Up, encourage them to expand on or reevaluate their expectations as they go.)

#4 - Point them to the "Covenant" on (p.161 old book/p.193 new book) {page number varies depending on what version of the book you have}. If they want to continue in your group, have them sign the covenant in your book next week.



#### Extras: Content + Exposition of Matthew 9

#### Read + discuss the memory verse Matthew 9:36-38

"36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

•Ask your group members – "What stands out to you in this text?" Then break it down for them.

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE. Following weeks will be broken down as Heart, Head, and Hands Prep.

In the previous verses, Jesus was being unfairly criticized for His work, yet it did not stop Him. He didn't worry about, "How can I stop them from talking trash about me?" Instead He carried on with His Father's business. Additionally, the word about Jesus has gotten out and so He's drawing huge crowds during this time in His ministry. Jesus looks out at this crowd and instead of flourishing as God's kids, He sees that they're "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Jesus is alluding to the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-2) where Jesus challenged the religious leaders way of life, attitudes and behaviors.

The text says, "Jesus was filled with compassion," (splagchnistheis) [[SPLONK-KNEE-THUH-SEESE]] the strongest word for "pity," in the Greek language. This phrase isn't in the classical Greek or Septuagint (the Heb-Greek translation) because there was no word strong enough to fit the description of what Jesus was "feeling" here, so one was created by the evangelists to fit this description. As Jesus is "filled", literally "to the brim," "overflowing," with "compassion," (a pain inside of Him) it moves Him into action. The sympathy of Jesus here isn't about the Roman occupation of Israel but instead it symbolizes the "lost sheep of Israel."

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#### Extras: {Continued}

Instead of the Pharisees and other religious leaders "shepherding" God's kids with kindness and mercy; they've been judging, intimidating, and bullying the people of God to follow "man made rules and procedures" that weren't found in the Law of Moses. From this, the people are literally "helpless" against these leaders since their participation in and their worship of God and the life of their community was dependent on the approval of these men. This is both an expression of "care" for the people and an "indictment" against the religious leaders.

Next Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Because the "flock" has been neglected, it has led to a "harvest that's going to waste." A "harvest" is a really good thing! Jesus sees humanity's need for God and it's a "harvest of opportunity" for people to meet and do life with God. Yet, the "laborers" (another way to say those who work for the Kingdom) are "few".

So, what's the solution to this labor shortage? Jesus answers: Prayer. "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to bring more harvesters to do the work." Jesus here identifies 2 roles that believers can serve in "harvesting": praying earnestly for God to move and going out as "laborers" to share the Gospel. The Greek phrase "send out laborers" here is forcible. It's as if God is "thrusting" or "pushing them" out into the field. It's the same word used to excorcise a demon from someone. Just as it takes a "great power," a "Holy Spirit power," to drive out a demon from someone who is possessed, it will take an equal force of God to drive the believer into His Gospel-proclaiming work.

In the following chapter, Jesus will send out His disciples to participate directly in this harvest.



#### Application: Questions To Reflect On

Q:1 - Are you working or wasting the "harvest" opportunity that's in front of you?

Q:2 - Who in your life is "harassed and helpless" like a "sheep without a shepherd?" Are you filled with the "splagchnistheis" of Christ when you think about the lost?

**Q:3** – What will you do to complete the work of the harvest with the lost people in your life that God has "thrust" you into sharing the Gospel with?

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### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

• Spend some time just hanging out and chatting if you get done early. Ask your group members what they like to do in their free time, what their interests are, etc., Get to know the "real" them.

\*Lastly, emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.

#### THE PATH: Holy Spirit Movement

\*ONLY PROCEED IN THE FOLLOWING IF THERE IS A NATURAL PROGRESSION IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. DEPENDING ON YOUR GROUPS DYNAMICS, THIS MAY BE BETTER IMPLEMENTED AS INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATIONS OVER SEVERAL WEEKS. (WE WILL EXPLAIN THIS PROCESS AT OUR "LEAD A GROUP" MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE) BUT PLEASE DO NOT NEGLECT THIS SECTION EITHER.

At some point as your group meets together you need to assess the spiritual health of each individual. You are their Shepherd, and they are now part of your little flock. To some degree, (Hebrews 13:17) you are now (both burdened and blessed) responsible for their spiritual journey. An easy "in" to gather some of this info from your group is to ask some basic questions such as:

(A) Has each member committed their life to Christ? If not, encourage them to follow Christ with a profession of faith. How cool would that be if you could lead them to Jesus! www.restChurch.net/saved

(B) Has each member been baptized? If not, encourage them (if they are saved) to sign up for the next baptism. www.restChurch.net/baptizeme

(C) Has each member attended the Spiritual Gifts class? If so, find out what their spiritual gift is and make a note of this. If not, encourage them to attend the next Sp.Gifts class. www.restChurch.net/spiritual-gifts

(D) Has each member taken the personalysis quiz? If not, encourage them to do so. www.restChurch.net/take-the-quiz

(E) Has each member taken the love language assessment? If so, put their love language down in your phone under their name so it pops up when they call you. If not, encourage them to take the assessment and fill you in on the results. www.restChurch.net/ spiritual-gifts dGroup guide

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(F) Is each group member connected to a Serve Squad? If so, find out where they are serving so you can say, hello to them and encourage them as they are serving on Sunday. If not, encourage them to get plugged in to serving and offer to introduce them to a serve squad leader. www.rest.churchcenter.com/groups/serve-squads

(G) Is each group member a Family Partner? If not, encourage them to commit to the local Church (even if it's not ours) and attend the next rest 101 - Become an FP mtg.

This info. is asked NOT to just check off boxes or to complete some sort of weird "super-Christian," mile-marker. But, these are steps that our "Pathway" team has prayed over and carved out for what rest Church considers signs of someone who is becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus – a disciple.

The overall goal between you and your group members in asking these questions is Holy Spirit movement. Are your group members actually "moving" in the direction of GHSPirit or are they stagnate? Spiritually speaking, you are either growing or you are dying, but you can't do both (maintaining is also dying btw). You are trying to find out: Are they growing in relationship, community and service with Christ and one another? The reality is that "metrics" don't always paint a full picture of someone's walk with Jesus, but they can serve as good "indicators" of where someone is at in their relationship with Jesus. We believe since God has given us these tools, we should use them to steward them and His people wisely.

At any time, if you have questions on the above info, feel free to consult Pastor AB, rKids Director Molly Walls, Deacon Carl Nicholson or Deacon Ted Smith for more explanation of this "Path." // side note // As you gather this info in your group, please forward it to info@restChurch.net so we can add it to your group members profile, (this information is NOT shared with everyone, but is limited to dGroup leaders and our Pathway team) so we can help assist each person that walks in our doors to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus!



# WEEK #2 HEBREWS 12:1-2

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#### Tips Before You Start

Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips" then continue here.
 This is a great week to introduce "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - p.175 old book/p.209 new book) At the start of each group meeting, ask these questions before your group prayer time. The accountability questions are as follows:

Q:1 - Have you spent time in the Word and Prayer this week? Q:2 - Have you shared the Gospel or your testimony with an unbeliever this week? Q:3 - Have you spent quality time with your family this week? Q:4 - Have you viewed anything immoral this week? Q:5 - Have you had any lustful thoughts or tempting attitudes this week? Q:6 - (The book's question is different here, but mine is:) Have you picked up the trash this week? \* This is a question not of "physical trash" being picked up; but did you go out of your way to do what's NOT expected of you in some way this week that honored God?

your way to do what's NOT expected of you in some way this week that honored God? Because it's never the wrong time to do the right thing.

Q:7 - (Custom questions) This is a chance for you to ask each member to share their own personal area of consistent struggle and gather an accountability question that's specific to each team member. Write it down in your book with their name and ask them this question each week. The apostle Paul had a "thorn in his side," a personal struggle that he wrestled with as well, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

Q:8 - Have you lied about any of your answers today?

• Have your group members sign the Covenants (p.161 old book/p.193 new book) in their book or yours if they plan on continuing in your group.

• Have your group members each cite the previous weeks memory verse: Matthew 9:36-38

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#### Introduction: Chapter "Introduction" Summary

A lot of books have discussed "discipleship methods", but few create an actual game-plan for disciple-making. Often these "methods" leave you going: "Okay, but where do I go from here? What now?" In the "Introduction," Robby introduces the acronym C.L.O.S.E.R. as an outline for the book. Following these aspects of discipleship will help you get your dGroup off the ground and headed in the right direction.

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#### Introduction: Chapter Summary {Continued}

- Communicate with God through prayer.
- Learn to understand and apply God's Word to your life.
- Obey God's commands.
- Store God's Word in your heart.
- Evangelize (share God's Word with others).
- Renew yourself spiritually every day.

\*Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting as you continue meeting. It's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer.

#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - How much of its resources do you think our Church dedicates to overseas missions? Local missions? Worship services? Building projects? What about disciple-building projects? You can learn a lot about the "ethos" of a Church in where the most time/ talents/and treasures are dedicated because your wallet usually leads to where your heart is. Don't believe me? Look at your most recent bank statement or screen time over the course of the month - it will show you what you treasure most. (Matthew 6:21)

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Ask:
Q:2 - Does your Church's allocation of resources reflect the gravity of discipleship?

**Q:3** – What about your life? Do you dedicate an adequate amount of your resources to discipling and being discipled? If not, how can you make a greater investment in discipleship? If so, how can you make a greater investment in discipleship?



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

#### • Read + discuss next weeks memory verse Hebrews 12:1-2

"1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

## THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP. LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

Since chapters and verse divisions weren't part of the original written texts of the Bible, verses 1 and 2 of chapter 12 flow naturally from the end of chapter 11. This provides a direct application of the points made in Hebrews 12:1-2 from the themes flowing out of Chapter 11. Hebrews 11 emphasizes some dramatic examples of God's use of faith. This is why chapter 12 starts with...

V.1 - "Therefore," as it's implying all of the prior reasoning up to this point, including chapter 10 of Hebrews. "Since we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses," meaning the universal Christian Church made up of Believers of the past, present and future. It's a picture you can imagine of the saints of past standing in the crowds cheering you along in your disciple-making journey. This also includes lost people who are watching you, it's as if there's always a stadium of spectators watching your life.

So what do we do in light of this revelation? How do we respond? We are to "lay down every weight and sin that clings so closely." "Sin," obviously holds us back or trips us up in our race to follow Jesus but also so does dead "weight". There may be things in your life that aren't "sin" that are tripping you up in following Jesus. Sometimes a lot of really "good things" in our life can distract us from the "God things" that we're supposed to be doing.

In this "race" we must "run with endurance." "Endurance" is what you're going to need to finish this race. "Endurance," or the Greek hupomone [[HOOP-UH-MONE-AYY]] is a determined patience and refusal. It's a patience to master your run and a refusal to delay your run. Endurance or perseverance may be the most important word in the Christian's vocab. As in marriage, the most important day isn't your first day. The most important day is your final day because it's not about how you start but it's all about how you finish.

But how can anyone actually "endure the specific race set before them" with the present struggle on an imperfect sin-stained planet in an imperfect sin-stained body? Here's how:

V.2 - "looking to Jesus," our eyes are fixed on Him as we run. He's the focus, He's our inspiration, He's our motivation and He's the destination. Looking at Jesus also means we "look away" from everything else. We're not focused on the cloud of witnesses, or the weight and sin, or the other competitors in the race...but just Jesus.

The language of "founder" and "perfecter" here is intended to communicate that Jesus is at both the "starting line" of your race and at the "finish line" of your race.

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### Signature TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

Jesus finished His race by "enduring the cross." Jesus endured His race by focusing on the "joy" beyond the cross. Jesus didn't regard the "cross itself," as a "joy" instead He "despised the shame" of the cross. The cross was indeed shameful for Jesus as He was: shamefully accused, shamefully mocked, shamefully beaten, shamefully naked, shamefully forced to wear a crown of thorns and robe, shamefully bore the sin of humanity, shamefully separated from God the Father and shamefully died between 2 thieves. This is the essence of Godly faith: To trust God with our future, despite how hard it might be in the present. (Philippians 4:12-13)

But, Jesus could look past the horror of the cross to enjoy the "joy" beyond it - which would be the salvation made available to all peoples, as well as His reward being "seated at the right hand of the throne of God the Father." // side-note // This is where Jesus is today, in heaven at the right hand of God; and not in your heart.



#### THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - How has the faith of those around you helped or encouraged you to run your race more effectively?

Q:2 - What "sin," or "weight," seems to keep tripping you up in your run?

Q:3 - How does Christ on the cross spur you on to continue to run, despite your current hardships?

#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

- #1 Read next week's memory verses Hebrews 12:1-2.
- #2 Remind your group to read Chapter 1 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.
- #3 Have your group memorize the "C.L.O.S.E.R." acronym for next week.



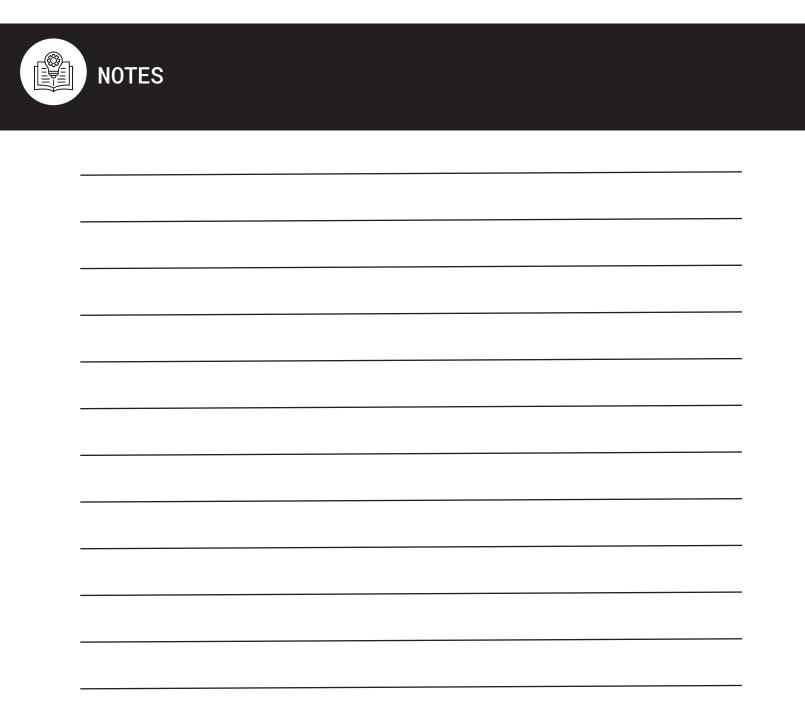
### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



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# WEEK #3 MATTHEW 28:18-20

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#### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here. Don't be afraid to break from the norm. Consider setting a meeting in the future where it's just time to hangout with your group without any teaching connected. Also, it's a great idea to set a time to go out and just serve somewhere together. We need both the "teaching" aspect and the 'who are you doing life with' aspect in our groups to be successful. In the scriptures Jesus didn't just spend all of his time in a dGroup Bible study with Peter, James and John (as you'll learn more about in the coming weeks), but instead He took them along with Him in different places He would naturally go. ~For example: If you have to go to the hospital to pray for a friend, or go to the gym regularly, or hit the same spot everyday for lunch - send an invite out for your group members to tag along with you as you do life. Always be looking for where GHSPirit may be leading you as you lead your group.

• Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38 + Hebrews 12:1-2.

Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - p.175 old book/p.209 new book)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.



#### Introduction: Chapter 1 Summary

Robby puts himself forward as an example of what God-empowered discipleship can do. This can certainly work with others, but many churches seem to place disciple-making on the back burner. He demonstrates that this devaluation of discipleship comes, in part, from ignoring the ministry method of Jesus. Jesus was not only the ultimate sacrifice for man's sins, he was the master disciple-maker! Further, he alludes to the dangers of discounting the place of disciple-making and gives his readers a basic set of goals for which to strive: be discipled; make disciples; help your disciples make disciples.

#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What are some things that jumped out at you in this chapter?

Q:2 - Remember how you felt when you came to Christ. Did someone come alongside you to assist you in growing in your new-found faith? How did he or she do so?

**Q:3** – For those of you who have been discipled, what are some ways you have benefited from discipleship?

Q:4 - In your opinion, why hasn't discipleship been a priority for the Church? Has it been a priority for you?

Q:5 - Consider Jesus' 4-step process for making disciples (pgs.11-12 old book/22-23 new). Why is it an effective strategy?

Q:6 - What style of ministry have you embraced? Are you a creator or a consumer? Remember the best discipler for you will be, "you," as a self-feeder.

\*We also have a resource for new and growing Christians called, "Next Steps". You can pick up a copy of this on campus at rest or visit this link below to give to each member of your group: www.restChurch.net/next-steps.



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. Matthew 28:18-20

"18And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

Jesus here is speaking to His remaining disciples (11, minus Judas - he's gone at this point) as they're together on an unnamed mountain away from Jerusalem. Jesus has often spoke of His "power source" long before His impending death (Matthew 11:27) but now Jesus, the Son, has chosen to reveal the Father to His 11 disciples that are standing in front of Him.

V.18 - Because Jesus has "all authority" He can send whomever He pleases, wherever He

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#### THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

pleases, to do whatever He pleases. "All" is all: "all authority" over "all nations" and "all things" for "all" days. // side-note // If Jesus isn't "fully God" (He is: John 1:14, 1 Tim.2:5, Col.2:, Phil.2:5-11) co-powerful with God the Father, then claiming an equality of power here would be blasphemy.

Jesus will now give them the authority-and the responsibility-to represent Him and His salvation to the world. This verse and the 2 to follow at the end of Matthew's Gospel are often called together "The Great Commission."

V.19 - To some very imperfect disciples Jesus says, "Go." "Go" here isn't a suggestion but instead is a command from God. A better translation might be, "as you're going... make disciples." Or, in other words - "as you go about your day, doing what you normally do, with the people you come in contact with - make disciples." Notice that Jesus doesn't say to make converts, or get more Church members, or to create more waves for social justice..but instead He says, "make disciples." A disciple is a student, "a lifelong learner of Jesus." Additionally Jesus extends the call outside of your neighborhood to carry the message to "all nations" - meaning that there is no place on the planet where the Gospel of Jesus should not be preached and where disciples should not be made.

**V.20** – According to Jesus, discipleship involves at least 2 things: "teaching" and "obeying".

Disciples are made through "Teaching". Teaching does include words + knowledge but it also includes relationships. As Jesus "taught" the disciples, the disciples were now given the power to "teach" others. In discipleship the student always becomes the teacher and continues to pass that cycle on. We are to "teach all that's been commanded," meaning we share the full counsel of God with our disciples, as Jesus continually reveals it to us.

"Baptism," (v.19) is a form of obedience as Baptism is a believers spiritual birthday party, or their public declaration of their new faith in Christ. We are given the authority to baptize "in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit," declaring someone's position under the God-head in the eternal family of God. "In the name," literally means you're "under a new allegiance", as you've been grafted into God's family you get a new identity. // side-note // Experiencing God in 3-persons is the essential basis of discipleship.

Jesus wraps up this command with a promise, "As you go…making disciples…teaching and obeying…in My name…by My power…I WILL BE WITH YOU UNTIL THE END." Jesus has given you a mission to fulfill, but He didn't send you to fulfill it alone.

## THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - Have you ever thought you weren't smart enough, good enough, brave enough (fill in the blank "enough") to make disciples? How does Matthew 28 help you overcome the myths in your life?

**Q:2** - How does understanding that "make disciples" is the only number Jesus is counting change your mindset on disciple making?

#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. Matthew 28:18-20

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 2 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Have your group reflect on Robby's testimony this week. God graciously saved him from a life of rampant drug use, lying, cheating, and stealing. From what has Christ saved your dGroup members? Have them list some of the things that have changed about their life since God removed them from the darkness and placed them in his glorious light (Eph. 5:8). Have them question where they might be without God's gift of grace through Christ.



#### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.





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# WEEK #4 2 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

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#### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38 +
 Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

## C D

#### Introduction: Chapter 2 Summary

There's a lot of confusion surrounding the method of discipleship. Using the 3 aspects of discipleship outlined in Matthew 28:19-20 as a basis-go, baptize, teach-Robby teaches us what it means to be both a disciple and a disciple-maker. Further, he discusses the obstacles to completing our Christ-commissioned tasks.



### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What are some things that jumped out at you in this chapter?

Q:2 - The 3 aspects of the Great Commission are go, baptize, and teach. Are you engaged in all three? If not, what measures should you take to do so?

#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:3 - What are some things that jumped out at you in this chapter?

Q:4 - What are some steps your Church needs to take to become a disciple-making church?

Q:5 – Can you identify each of the 3 relationships in your life: Paul, Barnabas and Timothy? If not, who are potential individuals who could fill these roles?

Q:6 - If you only had 3 years left to live, in whom would you invest? How would you prioritize your time?

\*Robby says, "Many Christians are birthed into the family of God and then left abandoned." (p.25 old book) As you begin to share the Gospel, here is a resource/form we use in service at Church that can help walk you through the, "Romans Road" at https://rest.churchcenter.com/people/forms/319880. Feel free to refer to this at any time; every believer should know these fundamental verses! \*Romans ~ 3:23/6:23/5:8/10:9-10/10:13



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

"1You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

V.1 - Paul is writing to his spiritual "son" in the faith, Timothy. Paul is at this time an older man, likely in his 60s, and he didn't have a wife or kids. Instead, he had devoted his life to serving Christ. Timothy was likely the closest thing he had to an actual "child."

Paul encourages Timothy in 2 ways, the FIRST is "be strengthened." This is 1 of 25 times that Paul encourages Timothy to be strong as Timothy endured in his work at the Church at Ephesus. The specific way in which Timothy would "be strong" was "by the grace that is IN Christ Jesus." This "grace" is the divine help; the unmerited assistance given by God the Holy Spirit to every believer found "in Christ." You can be "in Church," and not "in Christ." From this grace (Romans 5:2) we start, we stand, and we are strengthened.



### THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

V.2 - The SECOND encouragement for Timothy comes from Paul's own life. What Timothy saw and "heard" Paul do publicly and privately before God, he was encouraged to replicate i.e. - "Follow me as I follow Christ." What Paul poured into Timothy, Timothy was to pour into others.

And on this "following of Paul," Timothy was tasked to "entrust" the message of "Make disciples, that make disciples, that make disciples" to a specific type of person: "faithful" people who were "able to teach others also." This is why finding F-A-T (faithful, available, teachable) disciples is chiefly important. Smart, strong, beautiful, popular, perfect people aren't the key characteristics of a F-A-T disciple. Without "faithful," disciples the message you hand over will likely fall into empty hands, heads, and hearts.



#### THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

This would be a great time to share with your group members "why" you perceived each of them as F-A-T prior to asking them to join your group. Maybe share with them how you tested them in their F-A-T-ness without them knowing before you asked them to join your group. (Btw - if you didn't "test," them for F-A-T before you asked them to join your group, definitely do that next time).

Q:1 - How have you been strengthened by Christ's grace in your life?

Q:2 - Take a moment to pray for those in your life whom have invested the Gospel into you.

**Q:3** – Begin to pray and ask God for those who will join each of your group members "new-groups" after your dGroup concludes.



#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 3 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Ask your dGroup members to evaluate their Paul, Barnabas and Timothy relationships



#### Assignments: {Continued}

this week. If they do not have a person or persons to fill one or more of these roles, encourage them to pray every day this week that God might establish those relationships.



#### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



# WEEK #5 JOHN 13:34-35

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#### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38 +
 Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

#### Introduction: Chapter 3 Summary

Robby provides a blueprint for a God-honoring, disciple-building dGroup. He shows that a closed, small group of 3 to 5 people of the same gender can facilitate community in Christ and accountability to the Lord and to one another.



Q:1 - What stood out to you in this chapter?

Q:2 - Does your Church reflect a "Nupedia model" or a "Wikipedia model"?

Q:3 - Have you ever confused a dGroup with a small group or Bible study? How are the two types different?

### THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:4 - Why is accountability important? To whom are you currently holding yourself accountable?

Q:5 - What are the 4 aspects of accountability? Why are they essential?

Q:6 - What are the benefits of having a dGroup consisting of 3 to 5 people? What are some of the potential challenges to this group size?



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. John 13:34-35

"34A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

V.34 - This "re-issued," commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) of Jesus is "new" in the sense that He is "re-freshing," what He's already stated before. He's "fluffing the laundry" so-to-speak. Jesus is giving this "re-issue" in the context of washing the disciples feet (John 13:2-5). The command to "love" wasn't new; but the extent of love just displayed by Jesus was new, as would be the display of the cross. Love was newly defined from His example, extending to those around us. We are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, just as Christ has loved us.

V.35 - Jesus said that "love" would be the identifying mark of His "disciples." It wasn't that love for the outside world was un-important or irrelevant, but it wasn't first. There are other measures of discipleship, but they come after this attribute. Jesus would mark us as His disciples by our "love for one another." We can mark ourselves as His disciples by our "love for one another." And even the world can mark us as His disciples by our "love for one another."

Tertullian (the Father of Latin theology) recorded that the pagans of his day (a century after the Gospel of John was published) as saying this about Christians: "See how they love one another!"

## THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - How does the commandment to "love one another" need to be re-fluffed in your life?

Q:2 - Do you think people could mark you as a follower of Jesus by how you "love" others?



#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. John 13:34-35

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 4 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Ask the members of your dGroup if they have an accountability partner. Encourage those who do not to pray that God might present someone with whom they might stay accountable. If one is already available, tell them to propose the formation of an accountability partnership.



#### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

- Pray specifically for each member of your group.
- Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.





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# WEEK #6 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

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#### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

• Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38 + Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

# 2500

#### Introduction: Chapter 4 Summary

Robby introduces the spiritual disciplines, one of the primary forces behind spiritual growth. By using the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy, he presents the goal of one's pursuit of spiritual discipline: Godliness.



#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

- Q:1 What stood out to you in this chapter?
- Q:2 In your own words, define "godliness."
- Q:3 What can we learn about godliness from the biblical example of Enoch?

#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:4 - What is the purpose of our pursuit of godliness?

Q:5 - Make a list of some of the ways God has used change agents (i.e., people, circumstances, and spiritual disciplines) in your life for spiritual growth.

Q:6 - What do you think of when you hear the word "discipline." Do you cringe or do you rejoice? Read Hebrews 12:5-11 and identify the reason we are disciplined and what the results of discipline can be.

**Q:7** – What steps can you take to discipline your inner man? What course corrections need to be made in your life today?



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

"7Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

V.7 - In Verse 6 Paul commanded Timothy to prepare himself, his church, and to defend the truth against false teachings. Here, Paul continues to offer practical advice from a prison cell on how to do this most effectively. Paul has previously referred to "myths" as in 1 Timothy 1:4. These superstitions also included the Gnostic heresies mentioned in verses 1 through 5. There, Paul discussed those who condemned certain foods and marriage; they were getting hung up on the wrong focus, as their attention needed to be on God's word VS 'old-wives tales.'

Paul then sets in front of Timothy an intentional paradox saying, "rather train yourself for godliness." Timothy was to meet the bogus asceticism of the heretics by focusing his efforts on personal godliness. The phrase used here specifically refers to "teaching and instruction". This sort of "training" wasn't simply for knowledge, but rather for Godly living. This reflects the words from James 1:22, that says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." For us, this learning is always meant to lead us to action.



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

V.8 - Paul here is comparing the "physical training" for an athlete with "spiritual training" for godliness. He says that "bodily training/physical conditioning" is of some value, but is less important than a godly life. This doesn't mean to neglect your physical body in training, but instead the main focus should, as Pastor Isaac once said, "Focus on getting your soul swole like Schwarzenegger." The reason that godliness is more important than physical fitness is due to its eternal value. Physical fitness matters while on this planet, but as you die one day so will your body. Spiritual growth on the other hand will continue through eternity as it "holds value now and also for what's to come."

And even though godliness doesn't make this life the most comfortable, or richest, or most pleasurable, or easiest right now it undeniably makes it the best and most fulfilling life you can live in this world.



#### THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - If a CSI alien was dropped into your life to investigate you; what sort of things would they find you "training harder for" than godliness?

Q:2 - How are you personally doing physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally in honoring God right now?



#### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. 1 Timothy 4:7-8

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 5 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Tell your group members to write a letter to the person who most affected their spiritual life. Have them place emphasis on thanking the person and assuring them they are being prayed for this week.

## END

### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



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#### Tips Before Your Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

• Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38 + Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

# C.M

#### Introduction: Chapter 5 Summary

Robby examines one of the most powerful spiritual disciplines-Prayer-by diving into the prayers and prayer-life of Jesus. He then gives practical tips on developing a dynamic prayer life that have been derived from the story of Jesus and Robby's own personal walk with Christ.



#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What stood out to you in this chapter?

**Q:2** – On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest - how would you rate your prayer life on that scale?

#3 - Who do you know that could be your prayer partner? How would having someone like this affect your prayer life and accountability?

#### THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:4 - Consider the disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray," in Luke 11:1. What prompted them to make this request? What are some ways you can improve your prayer life?

Q:5 - What spiritual stones need to be stacked in your life? How big is your pile?

Q:6 - What changes must you make in your schedule in order to rise early for prayer?

Q:7 - Have you stopped praying for something or someone because God did not answer your prayer on your timetable? What was it? Was it correct to stop, or should you have waited on the Lord?

Q:8 - List 3 people who are far from God, for whom you can pray over during the next few weeks.



#### THE TEXT: Head Prep

Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. Philippians 4:6-7

**"6**do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

Take some time to share with your group your own prayer life as you dive into this text: How you think about prayer. Who you pray for when you're praying. How you've taught your children or others around you to pray. Stress that there are no "right words" or "wrong things" to say as you come humbly before God in prayer.

\*\*One example of this is: When I stop to pray at night, I think of my prayer life in an Acts 1:8 sorta way. So, I'll pray in terms of proximity, "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth." I'll start with thanks to God (as God as the epi-center of my life) and then I'll work my way outward from there. I'll pray for my own heart, then my wife, then my boys, then our Pastor team and their families, then my dGroup, and deacons and leaders and Church, and for people at rest to meet Jesus Sunday, etc., and I'll keep working my way out until I get regional, national and global.

### THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

V.6 - Because Jesus' return is soon (Phil.4:5), His followers should situate their lives and thoughts in certain ways. One of those ways shows up in verse 6 as a command and NOT an option. "Anxious about no-thing," doesn't mean we should be "careless" or "have a lack of concern" for all things; it simply means that as a believer we should not be paranoid, fearful, or uneasy. Why? Because you have an all access VIP pass to God's ear that's available to you 24/7 365. And since you can speak directly with God, the maker of heaven and earth, who has all power and authority, who breathed out the stars and is in total control of every situation – this should bring you a great confidence and reassurance (Ephesians 3:11-12) as you pray. If you find yourself feeling anxious about something, use that as a signal in your life to launch into prayer.

Which prayer, btw is simple, it is simply talking with God. Whenever we read God's word, that's Him talking to us. But when we pray, that's us talking to Him. And so, having a conversation with God can be done at anyplace at anytime, out loud or in your heart - - He hears it all the same (Psalm 139:2-4).

But, what should we actually "pray about?" If you lose your wallet does God care about that enough to help you find it? Yes! Paul tells us, "in everything," no matter how big or small, if it matters to us then it matters to God. So, instead of sitting in anxiety, believers are to humbly and gratefully approach God with whatever it is that's on their minds. If you're happy, tell God about it. If you're sad, tell God about it. If you're full, or hungry, or in need, or blessed, or burdened, if you don't know 'what' to pray for...."in any and every situation" bring it before God in prayer. There is no area of your life that is of "no concern" before God.

Paul here mentions "prayer" and "supplication." These 2 aspects of prayer are similar, but they are also uniquely distinct. "Prayer" here is a broader word that could mean "all of our communication with God," but "supplication" means directly asking God to do something. Many times our prayers go unanswered in our lives because we don't ask God for anything. Here God invites us simply to "let your requests be made known" to Him. God wants to know you. This brings up an interesting question: Why do I need to pray if God already knows what I'm going to say before I actually say it? Well, yes - it is true that God already "knows" our requests before we pray them; yet, sometimes, He will often wait for our participation through prayerful submission before He grants or responds to what we're requesting.

Paul also says we should pray, "with thanksgiving." This is a key theme for Paul; and thanksgiving to God helps guard us against a whining, or complaining spirit before Him. God is big enough to handle our tough questions and He can be our "lightning rod" so to speak, like He was for David at times in the Psalms. But, thanksgiving is as much of a reminder for our own hearts as it is meant for God's glory.

# THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

\*A mature prayer includes both thanking God for what He's done as well as asking Him for help in our areas of need.

Paul is giving the Christian prescription to reduce anxiety in every area of life. This doesn't mean you are going to live a worry-free life. Nor does it mean additional help won't be required in your life. However, it does teach us that addressing problems in our lives should ALWAYS begin with prayer, BEFORE GOD, BEFORE WE bring it in front of anybody else it must come in front of the Father.

V.7 - And from this "prescription," here's what will happen in your life: "The peace of God" will come to you.

The Bible describes at least 3 great aspects of peace that relate back to God. #1 - Peace from God: Paul often used this as an introduction to his letters when he wrote; reminding us that our "peace" comes to us as a gift from God.

#2 - Peace with God: This describes a reconciled relationship that we've entered into with God through the finished work of Jesus. When you are "in Christ" God the Father looks at you and sees the finished work of His son covering your sin. It is peace with God.

#3 - Peace of God: This is the peace talked about from verse 7 above. It is a peace beyond or above "all mind/all earthly reasoning," sorta peace; that is, a "peace" beyond our power of thinking, that supercedes/surpasses all understanding.

This "peace of God" will "surpass your understanding." The peace of God is similar here to God the Holy Spirit in the sense that, "above understanding," isn't something that is "senseless," therefore we could never understand or slightly comprehend it; but instead, this "peace of God" comes as endlessly understandable (like God the Holy Spirit). This peace is beyond our ability to fully understand and explain – therefore it must be experienced. Even the most Godly among us will never be able to fully comprehend the peace of God – but you WILL recognize it when it shows up.

And as the peace of God reigns over your life, it will "guard your heart and mind in Christ." The word guard here is describing a military action. This is something that the peace of God does for you; it is a peace that's on guard over your heart and mind. Imagine your heart and mind as a little castle and the Holy Spirit guards the gates/ entrance w/peace (2 Corinthians 10:5). \*Whenever people seem to "lose" their heart or mind in this world, I often wonder if it's connected to an absence of the "peace of God" in their life?

These verses are GREAT NEWS for us Church! We really can be anxious for NO-thing, pray about EVERY-thing, and thankful for ANY-thing by the prayer fueled power of God!

# THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - What in your life makes you anxious that you need to surrender in prayer before God?

Q:2 - When you run into a problem, do you typically take it to God or a friend or social media first?

Q:3 - Who else in your life do you need to share Paul's prescription for anxiety with?



### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. Philippians 4:6-7

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 6 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Tell your group to go to at least 1 of the 3 people they listed above (in the "Heart Prep" section) and invite them out for lunch, coffee, or just to hangout. Tell them to use this time to share how God is working in their own life, but also encourage them to place emphasis on discussing the spiritual condition of their friend.

\*PRAYER IN PRACTICE: If you go out to eat food this week, when your waiter/waitress comes to you for your order before you order simply say: "Hi, what's your name? My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I love Jesus and I just wanted to know if there's anything I could pray for you right now about?" {ask for specifics and then pray right there at your table}.

#4 - "Let's get Lent-ed." Tell your group to give up their favorite activity this week and use that time for prayer and meditation on the Word of God.

## Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.




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# WEEK #8 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38
+ Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8 + Phil.4:6-7

Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)
Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups. \*You may consider splitting this info into more than 1 week.

### Introduction: Chapter 6 Summary

Many Christians believe they are not "enlightened" enough to read the Bible and use this as an excuse not to study the Scriptures for themselves. Robby corrects this dangerous sentiment by appealing to God the Holy Spirit, who has been given to believers in order to lead them into all truth.

He encourages the readers to study the Bible using a 3-step process-Observation, Explanation, and Application, and demonstrates this method's effectiveness through a test case.



## THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - Have you ever had a difficult time reading God's Word? If so, has it ever made you want to quit? Is there 1 passage in particular that has given you trouble? If so, examine it together as a group.

## THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:2 - Why is context important for interpretation? What could happen if the context of a passage were not taken into consideration?

Q:3 - Why are observation and explanation essential in the interpretive process?

Q:4 - What is the goal of application? What can happen if a text is misapplied?

Q:5 - What would you say in response to someone who said, "The Bible can't be trusted because it's a translation of a translation, so its interpretation must've been lost along the way and we can't be sure who wrote all of it."

\*See "Extras" below. (You may want to discuss this portion w/your group at a different time or split this section into a couple of weeks).



## THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"16All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

V.16 - Does "all," mean all? A thought for thought (TFT) translation would argue that as the apostle Paul says here, "All Scripture" in this case he is specifically referring to the OT, since the full New Testament didn't exist yet. At the time Paul wrote these words, books such as the Gospel of John and Revelation had not yet been written. However, this principle would still apply to all Scripture (OT + NT) given by God, including the 27 books of the New Testament. Here's why, a word for word (WFW) translation is useful on this text: "All scripture" indicates more than the Hebrew Scriptures here, because if Paul meant the exact same thing in this verse as what Timothy had learned as a child, he might have said "Those Scriptures" referring back to verse 15, or he might have just repeated the exact phrase, "Holy Scriptures." Paul intentionally changed his wording here because he recognized that what God uniquely brought forth from the apostles and prophets in his time was also "God-breathed" Scripture.



The description here of God's word is the Greek theopneustos. This is very literally translated as "God-breathed." So, human authors put the words to the "paper" and through their own personal perspectives and styles God used and included that in the writing of His perfect words. But, the ultimate source of this info. is NOT human, it is divine. The Greek language makes this particular description even more layered here. The Greek root word pneo is used for "wind, breath, a spirit, or 'the' Spirit." This is a wordplay Jesus uses when speaking to Nicodemus (John 3:8). In a symbolic sense, in the Greek, the word Paul uses is a model of the Bible itself: an extension of God's will, formed out of His Spirit, in written form. Dope! Therefore the Word of God is perfect because it originates from Him.

From God's will by His Word (notice the capital "S" in "Scripture") it's not just perfect but it's also profitable; check it out, it's "useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness."

1st - Scripture is useful for teaching. It's to be used to instruct people to know God better.

2nd - Scripture is profitable for reproof or rebuke. The idea of exposing or pointing out our sin.

**3rd** - Scripture is useful for correction. Scripture does point out our sin but it doesn't leave us there without hope, it offers a solution/correction for it!

4th - Scripture is profitable for training in righteousness. Though this is "similar" to "teaching," training is more focused on the practical application.

V.7 - "Complete" doesn't mean that the whole Christian life is about reading the Bible, or that the only important thing in good ministry is good Bible teaching. "Complete" means the Bible leads me into everything I need. If you will to be both a hearer and a doer of the word (James 1:22-26), you will be "complete" as a Christian, thoroughly "equipped for every good work." This reminds us that we are not in the business of building sermon appreciation societies, but we are in the business of equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16). The big takeaway for me here is that when we come to the Bible and let God speak to us, it changes us - it makes us complete and it will transform us.

From Scripture we learn what is true, what is false, what is wrong, what is right, how to correct and forgive – and ultimately we learn how to apply God's truths in all areas of our lives.

# THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - Why would it be "profitable," for you to read a WFW translation with our memory verse this week?

Q:2 - How has God been using His word in your life? Correction? Reproof? teaching? Training?

Q:3 - How are you "equipping" yourself and those around you with the Word of God?

### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 7 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Tell your group to read John 14:14 this week. Have them apply what was learned about "context" to determine the proper application. Each member should write 2 to 3 pages detailing their observations, interpretations, and potential applications. These separate studies can be compared the following week or at the leader's discretion.

# END

### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



### Extras: Bible Terms + Origin + History

There's a TON of Bible info here, so if you would like to download the doc and share it with your team we encourage you to print this sheet out for discussion during a different meeting (this can be accessed on the website, simply scroll down to "Extras" week #8. I typically split weeks between this doc and week #8's memory verse.

\*As an alternative to this and a great resource book is *The Bible from 30,000 feet*, which is more or less a 66 book breakdown that's fairly easy to digest.

#### UNDERSTANDING KEY TERMS

BIBLE: ORIGIN/EYTOMOLOGY Bible = Greek word = book . "Holy Bible" refers to = "Holy book" written in 3 languages (Hebrew/Greek/Aramaic). Written over a period of 1500+ years. Written by 40+ authors on 3 continents (Asia/Africa/Europe). Examples of authors: peasants, kings, philosophers, doctors, fishermen, poets, statesmen, etc.,

OLD TESTAMENT (OT) Testament = Covenant. Contains 39 books, and makes up ¾ of Bible. Goes from creation to about BC 450. Broken down into major sections: The Pentateuch, History, Poetry or Writings or Wisdom Literature, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.

INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD - About 400 years of silence, between the Old + New Covenants.

NEW TESTAMENT (NT) Made up of 27 Books, and makes up ¼ of Bible. The NT can be broken down in 4 sections: The Gospels (biography), Acts (history), Romans-Jude (the Letters or Epistles to people and Churches), and Revelation (prophecy).

The Gospels - The first 4 books of the New Testament are the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. "Gospel" means "good news or good herald" and it's the good news all about the life/death/burial and resurrection of Jesus + Letters to Christians and Churches on how to live in light of Jesus life/death/burial/resurrection/ascension and return. The first 3 Gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke - are similar in content and structure. Because of this, they are grouped and often referred to as the "Synoptic Gospels." Compared to the Synoptics, the book of John has different subject material and organization from the synoptics.

THE BIBLE is still the best-selling book of all time. It is a library of books that is 1 book. The OT was originally written on papyrus (a form of paper made from reeds). By the time the NT was written, parchments were also used (dried animal skins). These pages were put together and then rolled into a scroll.

#### **UNDERSTANDING HISTORY + ORIGIN**

CHAPTERS & VERSES were added later to provide addresses (not unlike our home addresses).

In 1205 Stephen Langton, a theology professor who later was the Archbishop of Canterbury began using Bible chapters. \*In 1240, Cardinal Hugo of St. Cher published a Latin Bible w/the 1,189 chapter divisions that exist today. \*Robert Stephanus, a Protestant book printer was condemned as a heretic for printing Bibles. He fled on horseback with his family and randomly made verse divisions within Langton's chapter divisions. His system was used for the first English Bible (aka - The Geneva New Testament of 1577).

Protestant = A member of western Christianity that follows principles of the Reformation, includes Baptist/Presbyterian/Lutheran/etc.,

Heretic = Someone opposed to a generally accepted religious truth.

\*It's important to understand the Bible's chapters and verses weren't originally used with any logical or consistent method, and while they are helpful, they're not divinely authoritative. Since the Bible wasn't intended to be read in bits and pieces, but as one work together, reading verses out of context can lead to a serious misunderstanding.

CANNON - What's the cannon of scripture? The cannon is the collection of books the Church has recognized as having authority in matters of faith and doctrine. Cannon: comes from the Greek word 'Kanon' and the Hebrew word 'qanch' both meaning "a ruler" or "a measuring stick/rod." The cannon is an authority that other truth claims are compared and measured by. Cannon is talking about books that have divine authority; these are the books of our Bible. The first ecclesiastical councils to classify the canonical books were held both in North Africa. @Hippo Regius in 393 (the synod of Hippo) and

@Carthage in 397. Those councils didn't impose something new into Christian communities, they just organized what was already being practiced.

250 Years before Jesus, Greek speaking Jews living in Alexandria Egypt translated the OT into Greek - The Hebrew to Greek translation aka the Septuagint. (This was 70 scholars in 70 days). They changed the context of books, rearranged books, added books - all for unknown reasons. Early Christians followed Jesus and used the same books found in the Hebrew Bible today. But, as the center of Christianity moved away from Jerusalem, and since Christians read + worshipped more commonly in Greek than Hebrew, there was more openness to the Septuagint.

There was a long and complicated debate about the validity and status of these books. Eventually, the Roman Catholic Church adopted many of the books from the Septuagint into its Latin version called "The Vulgate." These books are referred to as "deuterocanonical," meaning that they were brought into the cannon much later.

As the Reformers attempted to rid the Church of traditional teachings and get "back to

the Bible," they also rejected the "deuterocanonical" books, labeling them as "Apocrypha". Apocrypha = a Greek word = "secret", "hidden" aka false/bad/heretical/fake news. While the apocrypha can have "some" valid historical context, this is not divinely inspired scripture so you should read them with this in mind.

Anyway, the reformers kept the ordering of the Vulgate but returned it to the authoritative books of Jesus, the Hebrew speaking Jews, and early Christianity.

The early Church recognized most of the books in the New Testament as canonical. The 4 gospels, the writings of Paul, Acts, 1 John, 1 Peter, and Revelation were universally accepted. Hebrews remained in debate for several centuries because of the anonymity of the author. The status of: James, 2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John and Jude fluctuated according to Church age & judgment; this is why you will occasionally see those books omitted historically from canonical lists.

Some of the works of apostles: The letter of Barnabbas, the Shepherd of Hermas, and the 1st and 2nd letters of Clement are sporadically cited as scripture, but are not listed typically in formal canonical lists.

In the 4th Century, the Church moved to settle these issues in the New Testament Cannon. In the East, it was done in the 34th Paschal Letter of Athanasius in AD 367. In the West it was fixed at the Council of Carthage (mentioned earlier).

SO, HOW DID THE CHURCH KNOW WHAT TO INCLUDE AND EXCLUDE? 3 Primary criteria - The rule of Faith, Apostolicity, and Catholicity.

#1 - Rule of Faith = Did the book conform to orthodoxy/Christian truth that was recognized as normative within the Churches?

#2 - Apostolicity = Was the writer of the book an Apostle or have immediate contact with an Apostle? // sidenote // All but a few of the NT writers were eyewitness accounts.

#3 - Catholicity = (Don't let this verbiage freak you out) Did the book have widespread and continuous acceptance/usage by Churches everywhere?

The skinny is that from the very earliest days, the Church knew which books were God's inspired word for them. They read them, studied them, communicated them, obeyed them, lived them, and passed them on – and we should do the same without adding anything to them.

FURTHER VALIDITY + ACCURACY ON THE BIBLE - A key point to remember is that selftestimony is valid and strong when that testimony is validated by sufficient evidence.

The remarkable accuracy of the Bible in areas that we can check gives us confidence it is true in all areas. (\*see Multiple attestation below for further study into how.) Also, it's important to note that Jesus Himself taught from and validated the Old Testament scriptures.

#### HOW CAN WE TRUST THE HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE?

Some people say, "You can't trust the Bible because you don't have all of the original copies." Perspective 1: Plato, Sophacles, Homer, and Casear Augustus – There are fewer than 10 copies of each of these books, and each of those were made at least 1,000 years after the author wrote the original. And, until the mid 20th century, we were in a similar situation w/Hebrew OT; our oldest copies dated from about AD 900 aka – "Autographa". But then, in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in Qumran (1947-1956). Qumran is located between Jerusalem and the beaches of the Dead Sea (Israel).

**Perspective 2:** For the NT, we have over 14,000 ancient copies with fragments no later than 100 years after the original books and letters. This is nuts because it was written on fragile papyrus; it wasn't stored or protected, yet in God's providence they survived! It's because of these manuscripts we are certain that over 99% of the Bible is faithful to the original transcripts. // sidenote // When you communicate this, everyone always wants to know, "Well, what's the 1% then?" Easy, the 1% is either in word order or spelling, and has no discrepancy AT ALL with context.

#### TRANSLATIONS

SO, WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE? For centuries the Eastern Church only had the Bible in Greek, and the Western Church only had the Bible in Latin. Most people weren't fluent in either, so they couldn't read the Bible for themselves.

REFORMATION (1517-1648) - The return. To return the Bible to the people of the Church the Reformers wanted people to have the Bible in their own language and opposed Catholic Europe's current practices. Martin Luther ("95 Theses") & John Wycliffe are just 2 of the dudes who risked their lives to translate the Bible into German & English. \*You can check this out for further study by searching: Remonstrance 1610 (Arminianism) and Synod of Dort 1618-1619 (Calvinism response) for more in depth on 5 key points of separation.

A man named William Tyndale was charged with heresy and condemned to death because he translated the Bible into English. He was tied to a stake, hung by a noose, and then set on fire simply because he wanted people to be able to read the Bible.

Today there are many translations available. At least part of the Bible has been translated into 3589 languages. The NT and portions of other scripture exist in 3589 languages. The full Bible has been translated into 724 languages – that's 97% of all

of all peoples, 7.14 Billion that have portions of the Bible in their language (according to Wycliffe Bible statistics, Sept.2022).

#### TRANSLATION CATEGORIES

"Translations" fall into 3 basic categories: Word for word, Thought for Thought, and Paraphrase.

#1 - Word for Word Translations = Aka "formal equivalence" translations. These translations are about literal precision and emphasize the patterns of the words and seek as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. This type of translation is compatible to legal documents, marriage vows, and contracts. WFW translations have an advantage in studying the Bible because of their closeness to the original language. Sometimes this can be confusing when reading WFW translations because stylistically the biblical grammar/ word order/and patterns are different than our modern English. // sidenote // Just think of how sentence structure between English and Spanish differ.

The KJV is also a WFW translation; it remains the best-selling Bible, but it is difficult to read because it's written in Old English. Other WFW translations would be: NASB, NKJV. // sidenote // (in my opinion): The NKJV is one of the worst WFW translations, because in creating the NKJV they removed a lot of the Old English poetry from the KJV which is really what helps make the KJV translation worth reading at all.

#2 - Thought for Thought Translations = Aka "dynamic equivalence", aka "functional equivalence" translations. These TFT's are built for readability and attempt to convey the full nuance of each passage by interpreting the scriptures' entire meaning and not just the individual words. TFT's try to find the best modern cultural equivalent that will have the same effect the original message had in ancient cultures. // sidenote // My fav. TFT's are = NLT & NIV, in that order. CEV is also a TFT translation. \*With any translation at certain points, there's always a "trade off" between literal precision and readability.

#3 - Paraphrase Translations = The paraphrase emphasizes the readability in English. Paraphrase pays even less attention than TFT does when it comes to word patterns and etymology. This is an attempt to capture a poetic nature of the text. Examples of Paraphrase include: The MSG, The Living Bible, The Amplified Bible, and Word on the Street (Yes, I have a copy of this if you would like to borrow it).

What about the ESV? The best translation to date (in my opinion) is the ESV. ESV stands for, the "Extra Spiritual Version," just kidding on that, but it would be cool if it did stand for that! We use the ESV at rest because we believe it to be the best of both

worlds (formal + dynamic equivalence). The ESV is an "essentially literal" translation that seeks as far as possible to capture the precise wording of the original text AND the personal style of each Bible writer. As such, its emphasis is on "word-for-word" correspondence, at the same time taking into account differences of grammar, syntax, and idiomatic differences between current literary English and the original languages. Therefore, it seeks to be transparent to the original text, letting the reader see as directly as possible the structure and meaning of the original.

\*You can read more about the translation philosophy of the ESV online in this section on our website. There is a link there.

There is a historical accuracy to the Bible but another point to consider is that God the Holy Spirit inspired the whole Bible (verbally – God spoke and man wrote like the big 10 commandments) and (dynamically – God spoke to man and man's background, culture, setting, and style played part in the writings, like Romans). So, we should also understand that GHSpirit doesn't make mistakes and He's big enough to control canon, historicity, accuracy and translation.

#### TRANSLATION SUMMARY

A faithful translation tries to achieve a balance of 4 basic things:

- #1 Accuracy to the original text
- #2 The beauty of language
- #3 The clarity of meaning
- #4 The distinguishing of style

While some translations are "better" than others, each has its own strengths and weaknesses that a student of the Bible can benefit from by enjoying multiple translations. Instead of fighting over translations, Christians should praise God for every good translation and trust God the Holy Spirit to use them to transform their lives as we enjoy Him. I'd encourage you to use the ESV as a primary study tool, while others are good for secondary resources. To date, the ESV is (IMO) the best version for accurate Bible teaching/preaching/studying and reading.

\*Also, you should be aware (beware) of corrupt translations. For example, the Jehovah's Witness = New World Translation, which eliminates the deity of Jesus. This is NOT a translation but a corruption of scripture.

Last thing: Christians don't worship the Bible, we worship the God of the Bible. But, the Bible informs us of who God is and how God is supposed to be worshipped and it's therefore essential to us. The Words of God and God are one in the same (John 1:1). So, remember, "When the Scriptures speak, God speaks." - Martin Luther. Every time you read your Bible out loud, you get to hear God speak through your vocal cords. Pretty cool!

### GOOD INFO TO KNOW

You can download these links as apps, or simply visit the links below to better understand how to exposit the scriptures more accurately. Don't overlook these!!!

Blueleter Bible: https://www.blueletterbible.org/ Enduring Word Bible Commentary: https://enduringword.com/#commentary Bible ref Bible commentary: https://www.bibleref.com/ Got Questions: https://www.gotquestions.org/ \*And remember as Pastor Johann says, when it comes to reading extra-curricular Bible resources, "Eat the meat, and leave the bones."



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# WEEK #9 2 John 1:6

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### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38
+ Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8 + Phil.4:6-7 + 2 Timothy 3:16-17

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

# C ST

### Introduction: Chapter 7 Summary

Many Christians go to church, hear a message, and walk away as though they had heard nothing at all. Robby calls his readers to be not only those who are taught, but greater, those who are transformed by what they learn. Disciples should "know" Christ by "knowing" His commandments. This knowledge should lead to love, which should naturally precipitate into obedience.



# THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What stood out to you in this chapter?

Q:2 - Why is Jesus' prayer in John 17 significant? How does this prayer affect your life as a believer?

### THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:3 - What is the difference between the knowledge of God and knowing God? How does your answer affect the way you act, live, and behave?

Q:4 - List the 3 roadblocks to following Jesus in Luke 9:57-62. What roadblocks impede your relationship with Christ?

Q:5 - Describe the relationship between knowing, loving, and obeying God. Does this motivate you to study the Bible? If so, how?



### THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. 2 John 1:6

"6And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

• The book of 1 John focuses on our fellowship with God, while 2 John focuses on protecting our fellowship from those who teach falsehood.

V.6 - John (the Apostle) here defines the kind of love he's talking about, which is and encourages us to "love" by "obeying God's commandments". In following Jesus we do this not because we think His commandments are heavy burdens to carry, but because we see that they are the best things for us. They are God's guide and gifts to us.

Love isn't just an emotion we have, but it requires actions based on truth. Here, the exact Greek word is agape, translated in English as "love" specifically meaning an unconditional and selfless focus on other people. John's use of "agape" certainly includes emotional aspects, but is much more specific than most modern definitions of love.

The primary example of this kind of love is Jesus Christ, who showed it through His life and actions. It includes loving one another as well as walking in obedience to God's truth.

John reemphasizes that this command is one the reader should already be familiar with. He repeats that loving one another isn't optional; it's a command. Because it



## THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

is a fundamental command connected to Jesus Himself, believers are to "walk in it" or obey it. Attempting to love, apart from God's truth, isn't legitimate, according to this letter.

But also, as you're living a "lifestyle of love" 2 John also warns us against "deceivers infiltrating the church". In other words, those who walk in the truth should be people who love others, but they should also be cautious in whom they love.



### THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - Consider your own life. In what ways might your obedience or disobedience impact those in your immediate circle of relationships?

Q:2 - Why should "obedience to Christ" be so important to the follower of Jesus?

Q:3 - What's 1 area you need to change pace so you're able to "walk in love" in that area of your life?

// sidenote // "Walking" is a template for us set out from the very beginning by God, as we see God "walking in the garden" among Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8). This theme is continued in the NT as Jesus "walked" everywhere He went, and was nevery in a hurry.



### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. 2 John 1:6

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 8 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

#3 - Tell your group to write down at least 3 areas in their life that need to be submitted to the Lordship of Christ and the reason or reasons why they may be hesitant to do so. Ask them to pray about these aspects and to take steps to demonstrate that they are committed to this process of sanctification.

# END

## Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



# WEEK #10 Psalm 1:1-2

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### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips," then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38
+ Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8 + Phil.4:6-7 + 2 Timothy 3:16-17 + 2 John 1:6

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

# C ST

### Introduction: Chapter 8 Summary

Robby challenges the reader to consider the importance of Scripture memorization. He explains how true meditation on the Word of God leads naturally to its retention within and transformation of the mind. Robby also provides a practical plan for memorizing through meditation: Picture It, Ponder It, Personalize It, and Pray Over It.



Q:1 - Read Psalm 1:1-4. Identify the benefits of meditation. Consider how these benefits will impact your daily walk with Christ.

Q:2 - With the "tea bag" analogy in mind, think about what steps need to take place for the Word to saturate your life.

## THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

**Q:3** – Take a second look at **Psalm 1** with the four-fold method for meditation: Picture It, Ponder It, Personalize It, and Pray Over It. Did you understand the text in a deeper way? How so?

Q:4 - List barriers that have prevented you from memorizing Scripture in the past. What steps will you take in order to remove these barriers?



THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. Psalm 1:1-2

"1Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

The Psalms Background: The book of Psalms contains 150 inspired songs, each referred to as a "psalm" written mainly by King David. 50 of the psalms are anonymous. Asaph, a worship leader and prophet, wrote 12 psalms. The sons of Korah wrote 10. King Solomon wrote 2 (Psalm 72; Psalm 127). And it is thought that Heman (Psalm 88) and Ethan (Psalm 89) each wrote a psalm. Moses also wrote 1 (Psalm 90).

All 150 psalms are poetic in nature (songs/poems) which offer different forms of praise to God. The Psalms cover a wide range of topics from joy to depression, peace to persecution, contemplation to confession, praise to prophecy, creation to coronation, and even anxiety to adoration.

The Book of Psalms takes its place among the Old Testament's poetic Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. It is the first book of the third and final section of the Hebrew Bible, known as Ketuvim (Writings).

The Book of Psalms has 5 basic divisions. The first of these extends from Psalm 1 to Psalm 41 and relates to Genesis because of its recurring theme of creation.

The second division extends from Psalm 42 to Psalm 72 and relates to Exodus because

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of its theme of redemption.

**Psalms 73 to Psalm 89** are the third division and relate to Leviticus because of their emphasis on worship.

The fourth division is Psalm 90 to Psalm 106 and relates to Numbers with its many references to Israel's wanderings in the desert.

And finally the fifth division extends from Psalm 107 to Psalm 150 and relates to Deuteronomy because of its emphasis on God's Word.

**Psalm 1** proclaims truths echoed in the book of Proverbs (That following the wisdom of God is the best and wisest way to live.) Like Proverbs, this Psalm declares that those who obey God's teachings can avoid consequences arising from sin and disobedience. This particular grouping of Psalms was known to the Jews as Sepher Telhillim, the "Book of Praises". It was set to stringed instrumental accompaniment as the Psalms became the "hymn-book" for temple worship. This makes sense as the English term/title derives from the Greek psalmos, meaning "song accompanied by a stringed instrument".

V.1 - Psalm 1 starts by identifying the "man who is blessed". The word "blessed" in the Hebrew "esher," (to be content in or happy ) from the Old Testament is actually a plural noun; therefore, the words, "Blessed is the man" should be read as, "Blessings to the man." Also, the word for "man" in this context refers to human beings in general. Blessings come to anyone who refuses to be influenced by the ungodly, those whose lives are governed by evil passions. The "blessed person" refuses to align with sinners: those who choose to do wrong. Further, they refuse to join the ranks of those who mock God, mock the righteous, or oppose whatever is virtuous. Esher is a form of the Hebrew word ashar, which in its root means "to be straight" or "to be right". The righteous man will be a blessed man, a happy man, as he or she is right or "straight" with God.

This verse describes a downward spiral. 1st is a willingness to be influenced by the ungodly, followed by entering into fellowship with them, followed by joining in their scornful attitudes and behavior. Christians today need to lead a righteous life, refusing to be influenced by godless attitudes. Despite the temptations of popularity or comfort, believers should not side with those who disdain God's standards of righteousness.

"Walk, stand and sit" speak of thinking, behaving, and belonging. The righteous man and the ungodly man are different in how they think, how they behave, and to whom they

# THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

### belong.

Ephesians 5:7-8 commands: "Therefore do not become partners with them [the sons of disobedience]; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

V.2 - This verse continues to describe the blessed man. Whereas verse 1 takes a negative tone, this one strikes a positive tone. Verse 1 describes what the blessed man does not do, verse 2 describes what he does. As in verse 1, the context here applies to all people, not only males or men. What makes you happy? What gets you excited? This is a good way to see what is important to you; this is what you "delight" in.

The "blessed person" delights in the law of the Lord. The Hebrew word translated "delight" is related to a word that can mean "to bend". The blessed person "bends" towards God. His or her inclination is to meditate on God's Word. Instead of letting the words of the ungodly influence their thinking, a blessed person wants God's words to influence his or her life.

Reading and obeying the Scripture is extremely important to the blessed person. This person doesn't just give God's Word a superficial reading or an occasional reading; rather, he or she digs into it - whether it is day or night.

Worthwhile meditation doesn't require a person to empty his or her mind. Scripture doesn't support the idea of "self-emptying in meditation". Godly meditation means filling the mind with Scripture. To meditate on Scripture involves pondering what the Bible teaches about God's character. It involves thinking deeply about what His Word teaches about ourselves and others. As we meditate, we cherish the promises and precepts we find in the Bible, we wrestle with its commands, we confront our sins and confess them, and we conform our thoughts to God's thoughts.

The "blessed person" is not influenced by the words of the ungodly, but is deeply influenced by God's words.



### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - Think of some things you "delight" in; do you feel the same delight from God's Word?

## THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep {Continued}

Q:2 - "Walking, standing, sitting": which in your life need some refinement based on our memory verse - Thinking, behaving or belonging?



### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - Read next week's memory verses. Psalm 1:1-2

#2 - Remind your group to read Chapter 9 and memorize the verses for your next meeting.

• Tell your group to read **Psalm 1** three times a day for the full week. They will be surprised at how much they will remember without trying to memorize!



### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

• Pray specifically for each member of your group.

• Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.






# WEEK #11 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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### Tips Before You Start

• Refer back to p.3 in this doc for "quick-tips" then continue here.

Have your group members each cite previous weeks memory verses: Matthew 9:36-38
+ Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8 + Phil.4:6-7 + 2 Timothy 3:16-17 + 2 John 1:6 + 2 Psalm 1:1-2

• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

\*You may consider splitting this info into into more than 1 week; we usually do 3-6 weeks here that look like this:

Week 1 - Discuss chapter content + exposit memory verse.

Week 2 - Go through Romans Road verses + evangelism questions + Share Jesus Without Fear + 2 minute testimonies.

**Week 3** - Practice role play evangelism with your group (contact Pastor AB for a resource for this).

Weeks 4/5/6 - Take each member of your group out with you individually to share the Gospel, then once everyone has went with you alone pair up in 2's and do it again. Go somewhere people have time to talk: the laundry mat, the mall in the morning, etc.

# C.M

### Introduction: Chapter 9 Summary

Robby discusses the importance of evangelism in relation to discipleship, which he suggests are "2 oars attached to the same boat". Robby explains that the true measure of success in our respective ministry of evangelism is not the positive response of people, since God is in control of the act of regeneration. Rather, we are successful evangelists if we proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Additionally, Robby discusses the significance of keeping one's message pure, being prepared to give a defense of one's beliefs, planning a presentation of one's testimony, and developing relationships with people, as opposed to presenting a rehearsed "spiel".

### THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What stood out to you in this chapter?

Q:2 - The departing words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 begin with the word "go" which literally means "as you are going". Think about your daily and weekly routine. "As you are going" with whom can you share the Gospel? (Think in specific terms and people VS generalizations).

**Q:3** – How does a better understanding of the doctrine of regeneration motivate you to share the Gospel?

#4 - In your own words, explain the essence of the Gospel. What are the 4 elements that should be included?

\*Save more time than usual at the end to "practice Evangelism," with your group. (See "Assignments," + "Extras," sections below)



## THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

"8So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

• Thessalonians Chapter Summary: Paul (the author of Thessalonians) is writing to the Church he founded in the city of Thessalonica during his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 17:1-9). Though Paul lived among these people only for a short time, he shows great love for these Gentile believers in this, his first of two letters to them. The Thessalonians likely faced severe persecution, and had sent many questions over to Paul, which he addresses throughout the letter. Thessalonians consists of 5 chapters that break down into 2 major sections: The 1st section address Paul's personal thoughts concerning the Church. Paul retells some of his ministry to this young church (C.2). He concludes the chapter with a longing to see them again to bring him glory and joy. Though Paul is concerned regarding the status of the church, Timothy had recently returned with good news of their faith and love so Paul thanks God (1 Thessalonians 3:9) and ends the section with a prayer for the believers receiving his letter (1 Thessalonians 3:11-13).



# THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

The 2nd section covers the remainder of the book and addresses various practical concerns (1 Thessalonians 4-5). First, Paul urges them to live a life that pleases the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:1). He talks about their concerns about the coming of the Lord Jesus, noting the dead in Christ will rise first at the rapture, followed by believers still living. All believers will then meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever. Chapter 5 then addresses the "day of the Lord" a day that will come suddenly upon those unprepared (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). And Paul concludes with instructions to the Church to respect their leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13), correct the idle (1 Thessalonians 5:15-22), concluding with a final blessing and instruction regarding greeting one another and reading the letter to all (1 Thessalonians 5:23-28).

As Paul begins to flesh out the general ideas he mentioned in chapter 1, in chapters 2 and 3, he further explains how he came to preach to the Thessalonian people. Paul notes that his good conduct, proving his unselfish motivations, was instrumental in his success. Then, the warm response of the people also endeared them to Paul, making him long to visit them again. Unfortunately, Paul was prevented from doing so, a struggle he attributes to Satan. Paul once again expresses his gratitude for the Thessalonian Christians' ability to honor God despite persecution.

I personally like how the NLT reads for this verse saying, "We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too." Now that we have a sense of the verse, let's break this down from the ESV.

**V.8** - "So, being affectionately desirous of you," Instead of greedily taking what they could get from the Christians at Thessalonica, Paul and his companions eagerly shared the good news about God with them. Because these Christians had become precious to Paul and his team, the missionaries were willing to give them all they had, including themselves. Paul was a contributor, and not just a consumer. Which is a great question for us: Do you serve? Or, are you being served? Do you give? Or, do you take? As in life (reflective of the Church) when you're a baby someone else feeds you and that's a good thing, but when you become an adult you feed yourself and help feed others. Are you: serving, giving, helping, caring, praying, and participating as a consumer or a contributor to God's Church? A good relationship with one another and the Bride of Christ contains both.

Paul says, "we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves." It's crazy to think of Paul's mindset here, that the sacrifices Paul endured for the sake of ministry to the Thessalonians were not a burden. Not only was it not a "burden" but Paul was pleased to do this saying why this was his pleasure, "because you had become very dear to us."

## S THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

For Paul, the Thessalonians weren't only his associates in the Gospel but they were also his friends. This wasn't a cold, shoulder-to-shoulder, "Hey, how are you doing brother?" "Great!" And then followed by simply walking away. For Paul he was sharing his faith and life with these believers, as they were him. This is what made Paul's Gospel preaching effective: Paul gave not only the Gospel, but himself. It was a combination of genuine care accompanied by his knowledge in the faith.

Notice the progressional balance from the verses leading into our memory verse: #1 - Paul came to them in the face of suffering (v.2).

#2 – He came neither to please people nor to flatter them (v.4-5).

#3 - He came and humbled himself (v.6-7).

#4 - He came to share his knowledge AND life (v.8).

#5 - He came not to be a burden, but a blessing (v.9).

See, it's easy for us to default into simply transferring knowledge in our dGroups or even in just sharing the Gospel, but sharing "life" together is an altogether different piece of this discipleship-evangelism oar. It is much harder to share life. Life is messy. Life is unorganized. Life doesn't always follow the plan. Life is filled with our sin. But "life" is what we're also called to share together as we help one another "walk in a manner worthy of Jesus," Colossians 1:10 ESV.

Unfortunately, superficiality in and out of the Church is a disease usually marked by shallow conversations and 'friendships,' that aren't so 'friendly'. In Acts 2:42 we read that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the fellowship". They did not just occasionally 'have' fellowship (verb) together after Church as a fun potluck. They 'were' the fellowship (noun); marked by a shared life together. They were so devoted to each other, and as such were being woven together in mutual care, concern, joy and hope for one another.

This principle reiterates for us one of our benchmarks at rest, Benchmark #6 - We do life together! Feel free to share this benchmark with your group that reads: "The Church isn't a building or program. It's the people. To have community with others you have to love them. To love someone you have to build trust. To trust someone you have to get to know them. Jesus loves the Church and gave His life up for her, therefore it is impossible to love Jesus and not do life with the Bride. We werent' meant to do life alone." Can you hear the apostle Paul from 1 Thess. 2:8 in this?

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# THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

Q:1 - At rest, "sharing life" is a big deal to us. As you consider Benchmark #6, we'd encourage you to go back and read over that benchmark comparing it to Acts 2:42. Discuss why you believe this is a priority for rest Church.



### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

#1 - As a group, practice the way that you might share the Gospel with an unbeliever. Create a "mock discussion," between yourself and an imaginary potential Christian. Write this out. -see "Extras," below.

#2 - This week write how you would share your testimony and the Gospel, anticipating an unsaved person's reactions. Write out your personal testimony that can be shared within 2 minutes {Example: Here's where I was. Jesus did this. Now I'm here. Here's what He can do for you}.

#3 - Remind your group to read Chapter 10 and memorize John 1:1-2 + the verses for your next meeting.



### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Spend time in prayer.

- Pray specifically for each member of your group.
- Pray that God the Holy Spirit would use what is learned this week to cultivate stronger relationships with God and the other members of your dGroup.

\*Emphasize the importance of staying in contact with and praying for one another during the week, then close.



### Extras: Evangelism Is

\*I would take 2-6 separate weeks to teach this out.

## Extras: Evangelism Is {Continued}

Evangelism is when you personally share the Gospel with someone else.

The basic components of the Gospel (objectives) tell us about Jesus: • Jesus came ~ Isaiah 7:14 + Luke 2:7 + John 6:38

- Jesus lived ~ Luke 2:52
- Jesus died ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Jesus rose ~ Romans 6:9 + Romans 8:34
- Jesus left ~ Luke 24:51 + 1 Peter 3:22
- Jesus' comeback tour ~ John 14:3 + Revelation 1:7

\*For more reference on Jesus, check out "Who Is Jesus?" at https://restchurch.net/who-is-jesus/

\*Also, after someone allows you the opportunity to tell them about Jesus, always remember to give them an opportunity to receive or reject Jesus. John 1:12

### Extras: Relationship + Riot Evangelism

There are 2 basic types of Evangelism: Relationship (Buddy) Evangelism + Riot (Urgent) Evangelism.

• Buddy Evangelism = is simply reaching people for Christ by first being a friend to them. This practice would be great if you were trying to share the Gospel with a Muslim friend, as "friendships and hospitatlity" are placed at a high value within Islam. \*\*The most famous example I can think on this approach comes from Matthew when he invited his friends to a dinner party where they could meet Jesus (Matthew 9:10-13).

• Urgent Evangelism = is reaching people for Christ whenever and wherever the Spirit prompts you to share the Gospel. \*As we read in the book of Acts, we see that the Church came into being through a Spirit-empowered sermon by the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 4:1-4) and not through someone spending 6 months playing checkers to establish a relationship first, hoping to "earn the right" to share the Gospel. Furthermore, Romans 1:16 reminds us to NEVER be afraid or apologetic when it comes to sharing the Gospel. The Gospel is for anyone, anytime, at anyplace.

Both "methods" work and I would encourage you to continually use both methods in sharing the Gospel.

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### Extras: Share Jesus Without Fear

• There's a book I read many years ago that has ever since served as my baseline when approaching people to share the Gospel. I won't go into every detail here (we'll host a class from time to time on this and we encourage you attend with your dGroup), but this info is simply to give you the same template to wrestle with as you build your own approach.

THE BASIC QUESTIONS TO ASK IN SJWF: #1 - Do you have any spiritual beliefs?

#2 - To you, who is Jesus?

#3 - Do you believe in a heaven and a hell?

#4 - If you died right now, where do you think you would go? Why?

#5 - Can I share with you what I believe?
\*You should write these questions down in your Bible.

Remember, when asking the questions: don't correct, just listen. As you're listening to them, pray for God the Holy Spirit to guide you in your sharing of the Gospel. He will help you! (John 14:26)

#### THE ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION

The Romans Road is some basic verses from Romans that help explain our sinful condition and God's salvific solution. EVERY CHRISTIAN should work to remember these verses and commit them to memory!

\*write these verses down in your Bible!

Romans 3:23 ~ All have sinned.

Romans 3:10-13 ~ No one is innocent.

Romans 6:23a ~ Because we're guilty we deserve death.

Romans 6:23b ~ But, God doesn't give us what we deserve if we receive Him.

Romans 5:8 ~ God loves you, and died for you.

Romans 10:9-10 ~ Here's how you can receive God's love.

Romans 10:13 ~ God's grace and forgiveness is available for everyone.

## Extras: SJWF {Continued}

As you share the Gospel by evangelism (riot + relationship) remember that the results are not up to you. It's God who calls, it's God who saves; you're only the mailman delivering the mail. Some will receive it, some will reject it. Matthew 13:1-9 illustrates a great parable for us to keep in mind when it comes to sharing the Gospel.







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NOTES	

# WEEK #12 John 1:1-2 TBD

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• Run through your "Accountability Questions". (Appendix 7 - pg.175 old book/p.209 new)

• Have each member share about their week: Have there been any blessings? If so, has this led to thanksgiving? Have there been any challenges? If so, how has the individual handled such challenges?

• Pray for one another and God the Holy Spirit's guidance in your group meeting. \*As you continue meeting, it's good to spur different members of your group to lead in prayer, and continue to mention the end goal of your dGroup starting their own groups.

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### Introduction: Chapter 10 Summary

Robby explains the importance of the spiritual discipline of Bible intake and shares practical ways to consistently read and journal through the pages of Scripture.

## THE TEXT: Heart Prep

Q:1 - What stood out to you in this chapter?

Q:2 - How do we get to know God?

Q:3 - Do you view the Word as spiritual nourishment for your soul? If so, in what ways do you believe the Bible is nourishing you?

## THE TEXT: Heart Prep {Continued}

Q:4 - Describe your pattern of reading the Bible over the last few months? Based on this pattern, do you believe you are spiritual enriched?

Q:5 - Humans generally make plans and set goals. Why is having a Bible reading plan so important?

Q:6 - According to Robby, "What is the best translation of the Bible?" (see p. 149 old book).



## THE TEXT: Head Prep

• Read + discuss next weeks memory verse. John 1:1-2

"1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God."

\*DON'T READ THIS INFO VERBATIM TO YOUR GROUP, LEARN IT AND SHARE WHAT GHSPIRIT LEADS YOU TO SHARE.

• John Background Context: The Gospel of John was probably the last of the 4 Gospels written, and it's written in view of what the previous 3 have already said. This is one reason why John's account of the life of Jesus is in many ways different from Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the synoptic Gospels). The prologue verses here are a remarkable, and profound portion of text; it's not just a typical preface or introduction. It's a summation of the entire book. The remainder of John's Gospel deals with the themes introduced here: The identity of the Word, life, light, regeneration, grace, truth, and the revelation of God the Father in Jesus Christ the Son.

John was closely connected with Jesus. He was a personal witness to Jesus' earthly ministry. John was one of the closest followers of Jesus. He heard Him teach, saw Him before and after the resurrection, and touched Him with his own hands. John was the last surviving apostle, and so he spoke with an authority few could match. John further calls Jesus the "word of life" a phrase used elsewhere only in Philippians 2:16.

V.1 - "In the beginning" This refers to the timeless eternity of Genesis 1:1 (In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth). John essentially wrote, "When the beginning began, the Word (notice the capitalization of "Word") was already there." The idea here is that the Word existed even before creation or time came into being.



## THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

God is by nature omnipresent so He exists outside of His creation of time. We see this evidenced in many ways through the scriptures: Jesus in the OT before being "born" into the world. The fact that God sees your birth and last breath and you reading this right now all in an instant; 1,000 years are as a moment to the Lord.

"In the beginning was the Word." Word translates from the ancient Greek word Logos. The idea of the logos had deep and rich roots in both Jewish and Greek thinking. Logos is the reason; the Word is Jesus. // sidenote // Logos is arguable the MOST debated and discussed word in the Greek New Testament. For further study research "Logos".

\*Jewish rabbis often referred to God (especially in His more personal aspects) in terms of His Word. So, they spoke of God Himself as "the word of God". For example, ancient Hebrew editions of the Old Testament change Exodus 19:17 (Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God) to "Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet the word of God." In the mind of the ancient Jews, the phrase "the word of God" could be used to refer to God Himself.

\*\*The Greek philosophers saw logos as the power that puts sense into the world, making the world orderly instead of chaotic, it brought "reason". The logos was the power that set the world in perfect order and kept it going in perfect order. They saw the logos as the "Ultimate Reason" that controlled all things.

\*\*\*In this opening, John said to both Jews and Greeks: "For centuries you've been talking, and thinking, and writing about the Word (the logos). Now I will tell you who He is." John met both Jews and Greeks where they were and explained Jesus in terms they already understood.

\*\*\*\* John was using a term which, with various shades of meaning, was in common use everywhere you went. He could relate to all men speaking this known and essential statement. This was the "word" being already in use and aiding thoughtful men in their efforts to conceive God's connection with the world. John takes it and uses us to illustrate the Revealer of the incomprehensible and invisible God."

// sidenote // Personally, I love the way the MSG version of John 1:14 reiterates this connection of Jesus as the Word from John 1:1, saying, "The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish." Don't you just love that?!

"And the Word was with God, and the Word was God." With this brilliant statement, John 1:1 sets forth one of the most basic foundations of our faith - the Trinity. We can

# THE TEXT: Head Prep {Continued}

follow John's logic in this way:

• There is a Being known as the Word.

- This Being is God, because He is eternal (In the beginning).
- This Being is God, because He is plainly called God (the Word was God).

 $\cdot$  And at the same time, this Being does not encompass all that God is. God the Father is a distinct Person from the Word (the Word was with God).

So, the Father and the Son (the Son is known here as the "Word") are equally God, yet distinct in their Person. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father. Yet they are equally God, with God the Holy Spirit making one God in three Persons.

"The Word was with God." This preposition implies separate personality. As John Chrysostom says: "Not in God but with God, as in person with person, eternally."

"And the Word was God." Part A - This is the true form of the sentence; not 'God was the Word.' This is absolutely required by the usage of the Greek language. Luther says to this, "The Word did everything." Part B - Everything that can be said about God the Father can also be said about God the Son. In Jesus, dwells ALL the wisdom, glory, power, love, holiness, justice, goodness, truth and etc. of the Father. In Him, God the Father is made known; as Colossians 2:9 states, "For in him (Jesus) the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

V.2 - "He was in the beginning with God." This again makes the point that the Father is distinct from the Son, and the Son distinct from the Father. They are equally God, yet they are separate Persons. Additionally, John also refers to the idea of Jesus coming to earth as a flesh-and-blood man in this verse 2, which is a critical part of the Gospel. But also, Jesus has always existed and was there in the beginning with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit as creation was being made by "His Word," (Genesis 1:1-3).

# THE TEXT: Hands + Feet Prep

#### / / APPLICATION / /

Q:1 - To whom does that Word refer? How has the "Word" impacted your life?

Q:2 - Whenever we talk about the "Word of life", we're not talking about a concept or an idea. This means that Christianity is not a philosophy, or a set of ideas or an ethical system, but it is a relationship with the living God. This means that everything we do has more to do with relationship with God and man than it does with what we do or don't do, with what we think or don't think, with what we feel or don't feel. How has the relationship of the "Word" grown you as you've walked through this book together?

### Assignments: Assign To Your Group

OPTION #1 - Remind your group to read the Afterword and memorize the verses for the upcoming week: Matthew 9:36-38 + Hebrews 12:1-2 + Matthew 28:18-20 + 2 Timothy 2:1-2 + John 13:34-35 + 1 Tim.4:7-8 + Phil.4:6-7 + 2 Timothy 3:16-17 + 2 John 1:6 + 2 Psalm 1:1-2 + 1 Thessalonians 2:8 + John 1:1-2

**OPTION #2** - Tell your group to journal **Philippians 4:10-13** using the **H.E.A.R.** method (Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond) this week (p.165 - old book).

**OPTION #3** – As a group, read **Psalm 119:1-18**. Focus on vv.10-11 and then help each other create a H.E.A.R. journal entry.

**OPTION #4** - Figure out where to go next. Is it time to pass the baton? Are your disciples ready to begin their own group? Remember that is after all the goal of discipleship, multiplication. (See "Extras," on the next page for more on where to go next).



### Conclusion: Wrapping Up

Congratulations on the eternal investment you've made! Praise God for your faithfulness in making disciples! We pray this process would continue all the days of your life.

- Share with one another what God has done in your life through this dGroup.
- Spend time in prayer.
- Pray specifically for each member of your group.

### Extras: We're done! Now What?

First, I want to stress that NOT every group is the same when you end. Some will be ready to run with the baton on their own and some will not. I would encourage you to listen to God the Holy Spirit as you discern this and as you're considering where to go next with your dGroup.

\*But, also I will preface this by saying: Don't aimlessly continue to meet without any purpose; if you do, you can guarantee burnout or dropout from your group members. When there is no "off-ramp", people don't stay dedicated. So create a plan, vision cast that plan, explain where it's ending, and re-invite your group to continue.

#### TIPS TO TEACH

\*After the "Growing-Up" book (no matter where you go), you should intentionally rotate the members of your dGroup to lead various weeks as they learn to become the teacher themselves. This is an opportunity for you to watch them in action as they lead and you can provide insightful feedback as they lead. (refer back to p.11 old book/pgs.22-23 new) "Master's Model," -old book, for guidance) \*Get a good ESV Study Bible

### SUGGESTED NEXT STUDIES

Here are a few suggested places you may want to go next with your group:

- Christian Beliefs: 20 Basics Every Christian Should Know ~ Wayne Grudem
- 9 Common Lies Christians Believe ~ Shane Pruitt
- Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From The American Dream ~ David Platt
- Romans: The Foundational Truths of Romans 1-8 study ~ Bob Warren
- Lead Like Jesus study ~ Ken Blanchard

\*The links to these books are on our website in this section of week 12.

• Read 1 Psalm + 1 Proverb a day and then repeat Proverbs until you make it through the Psalms.

- Memorize and exposit Romans 8 together.
- Read the Gospel of Mark together.
- Get a Chronological Bible and read all the way through for the next year.

• Download the "Bible App" and find a study for your group to go through (+ follow rest Church on the Bible App!).

#### LAST WORD: HOLY SPIRIT MOVEMENT

Refer back to **pgs.8-9** in this leader guide to make sure your group members have participated in each part of "The Path" in their spiritual growth.

Remember: To be a disciple of Jesus is to continually invest in making more disciples of Jesus! Don't fumble the handoff!









# dGroup guide rest Church

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