



P
A
T
H
W
A
Y

A One Year Discipleship Plan
for City Groups

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Stories are central to our everyday lives. They are powerful and deep with meaning. They cross social and cultural lines. They uniquely connect the storyteller and listener. We use stories to help us make sense of our world and our relation to it.

God is the greatest storyteller of all time and the Gospel is the greatest story ever told.

The Gospel Story

In the beginning, God created everything; the heavens and the earth. He filled creation with animals, fish, plants, and every creeping thing that creeps. But His most precious creation was people. He formed all people in the image of God and they enjoyed a perfect relationship with Him (*Genesis 1-2*).

Then tragedy struck. Through deception and a lie, the enemy, Satan, convinced people that they were better off without God. People willingly sinned and suffered the consequences of separation from God (*Genesis 3*).

This means that all people, you and me, have sinned and without external intervention their sin earns them death and eternal separation from God (*Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 53:6, Hebrews 9:27*).

But God sent a hero to rescue us. He intervened with His grace, love, and mercy. While we were still in sin and enemies of God, Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty of sin through His death on the cross. Everyone who trusts in Jesus and that He perfectly accomplished all of these things will be saved, not on their own merit, but through Jesus (*Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 3:18*).

When we are saved, we belong to the body of Christ, the Church. The Church is the saved and sent people of God to share the greatest story ever told and proclaim the excellencies of God in order that more disciples of Jesus would be made (*Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5: 17-20*).

And as we look to the future, there is a time set by God the Father when Jesus Christ will return to perfectly restore all things once and for all. He will make all things new, His people will dwell with Him forever in perfect peace worshipping Him for all eternity (*Jeremiah 32:36-44, Revelation 7:9-17*).

The Gospel story impacts every area of our lives. It's a story that crosses social and cultural barriers and helps us make sense of the world we live in. It's the foundation on which all Christians stand as we seek to know Jesus and make Him known. As you begin your journey through the City Group Pathway, don't forget the Gospel story and Jesus, our great hero.

PATHWAY



A One Year Discipleship Plan for City Groups

EQUIPPING

- *The Greatest Story Ever Told*
- *Table Of Contents*
- *City Group Pathway*
- *City Groups Missional Communities*

MODULES

Module A "Our New Identity"

Month 1:
UP - "Identity in Christ"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 2:
IN - "Identity in the Family of God"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 3:
OUT - "Identity as a Witness"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 4:
"Living in our New Identity"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: In Action
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

Module B "Biblical Community"

Month 5:
UP - "Community with God"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 6:
IN - "Community in the Family of God"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 7:
OUT - "Community on Mission"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 8:
"Living in Biblical Community"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: In Action
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

Module C "Christ's Mission"

Month 9:
UP - "On Mission with God"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 10:
IN - "On Mission with the Family of God"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 11:
OUT - "On Mission in the Nations"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: Equipping
W4: In Action

Month 12:
"Living out Christ's Mission"
W1: Bible Study
W2: Family Meal
W3: In Action
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

APPENDICES/CITATIONS

- *New Testament Reading Plan*
- *Robert Murray Bible Reading Calendar*
- *Citation*

City Group Pathway | What is it?

Following Jesus is a journey and just as in every journey, one needs to have a good map in order to not get lost along the way. The City Group Pathway is a map to help your group live out every aspect of the Great Commission. It will help you establish discipleship rhythms, apply Citylight's Core Values, and equip your group to effectively multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. The goal for the CG Pathway is for groups and members to "know, love, and worship Jesus" in the context of spiritual formation, community, and mission as we continue to multiply disciples.

City Group Pathway | How to use it?

The CG Pathway is designed to be a twelve month framework for City Groups. It is designed for both new and existing groups to walk through in order to create healthy monthly rhythms and to be equipped with discipleship tools. There are three modules composed of four months within each module. Each module focuses on one Core Value (spiritual formation, community, and mission). Within each month, the first week is spiritual formation, the second week is a family meal, the third week equips the members with a tool, and the fourth week allows members to practice and celebrate what they have learned that month.

If your group misses a week, pick up where you left off. Just make sure you review and everyone in the group knows where you're at and where you're going in the CG Pathway.

City Group Pathway | Four weekly rhythms

Bible Study: The group will gather for a Bible study focused on the topic for the month. You will see what the Bible has to say about the topic and discuss how to apply what you learned.

Family Meal: A potluck style meal that will have 2-3 intentional discussion questions related to previous week's Bible study. For example, "How did what you learn from the Bible affect your life this week?"

Equipping: CG Leaders will teach a practical discipleship tool (i.e. reading the Bible, Gospel presentation, praying Scripture, etc). Many of these resources can also be found online in City Group Resources.

In Action: The CG will practice what they learned the previous week. For example, if they learned how to share the Gospel, the evening will be spent practicing and role playing with one another to become more comfortable and confident.

Module A | *Our New Identity*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of our spiritual formation?

Month 1 | ***Identity in Christ***

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Who is God? Who am I?

Scripture Passages: Ephesians 2:1-10

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

Get to know one another

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: How to hear from God in His Word

Learn the SOAP method of reading the Bible.

Week 4: In Action

Share SOAP Journals and what God is teaching you.

How will your group encourage one another to read the Bible?

Before You Study

- Read *Ephesians 2:1-10*.
- Spend some time thinking about the importance of what was true of you before you knew Christ (v.1-3), what He has done for you (v.4-7), and what is true of you when you believe in Jesus (v.8-10).

Who is God? Who am I?

The two most important questions in life are “Who is God?” and “Who am I?”. The way you answer these two questions will fundamentally shape the way you live your life.

Who is God? There is no one like God. The Bible affirms this truth when God tells us His name is “I AM WHO I AM”, meaning He always was, always is, and always will be (Exodus 3:14). God is one and eternally exists as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the creator and sustainer of everything. The Bible teaches us the attributes of God are knowledge, wisdom, truthfulness, faithfulness, love, goodness, grace, mercy, patience, holiness, jealousy, wrath, righteousness, justice, and power. He is so much more wonderful and beautiful than we'll ever be able to understand. We could spend all of eternity exploring the nature of God and we would never completely mine the depths of knowing Him. By this we must conclude that God is to be worshiped simply for who He is!

This is who God is and how we answer the question “Who is God?” directly impacts how we answer the question “Who am I?” and it will shape the way we live our lives.

Who am I? Understanding our faith in Jesus Christ gives us the answer to this question. Knowing who Jesus is, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him is the most practical and essential truth there is for us to know and walk in as believers.

We can easily focus on the “do” of following Jesus without first remembering the “be” of following Jesus. We tend to spend our time and energy focusing on the actions of our faith—going to church, reading the Bible, praying, and serving others. These are not bad things, but first we need to remember the Gospel and who we are in Christ.

In Christ we are saved, secure, significant, and satisfied through Him alone. This week focuses on the truth that our walk with God flows from us first knowing who we are in Christ. Our union with Christ—the truth that He is in us and we are in Him—flows directly into our daily communion with Christ.

We are Saved by Jesus

We are saved by faith alone through grace alone in Christ alone. When we put our faith in His work on our behalf, we are made right with God. We are brought from death to life and from darkness to light when we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord (Ephesians 2).

We are Secure in Jesus

Once we have trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord, nothing can change that! He does not lose His hold on us. It is not our work or performance that maintains and sustains our relationship with Him, but rather His work on our behalf that keeps us eternally secure in Him (John 10:28-30; 1 John 5:9-13).

We are Significant in Jesus

We don't have to look to our performance or what others think of us to seek to find our identity, worth, and value because these things are found in Christ alone. In Christ there will never be a time when we are not experiencing the immeasurable riches of His grace and His grace is now what defines us and motivates us (Ephesians 2:7-10).

We are Satisfied in Jesus

We don't have to look to the things of this world for purpose, joy, and peace because we find our purpose, joy, and peace in and through Jesus (Romans 12:2).

In short, knowing who we are in Christ both motivates us and empowers us to live out the Christian life.

What does the Bible say?

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. From this text, make a list of things that God has done for us in Christ. What stood out to you the most from this list?

2. Read Romans 8:1-17. What's true of us in Christ?

3. Read 2 Peter 1:3-9. What are the qualities that are listed in this text? What does it say is true of us when these qualities are increasing? What about when they are lacking?

How do I apply what I learned?

Scripture gives warnings that we can live ineffective and fruitless lives if we have forgotten who we are in Christ. However, multiple influences in our lives promote the idea that we decide what our identity is. The main contributors to this incorrect approach are Self, the World, and Others.

Self—looking for identity in who I think I am or what I do

We define ourselves by how we perceive ourselves. If we are honest, this can change day-by-day and even moment-by-moment. With this approach, we will either exalt ourselves or beat ourselves up based on our accomplishments. If we look to Self, we will define ourselves by our performance and achievements.

The World—looking for identity in what I have

Physical things can, and do, entice us. We can very easily define ourselves by our stuff—what we have or how much we have. We can allow our social status to drive us. We can live with the mindset that “if I just had this then I would be happy.” We covet, we are greedy, and we want more money and possessions.

Others—looking for identity in what others think of me or what I assume others think of me

We define ourselves and look for identity by how we think others view us. We fear man and what others think of us—we long for the acceptance, approval, respect, and recognition of others. This means that our significance, or lack of significance, can hinge on what others think of us or what we assume others think of us rather than what the Lord thinks of us.

CITY GROUPS ARE **MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES**

What is a Missional Community?

A missional community is a community of Christ followers on mission with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit that demonstrates tangibly and declares creatively the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a specific neighborhood or network of people.

A Community of Christians

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has redeemed a people for Himself whom He empowers and sends to be His witnesses, as we see in John 20:21 and Matthew 28:16-20. We are called and sent to show a hurting, broken, and dying world that Jesus is who He says He is and did what He said He did. The purpose of Christian community has always been to demonstrate God's character to the world. We do this as individuals, but our communities are to be defined in this way too.

On Mission With God

God is about bringing glory to His name and establishing His kingdom and reign in the world. It's what He's always done throughout redemptive history! He is saving and blessing people through the finished work of Jesus that they would make disciples and bring His kingdom to the world around them. The life of the community is bound up in participating in God's mission in the world and making disciples of Jesus.

Demonstrate the Gospel

Just as Jesus came demonstrating the Kingdom through selfless acts of service, we should actively look for opportunities to meet the felt and real needs of our neighbors and community. We seek to become a blessing to our neighbors, and demonstrate the reality of God's new Kingdom. When you look at Jesus, however, He did not simply stop at healing and meeting needs. He consistently spoke a true message of great hope to those whom He encountered.

Declare the Gospel

A missional community listens to and understands the stories of others in order to be able to tell the Gospel Story in ways that are Good News to those specific people. We want our communities to wrestle with and understand how to speak the good news of Jesus' perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His resurrection in power so that it is indeed good news to their neighbors.

A Neighborhood or Network of People

God's grace in Jesus is good news for those in the church and those outside the church – we all need the Gospel! Just as the Father sent the Son to a specific time, place, and people, so the Spirit does with the church, sending us to specific groups of neighbors. A missional community is seeking to wrap their lives up with the neighborhood or network of people that God has placed them in.

For us, a neighbor or someone in your network is anyone you cannot avoid or anyone who has needs that you have the resources to meet. These individuals may be those who live next door, those you work with, those you play with, or those with whom you share some sort of affinity. They may also be someone you have little in common with but whom God has placed squarely in your path or specifically called or commanded you to care for. A missional community is a group of people who have a common set of people who need the Gospel and are intentionally living lives among them.

More than a Bible Study

A missional community by nature is intended to be more than a typical Bible study.

For us, a missional community is not just a Bible study, it's not just a fellowship group, it's not just a social action club, it's not just a support group, and it's certainly not just a weekly meeting. A healthy City Group includes all of those things over time, but it's a family of missionaries learning to follow Jesus in every area of their lives.

A City Group is a group of people asking "What does loving my city and neighbor really look like?", and realizing Jesus may ask far more of you than you ever thought. The great news though, is that we are experiencing and knowing Jesus where He is on mission to the broken and lost.

When we look to these false identities to determine our identity, worth, and value, it is no surprise that we will struggle and that life will be difficult. These false identities are never enough; they keep us longing for more. Instead of looking to these false identities, there are two truths that we must seek to dwell on and remind ourselves of regularly:

1. Our identity does not come from who we think we are, what we do, what we have, or what others think of us; it comes from the person and work of Jesus Christ.

2. Our identity does not come from us thinking about ourselves more or less, but rather from us thinking rightly about what God says is true of us in Christ.

Living out of our identity in Christ is essential to the Christian life. We can intellectually understand this truth, but can functionally neglect or forget about this truth as we daily live our lives. So how do you practically live out of your identity in Christ? Here are three things that you can seek to practice daily:

Remember Who Jesus Is and What He Has Done for You

Daily seek to remind yourself of who Jesus is, what He has done for you, and what is true of you now in Him. Regularly spend time reading the Bible and remind yourself of what is true of you in Christ.

Repent of False Identities

Acknowledge where you are looking to find your identity, value, and purpose apart from Jesus Christ. Confess to the Lord how you look for your identity in yourself, the world, or others.

Walk with God and His People

God has given us His Spirit, His Word, and His people to empower us and to help us be conformed into the image of Jesus. Daily seek to ask the Spirit for His guidance and for genuine fellowship with other believers.

Spend time discussing these questions:

1. Where do you typically find yourself looking to find your identity, worth, and value?
2. How do you see yourself running to each of these false identities?
3. Which one do you see yourself running to most often and why?
4. How does Christ offer us a better identity than these false identities? What can you do to point yourself to this truth?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group

Praise. Praise God that He has given you a new identity in Christ.

Admit. Confess where you seek to find your identity apart from Him.

Request. Ask that the Spirit of God would continually reveal any false identities in your heart and would empower you to rest in your identity in Him.

Thank. Thank God that you are saved, secure, significant, and satisfied in Christ. Thank Him that your identity and purpose are found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Helpful Resources

- Who is God? The Bible Project <https://bibleproject.com/explore/god/>
- Resource Page on Identity in Christ from Desiring God: www.desiringgod.org/topics/identity-in-christ
- List: The Identity of a Believer in Union With Jesus Christ from Appendix B on Page 252-253 of the ***Steps Participants Guide from the Village Church***
- Article: ***“How are Union With Christ Defines Us”*** by Luma Sims from Gospel Centered Discipleship
- Article: ***“The Believer’s Position in Christ”*** by Iain Gordon from Cru

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers. (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

1. Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
2. Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
3. The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
4. Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
5. And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

1. Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!
2. What do you do for work and what do you like about it?
3. What's something from last week's Bible study, "Identity in Christ", that stuck out to you? Why?

Week 3 | Equipping The SOAP Method

Spending time with God. The Gospel unites us with Jesus Christ. God is now our Heavenly Father and we are His children. Spending time with God through reading the Bible and prayer is an important part of this relationship. These disciplines will open our eyes to His goodness and love for us.

Reading the Bible can sometimes be challenging. “Where should I start?” “How much should I read?” How often should I read?” There are many methods out there to help organize your Bible reading. One approach we encourage is the SOAP method. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. It’s a way to hear from God through His Word and grow as a disciple of Jesus.

As a City Group, read through “How to SOAP” and the “Example of SOAP”.

How to SOAP

When you have your daily time with God, use SOAP to help you think through what you are reading.

Scripture

Pick a book of the Bible and read 1-2 chapters a day. Each day, write out the Bible verse that stood out the most to you.

Observation

What is God saying in this verse? What truth did you learn? Write down your observations, thoughts, or questions.

Application

How can you apply what you learned? What truths do you need to believe? Write down a practical way you can apply this truth

Prayer

Respond to God in prayer. Write down a short prayer thanking God for this truth and ask Him to help you apply it in your life.

Example of SOAP

Scripture. John 15

John 15:5 - “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

Observation.

We don't naturally abide in Jesus so He commands us to abide. Following this command is not burdensome, but actually for our benefit. If we're not connected to Jesus, we can't do anything. Jesus is the true vine and if we abide in Him we will bear fruit. The fruit we bear brings glory to God.

Application.

What are ways I can abide in Jesus? Jesus says I will abide in Him if I keep His commandments, but am I actually doing that? Abiding in Jesus allows me to experience the joy that Jesus has for me. I can continue to abide in Him through regularly reading the Bible and prayer.

Prayer.

Jesus, thank You for saving me! Please always remind me of how amazing Your Gospel is. I confess that most of the time I would rather do my own thing than abide in You. Teach me more about what it means to abide in You and I pray that abiding in You would result in great fruit for Your glory!

How are we practicing this?

Reading and engaging with God's Word should be a regular part of our lives. The reason learning the SOAP Method is the first equipping tool is to give you what you need to start a regular habit of spending time with God in His Word.

Using a Bible reading plan helps you know what to read so you're not sitting with your Bible open wondering what to read. No matter what Bible reading you choose, the key is consistency. Don't feel guilty if you miss a day. Just pick up where you left off and keep hearing from God's Word. Here are a few Bible reading plan suggestions:

1. Read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John)
2. Read one of Paul's shorter letters (Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, or Colossians)
3. Use the Robert Murray M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan. You will read four chapters per day to read through the Old Testament once and the Psalms and New Testament twice over the course of one year (see appendix).
4. Use the 260-Day Bible Reading Plan. You will read one chapter per day to read through the New Testament of the course of 260 days (see appendix).

Spend some time...

1. Talking about how you think the SOAP method will help you spend time with God.
2. SOAPing through John 1:1-18 as a City Group.
3. Giving people a chance to decide what they will SOAP through for next week.

Week 4 | In Action

Sharing SOAP Journals

Why should we share what God is teaching us?

Last week you learned how to spend time with God using the SOAP Method of reading the Bible. God says this about His Word:

2 Timothy 3:16–17

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

The Bible is not a mystical book to be used as a lucky charm. The Bible is God’s Word to us and has the power to transform us more into the image of Christ. Reading the Bible allows us to hear directly from God. It reminds us of who we are in Christ, it confronts us with our sin and calls us to repentance, and most importantly it always points us to Jesus and the Gospel. We should approach Scripture with an eager expectation that God will transform us.

Not only does Scripture transform and edify us personally, but when we share what God is teaching us with others, we sharpen one another and help each other grow with Jesus (*Proverbs 27:17*). It’s for this reason that your City Group should make it a regular habit of sharing what God is teaching you on a regular basis.

“The Transformative Power of Scripture” - Gregg R. Allison (50 Core Truths of the Christian Faith)

Let's Practice!

Use the following questions to help your group process and reflect on your time SOAPing in God's Word.

1. What was a highlight from reading the Bible this week?
2. Share something from your SOAP Journal that God taught you this week. How will you apply what you learned?
3. What are ways your City Group can encourage one another to regularly read the Bible.

Module A | *Our New Identity*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of our spiritual formation?

Month 2 | *Identity in the Family of God*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: The Church and the Family of God

Scripture Passages: Romans 8:12-17

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

Knowing each other like family

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: How to Share Your Testimony

Week 4: In Action

Share testimonies and celebrate how Jesus has saved others

The Church: The Family of God

Before You Study

- Read Romans 8:12-17
- Consider the characteristics you see in the family God.

What is the Church?

The focus this month is on the believer's identity within the family of God, or the Church. As we learned, one of the most important questions people can ask is, "Who am I?". Once answered, this question naturally leads us to ask the question, "Where do I belong?". One of the beautiful truths about the Gospel is that in Jesus we belong to God's family. In our sin, we ran away from home and rejected God our Father, but Jesus is the good older brother who had an intervention on our behalf and brought us back into the family of God. It is crucial to understand that God did not merely save you and me from our sins, but He brought us into the family of God. Why is that so crucial? Because understanding adoption into God's family helps us to see how much God loves us. God's love for us is so intense that He did not merely want to make us sinless, but He wanted to bring us as close to Him as possible - as close as a parent is with their child. In other words, in the Kingdom of God you are not simply a citizen, but you are royalty. Your identity comes with a new last name and you belong in God's family!

Another way of thinking about God's family is to think about the Church. The Church is made up of people who belong to God's family. This is why the apostle Paul often refers to other Christians as "brothers" and "sisters." These are not cute nicknames or mere sentiment for Paul. He really does view other believers as spiritual brothers and sisters in the Church. In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul also calls the Church the "household" of God. It is not an understatement to say that we cannot truly experience our identity in God's family without the Church.

So what implications can we conclude about identity in the family of God?

We belong to God.

We are not spiritual orphans, but rather God is our Father. Spiritual orphans live as though it is them against the world. A child of God knows that God their Father has overcome the world already. Spiritual orphans run away from God with their sin, because they think He is a mildly disappointed dad. A child of God runs to God with their sin, because they know that God's presence is always open because of what Jesus has done (John 14:18).

We belong to one another.

If the Church is primarily the family of God, that means we belong to one another. We are called to treat each other as brothers and sisters and compete to show each other honor (Romans 12:10). There are no only-child's in God's family.

We belong in the Church.

The word Church literally means an "assembly of people". The biblical writers actually borrowed the term from Greek culture, so a "church" could technically refer to any group of people gathering together for a united purpose. Thus, the Christian church is a gathered group of people united around the fact that Jesus has made us all a family with God as our father (Hebrews 12:33-24).

We belong in God's family.

It has always been God's plan to create a family for Himself. In Genesis 15, God told Abraham that he was going to have descendants that are more numerous than the stars. Fast forward all the way to Galatians 3:29, and we see that those who are in Christ Jesus are now spiritual descendants of Abraham and heirs who get all that was promised to Abraham. An heir implies that you are now a family member in God's family.

What does the Bible say?

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What is your identity apart from Christ in this passage?

What is your identity in Christ in this passage.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. According to this passage, how does your identity change the way you treat other people in the Church?

3. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What are the three commands in these verses (hint: they all begin with “let us”). What are the reasons given for why we do those commands (hint: they all begin with “since”).

4. Read Romans 12:9-13. What are all the specific commands in these verses? What are some practical examples you’ve seen where each command is lived out in the Church?

How do I apply what I learned?

If you belong to the family of God and are a part of the Church, it is imperative to ask, “What does that look like?”

Spend Time Together - For starters, it will look like spending a lot of time together. Can you imagine a dad who says he loves his kids, but never spends time with them? Or a son that says he loves his mom, but never calls her? Or a family that says they love each other, but never shares a family meal? In God’s family, we don’t simply say we love each other, but we actually show it by spending time with one another. Acts 2:46 says, “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.” The early church met together almost every day! Basically, if it was time to eat - the church met together. If we desire to feel like the family of God there is simply no substitute for spending time together.

Stories - The best way to celebrate your identity in the family of God is to share how you became a part of the family of God. Every family has stories that they share; like the time they took a crazy vacation or how dad proposed to mom. Similarly, as Christians we can share our family story by sharing how Jesus changed our lives. Revelation 12:11 indicates that we will actually conquer the devil by sharing our testimony of how Christ’s blood saves us from our sins.

Serve One Another - Additionally, we serve the family of God so that together it can flourish. Can you imagine a family where every member refused to do laundry or clean the bathroom or do the dishes? Eventually your house would smell terrible! In a similar way, each of us has a job to do - not so that we can show off our gifts and talents - but so that as the family of God we can thrive together. If we don't play our role and serve the Church, then the entire family of God suffers. In 1 Peter 4:10 it tells us that we should actually use our gifts to serve each other.

Share Hurts and Struggles - Finally, we must be open and honest about our suffering and sin struggles. Again, can you imagine a parent ignoring a broken bone in their child or a three year old not asking for a band-aid when they have a cut? Avoiding these wounds could be disastrous. In a similar way, God's family - the Church - should not ignore the hurts of others nor should we be silent about our own sin and suffering. Galatians 6:1-2 tells us that we should help restore our brothers and sisters who are caught in sin and bear their burdens. In 1 Peter 3:15 it says that we should always be ready "to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." Typically Christian circles view this verse as advocating apologetics, which is not wrong, but the context of these verses seem to suggest that we should share why we have hope in Jesus when life is full of suffering. Our stories of how we cling to Jesus in the midst of suffering or temptation are powerful reminders of our identity given to us in Christ.

As we can see, there is no short-cut to experiencing your identity in the family of God. We cannot experience what it means to be in God's family without spending time together, sharing our stories, serving one another, and sharing our hurts and struggles. Tim Keller is famous for saying, "Everyone says they want community and friendship. But mention accountability or commitment and they run the other way." It's not surprising that this is true because people think they either don't have time for the Church or they are afraid to be vulnerable in the Church. But the reality is we can't experience our identity without the Church. We must realize that through Christ we will never be kicked out of God's family. However, we must recognize it will take work to assume that identity and live out our role in God's family. When we do that, we actually reveal the Gospel itself.

“Community is more than just the result of preaching the gospel; it is itself a declaration of the gospel. It is the demonstration of the good news of freedom in Christ through the evident display of our transformed character and our life together. It is itself part of the good news, for the good news is this: this is what Christ has won for you on the cross - a new life together with the people of God. Once you were alienated from others, but now you have been brought near.”

- Tim Keller

Spend time discussing these questions:

1. What is the greatest thing you learned in this study?
2. Why is it hard to know our identity in Christ apart from the Church?
3. How does viewing the Church as the “family of God” change the way you see church?
4. How does your identity in God’s family change the way you see difficult or challenging people within the Church? How does it change = the way you see the pastors or “spiritual giants?”

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that He has given you a new identity in God’s family and His Church.

Admit. Confess where you seek to live out your identity apart from the Church.

Request. Ask that the Spirit of God would show you ways you can bless the family of God and the Church using the identity you have in Christ.

Thank. Thank God that one day you will receive new bodies and know the family of God without sin.

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

1. Where are you from and what is like growing up?
2. What are your natural gifts and how can you use them in your City Group?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

How to Share Your Testimony

How to Share Your Story.

Each of us has a story to tell how Jesus came into our lives, saved us from our sin, and called us to Himself. Sharing our story is important because it helps us move from strangers to family. All of our stories are different, but there is one enemy; Satan and the effects of sin, and one hero; Jesus. When we hear other stories we see just how much we have in common in the saving work of Jesus Christ!

Use the 3 sections and questions below to help you write out your story.

Before I Accepted Christ (or surrendered and committed to Him)

What was my life like that will relate most to the non-Christian?
 What did my life revolve around the most? Where did I find my security and happiness? (The non-Christian is relying on something external to give him happiness)
 How did those areas begin to let me down?

How I Received Christ (or surrendered and committed to Him)

When was the first time I heard the gospel?
 What were my initial reactions?
 When did my attitude begin to turn around? Why?
 What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Christ?
 Why did I go ahead, turn from my sins, and surrender my life to Christ?

After I Accepted Christ (or surrendered and committed to Him)

Specific changes and examples of the changes Christ has made.
 Why am I motivated differently?

Helpful Hints

Write the way you speak; make the testimony yours.
 Practice this over and over until it becomes natural.
 Keep it short – 2-3 minutes (200-300 words). At that length, it's easily something you can put into a conversation without it becoming a monologue

How are we practicing this?

The story of how Jesus saved you is the most significant story and moment in your life. Being open and honest when sharing testimonies will create true community within your group. That's why sharing personal testimonies should be a regular part of your City Group. You will create a schedule so that every person has a chance to share their story. Consider having one person share on the Bible study week or the Family Meal week.

Spend some time discussing...

1. Why is knowing the story of how God saved you important?
2. Why is sharing your testimony a good way to share the Gospel?
3. Have you ever thought about sharing your testimony with others?

For next week, use the *"How to Share Your Story"* equipping tool to write out your testimony of how Jesus saved you. If you've never carefully considered how God has worked in your life, set aside specific time to reflect and pray that God will show you more of what He has done. Type out your story (200-300 words) and practice sharing it to get comfortable.

1. Next week several people will be encouraged to share their testimonies with the group.
2. Select 3-4 people to share their testimony next week.
3. Schedule when the other people in your group will share their testimony.

Week 4 | *In Action*

Sharing Personal Testimonies

Why should we share our testimonies?

A Christian testimony is focused on Jesus who interrupted our selfish rebellion. He is the Light that helped us to see the error of our ways. A testimony is not a Christian testimony unless it includes the message of the Gospel that salvation is through grace by faith in Jesus Christ.

Last week you learned how to share your testimony. The story of how Jesus saved you is wholly unique. Whether you were outright rebellious or found your identity in your achievements, Jesus has written a wonderful story of redemption in your life. When you share your story with others it testifies to God's grace and love and it's a personal story of how the Gospel changes lives.

It Glorifies God

Your testimony shows that God is greater than any other story or experience. It's all about God and the good news of salvation. Sharing your testimony is sharing the Gospel because you're sharing the story of God's hope and provision through Jesus.

Testimonies are more than just a story about a changed life. Yes, your life did change for the better, but a person can get a changed life from a personal trainer and dietician. Even an unbeliever can have a story about a time when they arrived at a destination despite obstacles.

It Is A Unique Story Of God's Grace

There is a specific time when you first realized your need for a Savior. At some point, you realized that life wasn't working out so well when you were running it on your own and you needed help. Your testimony may have been extreme and radical, or it might have been a calm profession of true belief. Testimonies depict God's love and mercy because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

It Creates True Community Through Transparency

The more we're honest about mistakes we've made in the past, the more other people can relate to us. There's a natural tendency to want to look as perfect as possible on the outside so we hold past mistakes deep within us. Holding back only keeps people at arm's length. Sharing brings them closer into intimate and real conversations.

It removes fear and reminds us of hope

In speaking about what God has done in your life, you are also remembering all of God's goodness. When you recount what He has done through the person and work of Jesus Christ, it gives you even more faith and hope for present circumstances and living.

It is an evangelism tool

The facts of the Bible and the message of the Gospel are true, however, but unbelievers and skeptics will try to argue these facts. They can come up with ideas that sound plausible, but they can't argue with someone's story of an experience they had in their life. This is especially true when a testimony recounts your trust in God even when you were in the midst of a trial, or as Charles Spurgeon puts it, singing in the night.

"Try and sing in the night, Christian, for that is one of the best arguments in the entire world in favor of your religion...I tell you, we may preach fifty thousand sermons to prove the gospel, but we will not prove it half as well as you will by singing in the night." ~ Charles Spurgeon.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/10-reasons-to-share-your-testimony.html>

Let's Practice!

Tonight several people in your City Group will share their testimonies. This is a chance for your group to praise God together as you hear stories of His salvation. It's also a time to get to know one another on a deeper level and grow as a spiritual family.

Being saved by Jesus is the most significant story of a person's life. When someone finishes sharing their testimony, it's appropriate to thank them for sharing and follow up questions. Consider the following:

- How did you come to know what God is like through Jesus?
- What does Jesus mean to you now?
- How has Jesus's death on the cross for your sins changed how you look at yourself?

When you are done sharing testimonies, spend time in prayer thanking God for what He has done and that you got to witness the saving work of Jesus in the lives of the group members that shared their stories.

Sharing personal testimonies should be a regular part of your City Group. Create a schedule so that every person has a chance to share how Jesus saved them. Consider having one person share on the Bible study week or the Family Meal week.

Module A | *Our New Identity*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of our spiritual formation?

Month 3 | *Identity as a Witness*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: God as a Missionary God

Scripture Passages: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

Being a representative of Jesus

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: How to Share the Gospel

Learn the “One-Verse Bridge Illustration”

Week 4: In Action

Practice sharing the Gospel by role playing

Pray for unbelievers and ask God to give you chances to share the Gospel

Week 1 | Bible Study

God as a Missionary God

Before You Study

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Spend time considering what it means to be an ambassador.

Who did God send?

As we have been learning, when we place our faith in Jesus, we get a whole new identity. At the deepest level, who we are gets completely redefined in light of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. This month, we'll be focusing on the believer's identity as a Witness of Christ. Another way we can think about this is that we are God's sent missionaries everywhere we live, work, and play.

To really understand our identity as God's missionaries, we have to start with God's identity as a missionary Himself. The theological term is *Missio Dei*, which literally translates to missionary God. Our God is a missionary living out His divine mission in the world. We see this clearly in the Trinity. God the Father, created the world which fell into sin. And how does the Father go about His redemptive mission to save the world? He sends the Son. This means that Jesus is the first sent missionary.

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1 John 4:14

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

John 5:30

I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Jesus was sent by the Father - on mission to save sinners, by grace,

for His glory. Additionally, what does the Son do? He sends the Holy Spirit:

John 16:7

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Our God is a Missionary God, we are made in His image, and we get the joy of joining Him in His mission. This means that as soon as you believe in Jesus you are also a missionary. A part of our identity in Christ is being a witness to God's grace and the Gospel.

What does the Bible say?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

1. What does it mean to regard someone “according to the flesh”?
2. How does this passage connect our mission to God's mission?
3. What ministry does this passage say Christ has given us? What does that mean?
4. What new identity does this passage say Christ has given us? What does that mean?
5. Why do you think it's important to understand our new identity as “ambassadors” and “witnesses” before we try to live out a new set of missionary activities?

How do I apply what I learned?

Pray

If the mission is God's mission, and He is the Ultimate Missionary, our missionary efforts should start with humble dependence on Him to go before us. A helpful axiom we've often referred to at Citylight is to "pray for doors, check doors, respect doors." So, in the morning, pray, "God would you give me opportunities to talk about Jesus today? Would you open doors with coworkers, neighbors, or friends?". Then throughout the day, you check doors. You bring up Jesus, ask someone if you can pray for them. Mention something your City Group is doing. And you'll know in about 15 seconds if that is an open door to talk more or a closed door. If the door is closed, respect the door. Don't kick it in! But if it's an open door, walk through it. Invite them to church or share your story or invite them to your City Group.

Bless

Do you know what the literal definition of the Gospel is? Good news. So, if we're going to share the Gospel, we should first be the kind of people that are good news to the people around us. That means, be a great neighbor! When you move into your neighborhood, is it good news for you neighbors? When you take good care of your lawn, when you serve your neighbors in tangible ways, when you show hospitality and friendship, that's good news to your neighbor! When you go out to eat, are you good news to the waiter? Do encourage them, treat them kindly, and tip them well? That's good news to them! Do you give good gifts and speak words of life and encouragement to the people around you? That's good -news to them and paves the way for the ultimate good news of Jesus!

Share

Being a good neighbor isn't enough to bring someone from death to life - you actually need to share the Gospel. The best place to start is your own story. When God gives you open doors, share how you came to know Jesus. Share how you learned that He was your substitute in life and death and gave you forgiveness and eternal life by placing your faith in Him.

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that He is a Missionary God! When you were dead in your sins, He came to the rescue. He didn't send down a self-help manual for you to help yourself. He came to rescue you!

Admit. Admit some of the lesser missions of this world that have been more of a priority to you than the mission of God.

Request. Ask for God to help you see people the way He sees people and to increase your love missional zeal for the people in your life. Ask Him to give you open doors for Gospel conversations and the courage and words to walk through them.

Thank. Thank Jesus that He has invited you into His mission. Praise Him that you have a purpose bigger than yourself to live your life for!

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

1. Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
2. Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
3. The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
4. Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
5. And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

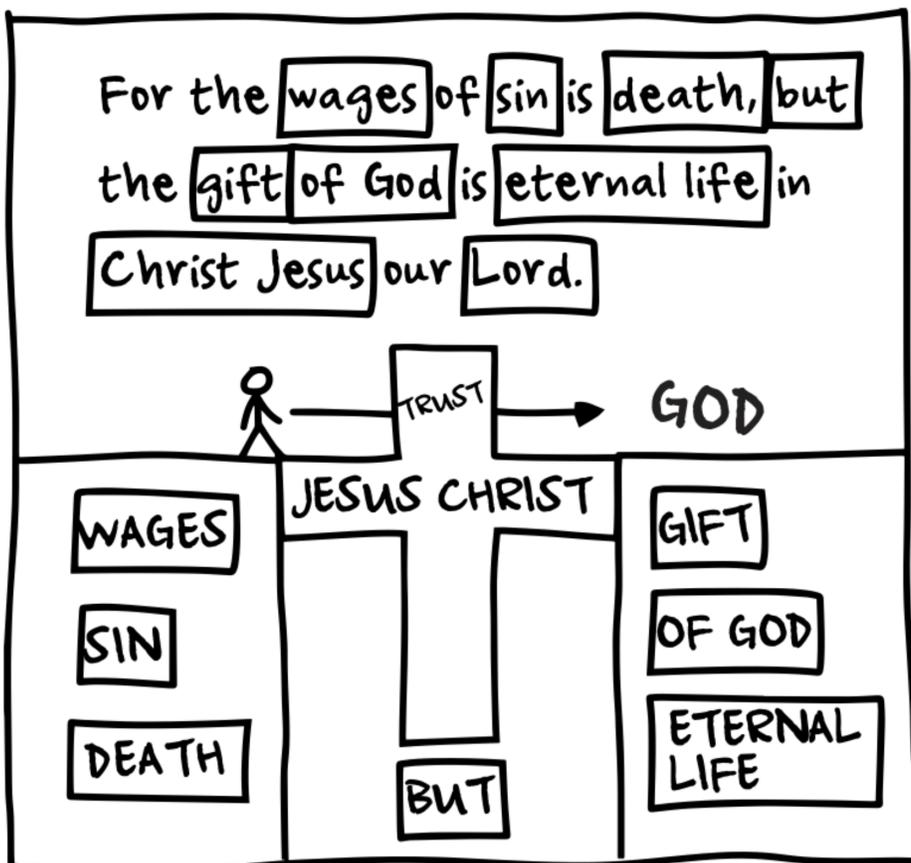
1. What are some of your favorite hobbies or passions?
2. What are your thoughts about being a representative of Jesus?

How to Share the Gospel

The One-Verse Bridge Illustration. Many times we feel that to be effective in evangelism we have to create complex illustrations and memorize a seminary-worthy number of verses. But the gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and (sometimes most importantly) simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing truth simply. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes, but can have impact for a lifetime.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God is leading you to share the gospel with your neighbor, Jeff. Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NIV). All you need is contained in this single passage. Ask Jeff if he would like to see a simple diagram based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with mankind (us).



Wages

Circle the word “wages” and ask, “How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?” The answer, of course, is that he would want justice—in this case, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn “wages” from God for how we have lived our lives.

Sin

Draw a circle around “sin,” asking your neighbor Jeff what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, “Has God ever seemed far away?” If he says “Yes,” you can explain that that’s one of the things sin does—it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

Death

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

BUT

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

Gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, “If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?” Remind Jeff that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It’s so special that no one else can give it. Ask, “How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?”

Eternal Life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, “How would you define

these words?” Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, “What is the opposite of separation from God?”

Christ Jesus

Write these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

Trust

Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust, and tell Jeff that Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All Jeff has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says “Yes,” invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible—the Gospel of John is a great place to start.

The prayer to receive Jesus can go something like this:

“Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I need You to forgive me. I know that You died a painful death so that my sins could be washed clean. Thank you. I want to make You the Lord of my life, and I will trust and follow You. Everything I have is Yours now. In Your name, Lord. Amen.”

There is nothing magical about these words. It’s not the words themselves that make things right between you and God—it’s whether or not your heart really means it. We know this because in 1 Samuel 16:7, the Bible says, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

The best part of this whole process is that it doesn't matter how badly we've messed up, Jesus is powerful enough to save anyone from their sins—even the worst of us. Romans 10:13 says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That's fantastic news—no matter how badly we've messed up, we can place our complete trust in Jesus, and He will wipe all of our sins off the face of the earth. Jesus is the bridge to life.

How are we practicing this?

The Gospel is the message that the whole world needs to hear. As believers, we have that message and God has commissioned us to go and share the good news of Jesus. But knowing exactly how to share the Gospel can be challenging. That's why this month is all about learning how to share the Gospel and praying for those people that you are sharing the Gospel with. Your group will make it a regular habit to review how to share the Gospel and pray for your mission field.

- Practice sharing the Gospel through role play.
- Pray continually for the unbelievers you are trying to reach.
- Remind yourself daily how the Gospel impacts your everyday life.

Spend some time...

1. Looking over the "One-Verse Bridge Illustration" again.
2. Discussing the importance of knowing how to share the Gospel.
3. Discussing what excites you and/or makes you nervous about sharing the Gospel.

Week 4 | *In Action*

Practice Sharing the Gospel

Why should we practice sharing the Gospel?

The saying “practice makes perfect” certainly rings true when it comes to sharing the Gospel. The Bible says this about sharing the Gospel:

“... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” - 1 Peter 3:15

God wants us to be prepared because we never know when an opportunity will present itself to share the Gospel. We want to be confident, comfortable, and ready to share the Gospel at all times. Having confidence in sharing the Gospel allows you to focus more on the person you’re sharing with and less on worrying about how to share.

Let’s Practice!

Tonight you will break into pairs and practice sharing the Gospel with one another. Each person will take a turn sharing the Gospel using the “One-Verse Bridge Illustration” that you learned last week. Allow for 30 minutes to make sure everyone has a chance to practice sharing and then discuss the following questions as a large group.

- What went well when you and your group practiced sharing the Gospel?
- What didn’t go well when you and your group practiced sharing the Gospel?
- How can you become more comfortable sharing the Gospel?
- Who is someone that you can share the Gospel with?

End your time by praying for unbelievers in your life and ask God to give you an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

Module A | *Our New Identity*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of our spiritual formation?

Month 4 | **Living in Our New Identity**

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Our New Identity Changes Us

Scripture Passages: John 10:27-30; Galatians 5:19-26; Hebrews 10:19-25; 2 Timothy 2:2

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer
Brainstorm City Group Mission Statement

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: How to Write a Mission Statement
Group will write a City Group Mission Statement

Week 4: Celebration & Review

Celebration Checkpoint

Week 1 | *Bible Study* Our New Identity Changes Us

Before You Study

- Read John 10:27-30; Galatians 5:19-26; Hebrews 10:19-25; 2 Timothy 2:2
- Consider some of the implications of your new identity in Christ.

How does our new identity change us?

In Colossians, we're called to put off the old self and put on the new self (Colossians 3:1-17). This means not submitting to the desires of our sinful flesh, but rather in everything we do submitting to the Holy Spirit who is at work inside of us. The past three months we have walked through how our new identity in Christ has implications for our spiritual formation, community, and mission.

Below are three things we have been given through the Gospel that should produce change in our lives:

We are given a new home. Just as God, through Jesus, has made His home in us, we now find rest and refuge in Jesus. He has saved us, keeps us secure, counts us significant and satisfies us. This means that we now run toward the eternal joy of our King rather than the temporary joys of this world.

We are given a new family. When God saved us, we were adopted into the family of God, the Church. This family is made up of a multitude of people who are commanded to love one another, hold fast to the confession of our hope, and to stir up one another to love and good works.

We are given a new mission. We heard and responded to the Gospel because of men and women who were faithful to live as missionaries sent to proclaim the good news. And now God sends us out to continue this work. We are ambassadors who carry the message of Gospel so that others may hear and believe.

What does the Bible say?

- *Read John 10:27-30.* How secure does Jesus say you are in His hand? How does this give confidence to His sheep?
- *Read Galatians 5:22-24.* How does the fruit of the Spirit differ from the fruit of the flesh?
- *Read 2 Timothy 2:2.* What does Paul tell Timothy to do here? Why?

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

- What are the most important things you've learned the last three months and how have you put them into practice in your life?
- Where have you seen the fruit of the Spirit lived out in your City Group?
- How can your group continue to practice these things?

Praying Truth

Praise. Praise God that He sent Jesus to save us by grace through faith in His life, death, and resurrection.

Admit. Confess times when you have forgotten your new identity and have tried to live for yourself.

Request. Ask God that the Holy Spirit would daily remind you that you are saved, secure, significant, and satisfied in Jesus.

Thank. Thank Jesus for what He has done to spiritually grow you in your life and in your City Group.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.

Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.

The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.

Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.

And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

These questions will help you begin to brainstorm a City Group mission statement. Next week you will learn how to write a good mission statement and write one for your City Group.

- What are you passionate about?

- What opportunities has God given you to love and serve others?

Imagine your City Group 1 year from now. What kind of impact would you like to see in a neighborhood or network of relationships?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

How to Write a Mission Statement

Missional Communities.

City Groups are Missional Communities. A Missional Community is a community of Christ followers on mission with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit that demonstrates tangibly and declares creatively the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a specific neighborhood or network of people.

As you can imagine, it takes time and effort by everyone in the group to see all of these things happen. A clear mission statement will remind the group of your purpose and help unite you around a shared mission.

Creating Your Mission Statement.

A mission statement is a short statement of why a group or an organization exists. It neatly summarizes the overall goal, the primary audience, the service provided, and the specific geographical region.

Below are examples of neighborhood and network mission statements:

Neighborhood - “Our mission is to reach the Blackstone neighborhood with the Gospel by regularly visiting local restaurants to make new friends for the purpose of sharing Jesus with them.”

Network - “Our mission is to reach recent graduates by building relationships at our places of work so that through sharing the Gospel, disciples of Jesus are made.”

For City Groups, your mission statement will summarize who you are living on mission to, what you are asking God to do, where your mission will take place, and how you will regularly engage in your mission.

Why is it important to have a mission statement?

It guides the City Group. A mission statement communicates the defined mission field (neighborhood or network) of a City Group, which helps the group commit to living on mission.

It helps support direction. Your mission statement helps you focus on your City Group's purpose and helps you make decisions that will achieve your mission goals.

It inspires new ideas. When your City Group works together and discusses your group's mission statement, it can inspire new ideas about how to live on mission.

It informs you how to pray. Your mission statement helps your City Group know how to pray specifically for the people you are loving and serving.

Write your City Group Mission Statement

To begin writing your mission statement, take a moment to pray with your group. Where would God lead your group and to who would He have you serve? Then, discuss the following questions:

- Who are people that God has placed in your life that don't know Jesus?
- What are practical ways that you can develop better relationships with these people?
- What are practical ways that you can love and serve these people?
- Imagine your City Group one year from now. What kind of impact would you like to see in the neighborhood or network of relationships that you've chosen?

FAQ

What if our group doesn't have the same network, neighborhood, or passion to serve? Or what if we can't decide on our mission statement tonight?

Prayer is needed for this situation. God brought your group together for His specific purpose and it will take prayer to know exactly what that is. Begin to regularly pray personally and corporately. Pray throughout your week and at the beginning of each City Group gathering. Ask God to reveal the mission He has for you. Common themes will begin to emerge and then step into those opportunities.

Week 4 | *Celebration Checkpoint*

Assessing Growth

Congratulations, you've made it through Module B!

As you look back on these past four months, take a moment to reflect. Each module is not independent of the other modules, but rather works with them in order for you to experience greater depths of learning and discipleship.

As you reflect on your past four months with your City Group, discuss these questions:

1. What has God been teaching you and your group?
2. How has your group grown in your understanding of your identity in Christ?
3. How can your group continue to encourage another to grow spiritually?

Don't forget the Gospel

If the most important Core Value at Citylight is the Gospel, why don't we dedicate a module to that? Actually, the Gospel is necessarily interwoven throughout each module. While spiritual formation, community, and mission are the focuses of each module, the Gospel is the foundation on which they sit. The Gospel is the cause, while spiritual formation, community, and mission are the effects it should have on one's life.

As you continue reflecting, ask yourself how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has impacted your learning and discipleship:

1. How does your new identity in Christ give you a greater understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does the Gospel empower you to live in light of your new identity in Christ?

Pray and Celebrate!

- Reflect and celebrate over the last 4 months how God has changed you and your City Group through your study of Scripture, community with one another, and equipping for mission.
- Pray and thank God for His love that He has shown us through Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to transform your life and use your City Group as a missional community for His glory!

Module B | *Biblical Community*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of community?

Month 5 | *Community with God*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Desiring God's Word
Scripture Passages: Psalm 19, Psalm 119

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer
Foster intimacy with God through His Word

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: How to hear from God in His Word
Learn The Word Hand illustration

Week 4: In Action

Praying Scripture: Psalm 19

Desiring God's Word

Before You Study

- Read Psalm 19 and Psalm 119:89-105
 - Spend time considering the significance of the God's Word.
- Why is it important to read the Bible?

What is community with God?

This month focuses on biblical community, or more specifically - our personal community with God. As we will see in Module B, as believers, we have community directly with the God of the universe and with other believers. Community happens in the context of our spiritual formation, relationships with others, and mission toward others. We are called to encourage, love, and build one another up in the Gospel. We are also called to actively love and invite outsiders into our community. However, none of this happens without first having personal and individual community with God.

This week focuses on the importance of fostering a desire for God's Word in your heart. An important part of our community as believers is our direct communication with God through His Word. As Christians, we can draw close and commune with Jesus through His Scriptures.

So why is God's Word important and why should we desire it?

God reveals Himself through Scripture. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. This means that every word in the Bible comes directly from God. We would not know who God is or understand the Gospel without His word. What an amazing blessing that we are able to draw close to the God of the universe through the Bible (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

Scripture actively speaks into every area of our lives. The Bible teaches us how to confess sin, how to treat the poor, how to mourn, how to pray, and so much more. We are actually given guidance on how to navigate life in the Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16).

Scripture helps us fight sin and temptation. The only offensive weapon given to believers in the Armor of God is the Sword of the

Spirit, the Bible (Ephesians 6).

The Bible is present to fill our hearts and minds with the truth of God, provide conviction and encouragement, and actively fight sin.

In short, to desire God's Word is to desire community with God.

What does the Bible say?

1. **Read Psalm 19:1-6.** What should man know about God based on the nature around us? When has God used creation to reveal Himself to you?

2. **Read Psalm 19:7-10.** How is God revealed through the Scriptures? What has God told us about Himself in Scripture? Why is God's Word something to be desired?

3. **Read Psalm 19:11-14.** How does God's Word help us? What should be our response when God reveals Himself to us through His Word?

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. Do you desire to be in community with God through His Word? Is God's Word "more to be desired than gold" and "sweeter than honey" to you?

2. In what areas do you need to confess passivity, bitterness, or a lack of love for the Word of God. Spend some time confessing that to another person and to God.

Reading the Bible can feel like a chore sometimes. We know that it is beneficial for us, but at times it feels like something we check off of a list. How can we actually work to foster a true desire to be in the Word of God? This certainly doesn't fix it all, but here are three steps to take to get started!

Give your time

Psalm 119:97 - God's Word is David's meditation all day long.

The Hebrew word for "meditation" here refers to an object of "musing, study, or prayer." In biblical meditation, we are filling our minds to think

deeply on a verse, a passage, or a theme. This takes time to do. However, when we dig deeper, we begin to read the Bible in greater depth. We focus on every word, nuance, tone, and emotion. Meditation on Scripture takes time and energy, but our eventual grasp is deeper and more robust.

Give your ear

Psalm 119:98 - David's insight came through careful listening to God's Word.

When we listen carefully to God's Word, it is with us even when we aren't reading it. When we give our ear to the Word, we both remember it and live it out. God's Word is living and active, and through it God speaks to our particular times, circumstances, and struggles.

Give your heart

Psalm 119:101-104 - David allowed God's Word to change his will, desires, and actions.

We must look to Scripture to hold back our feet from sin, to hold fast to God's laws, and to equip us to reject every false way. To give your heart to the Scriptures is not just to memorize and learn for the sake of knowledge, but to willingly submit in obedience to them. We can joyfully surrender our heart to God, knowing that He is worthy.

"When you don't desire God's Word"- Shar Walker (TGC)

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that He chose to reveal Himself to us and make His glory known to us!

Admit. Confess times when you have not treasured time with Him and time in His Holy Word.

Request. Ask that Jesus would give you a love for His Word. Pray that He would reveal Himself to you in greater ways, and that His Word would become "sweeter than honey" to you.

Thank. Thank Jesus for His grace and for being the perfect substitute for our sins and making it possible for us to commune with God.

Helpful Resources
Citylight Resource: "How to Study the Bible" (City Groups- Resources)

Article: “When you don’t desire God’s Word” - Shar Walker (The Gospel Coalition)

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God’s family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That’s why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus’ ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so Important?

Meals remind us of God’s Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God’s ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together.

1. How do you foster intimacy in your time with the Lord?
2. Do you believe that the Word of God is alive and active?

Week 3 | Equipping

The Word Hand

As a “lamp unto [our] feet and a light unto [our] path (Psalm 119:105), the Word of God is more than simply a set of guidelines or recommendations. It gives us the foundation for how we live, move, and shape every aspect of our lives (2 Timothy 3:15-17). The Word Hand illustration is a simple way to break down five methods of taking in God’s Word. Just as you need all five fingers of your hand to firmly grasp onto something, we also must apply all five methods to firmly grasp scripture. Try to hold onto a book with four, three, or two fingers, and your grasp gets less firm and the book will easily slip away. The same goes with our grasp on Scripture.

Hearing - Romans 10:17

Hearing the Word taught by godly pastors and teachers provides fresh insight into the Scriptures to challenge and expand your own understanding, as well as stimulating your own appetite for its truth.

Reading - Revelation 1:3

Reading the Bible is often the way that God most directly speaks to us. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program or other method that takes a systematic approach to drawing lessons from the Bible.

Studying - Acts 17:11

Earnestly studying the Scriptures allows God’s Word to speak directly to our hearts—to correct, encourage, and edify us. Writing down your discoveries will help you organize and remember them.

Memorizing - Psalm 119:9, 11

Memorizing God’s Word trains us to use the Sword of the Spirit when we are faced with temptations and opposition by Satan. By holding passages from the Bible in our minds we are also able to have them

readily available for witnessing or in encouraging others with a “word in season” (2 Timothy 4:2).

Meditating - Psalm 1:2-3

Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, because when used in conjunction with each of the other methods, the Spirit begins to deeply move in our hearts and speak to our souls. Only as we meditate on God’s Word—thinking of its meaning and application in our lives—will we discover its transforming power at work within us.

“The Word Hand” by The Navigators

How are we practicing this?

Good news! We are putting each of these methods into practice this month!

Hear -- Week 4 (“Prayer in the Psalms” Sermon in “Resources”)

Read -- Week 1 (Scripture reading in “Before you Study”)

Study -- Week 1 (Bible Study)

Memorize -- Week 3 (Psalm 19:14)

Meditate -- Week 4 (Praying the Psalms)

Spend some time...

1. Reading through the worksheet together and discussing how each method is important in our relationship with the Lord.
2. Which one of these methods of interacting with God’s Word do you practice the most?
3. Which one do you tend to neglect? How can you more regularly incorporate it into your life?
4. Brainstorming together how you could incorporate all of these into your individual time with the Lord on a weekly basis.
5. Memorizing Psalm 19:14 as a group.

Week 4 | In Action

Praying the Psalms

Why should we pray the Psalms?

Praying the Psalms gives biblically-faithful prayers

The Bible will guide your prayers, helping you to speak to God with words that have come from the mind and heart of God. This also means you'll be praying more in accordance with the will of God. Can you have any greater assurance that you're praying the will of God than when you're praying the Word of God?

Praying the Psalms gives God-centered prayers

When you use a God-focused guide like the psalms to prompt your prayers, you'll pray less selfishly and with more attention to the ways, the will, and the attributes of God. Prayer becomes less about what you want God to do for you—though that's always a part of biblical praying—and more about the concerns of God and His Kingdom.

Praying the Psalms reorients our disordered affections

We are a mass of disordered affections. We desire what we ought to hate, and we care little for what we ought to deeply desire. The Psalms shape our affections so that we love what God says is right and deeply desire the blessings He promises us in the Gospel.

Praying the Psalms gives us intimacy in our relationship with God

Praying the Psalms is God's antidote to coldness of heart in our walk with Christ. We know that we should find the truths of the Gospel and the person of Jesus thrilling and heart-warming, but the reality is we sometimes feel so cold, dull, and empty. The Psalms are a significant part of the provision God has given to us for just this purpose.

Praying the Psalms can help us have more focus in prayer

When you say the same old things in prayer every day, it's easy for your mind to wander. You find yourself praying auto-pilot prayers—repeating words without thinking about either them or the God to whom you offer them. But when you pray the Bible, your mind

has a place to focus, and when your thoughts do begin to wander, you have a place to return to—the next verse.

Praying the Psalms helps us see prayer as a real conversation with a real Person

Prayer is talking with a Person, the Person of God Himself. Prayer is not a monologue spoken in the direction of God. The Bible is the means by which God participates in the conversation, for the Bible is God speaking. God speaks in the Bible, and you respond to His speaking in prayer.

“Why you should be praying the Psalms” - Donald Whitney (9Marks)
“7 Reasons you should pray the Psalms” - Christopher Ash (TGC)

How do we pray Scripture?

In his book “Praying the Bible”, Donald Whitney, describes the process of praying Scripture as follows: “To pray the Bible, you simply go through the passage line by line, talking to God about whatever comes to mind as you read the text” (p. 33). By using the text as a guide, you never run out of things to pray and you never pray the same prayer twice! The Psalms are particularly helpful for this approach because they were originally inspired to be sung back to God and because they cover the full range of human emotions and show us how to respond. As Whitney points out, “God has inspired a psalm for every sigh of the soul” (p. 54).

In the preface to his “Commentary on the Psalms”, John Calvin calls the Psalms an “anatomy of all the parts of the soul” because “there is not an emotion of which any one can be conscious that is not here represented as in a mirror.”

The resource given below to give you an idea of what praying Scripture could look like. However, feel the freedom to mix things up and try different methods to find what works for you!

Let's Practice!

- As a group, spend some time reading through the above sections: “Why should we pray the Psalms?” and “How do we pray Scripture?” Discuss what you read together.
- Spread out and spend the next 20 minutes individually praying through Psalm 19. Go verse by verse and talk to God about whatever comes to mind as you read. This should be an uninterrupted time to develop intimacy with God.
- Gather back together as a group and share about your prayer time and what God brought to your mind.

Helpful Resources

Book: “Praying the Bible” by Donald Whitney

Sermon: “Prayer in the Psalms: Discovering How to Pray” by Tim Keller

Article: “7 Reasons you should pray the Psalms” - Christopher Ash (The Gospel Coalition)

Article: “Why you should be praying the Psalms” - Donald Whitney (9Marks)

Article: “How to pray a Psalm” - Justin Taylor (The Gospel Coalition)

Illustration for Praying Scripture

Here is a practical example from “Praying the Bible” by Don Whitney using Psalm 23

You read the first verse—“The Lord is my shepherd”—and you pray something like this:

“Lord, I thank you that you are my shepherd. You’re a good shepherd. You have shepherded me all my life. And, great Shepherd, please shepherd my family today: guard them from the ways of the world; guide them into the ways of God. Lead them not into temptation; deliver them from evil. O great Shepherd, I pray for my children; cause them to be your sheep. May they love you as their shepherd,

as I do. And, Lord, please shepherd me in the decision that's before me about my future. Do I make that move, that change, or not? I also pray for our under-shepherds at the church. Please shepherd them as they shepherd us."

And you continue praying anything else that comes to mind as you consider the words, "The Lord is my shepherd." Then when nothing else comes to mind, you go to the next line: "I shall not want." And perhaps you pray:

"Lord, I thank you that I've never really been in want. I haven't missed too many meals. All that I am and all that I have has come from you. But I know it pleases you that I bring my desires to you, so would you provide the finances that we need for those bills, for school, for that car?"

Maybe you know someone who is in want, and you pray for God's provision for him or her. Or you remember some of our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, and you pray for their concerns.

After you've finished, you look at the next verse: "He makes me lie down in green pastures" (v. 2a). And, frankly, when you read the words "lie down," maybe what comes to mind is simply, "Lord, I would be grateful if you would make it possible for me to lie down and take a nap today."

Possibly the term "green pastures" makes you think of the feeding of God's flock in the green pastures of his Word, and it prompts you to pray for a Bible teaching ministry you lead, or for a teacher or pastor who feeds you with the Word of God. When was the last time you did that? Maybe you have never done that, but praying through this psalm caused you to do so.

Next you read, "He leads me beside still waters" (v. 2b). And maybe you begin to plead, "Yes, Lord, do lead me in that decision I have to make about my future. I want to do what you want, O Lord, but I don't know what that is. Please lead me into your will in this matter. And lead me beside still waters in this. Please quiet the anxious waters in my soul about this situation. Let me experience your peace. May the turbulence in

my heart be stilled by trust in you and your sovereignty over all things and over all people.”

Following that, you read these words from verse 3, “He restores my soul.” That prompts you to pray along the lines of:

“My Shepherd, I come to you so spiritually dry today. Please restore my soul; restore to me the joy of your salvation. And I pray you will restore the soul of that person from work/school/down the street with whom I’m hoping to share the gospel. Please restore his soul from darkness to light, from death to life.”

You can continue praying in this way until either (1) you run out of time, or (2) you run out of psalm. And if you run out of psalm before you run out of time, you simply turn the page and go to another psalm. By so doing, you never run out of anything to say, and, best of all, you never again say the same old things about the same old things.

So basically what you are doing is taking words that originated in the heart and mind of God and circulating them through your heart and mind back to God. By this means his words become the wings of your prayers.

“How to pray a Psalm” - Justin Taylor (The Gospel Coalition)

Module B | *Biblical Community*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of community?

Month 6 | **Community in the Family of God**

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Confession, Prayer, and Repentance

Scripture Passages: Psalm 51; 1 John 1:5-9; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

Discussing how to grow as a spiritual family

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: What are Huddles?

Group will split into men and women to discuss Huddles

Week 4: In Action

Practice Huddles

Confession, Prayer, and Repentance

Before You Study

- Read Psalm 51; 1 John 1:5-9; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- Spend some time pondering why this is crucial for the Church's health

What is Confession, Prayer, and Repentance?

God designed us to be in community with Him and also in community with Jesus' bride, the Church. This month, we'll look at what biblical community in the family of God looks like, where we see it in Scripture, why this is a necessary part of a Christian's walk with the Lord, and how to practically apply it.

Through interacting with God's Word and being in community with Him, two things typically happen; the first is the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and the second is personal worship. Through community in the family of God, brothers and sisters come alongside us to 1) confess, pray, and repent of our sin and 2) worship our King corporately.

So what is confession, prayer, and repentance?

Confession – Confession is when we grieve over our sin and it propels us to intentionally admit our struggles and sin before others, so that they can point us back to Christ and pray for us.

Prayer – Prayer is when we come before God and plead with Him to work mightily in our hearts to change our desires from wanting to sin into desires of repentance and obedience.

Repentance – Repentance is when we turn away from our sin and toward God on a daily basis. Galatians 5 says that the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit. In order to receive the desires of the Spirit, we must put to death the desires of the flesh and live for God.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Worldly grief is grief simply because we experience the negative consequences of our sin, like the loss of reputation or a broken relationship. We only grieve because of losing something the world offers us; It does not bring about true repentance. However, godly grief is when we feel true sorrow because we have grieved God's heart by

willingly sinning against Him through our thoughts and actions. We will still experience the negative consequences of our sin, but our motivation for repentance comes from a desire to return to the Lord and obey Him.

As Christians, we must regularly ask ourselves, “Do I live a life of true confession, prayer, and repentance based on the eternal hope found in the Gospel? Or am I simply engaging in spiritual activities to give me a sense of momentary hope through self-righteousness?”

What does the Bible say?

Psalm 51 takes us through David’s repentance of his sin with Bathsheba. Bathsheba was married to Uriah the Hittite until King David decided to have Uriah struck down so that he could take Bathsheba to be his own wife. About a year had passed between this event and his confession to the Lord in Psalm 51, but he does eventually repent of his sin.

1. Read Psalm 51:1-2. Why does David ask for mercy from God?

2. Read Psalm 51:3-5. Though David had Uriah killed after committing adultery with Bathsheba, who did David say that he sinned against? How should this shape our view of sin?

3. Read Psalm 51:6-10. Who transforms the heart, David or God? Why is it important that we know who the transformative power comes from?

What does Psalm 51 tell us about God’s character?

As you read the passages above, what sticks out to you? These passages teach us about confession, prayer, and repentance. They also give us insight into how biblical community in the family of God should look for the believer.

How do I apply what I learned?

Read 1 John 1:5-9. What implications do these verses have on living in biblical community in the family of God?

Consider these questions:

1. What would it look like if in our time with the Lord we grieved over our sin like David grieved over his?
2. When have you been met with mercy in times of repentance?
3. If we are called to walk in the light with the Church, what does that look like? How can you come alongside the others in your group to help them walk with Jesus?
4. How does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give us hope and confidence to continue confessing, praying, and repenting of sin in our life?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group

Praise. Praise God that He has given us a family to experience life alongside.

Admit. Confess times when you've not been intentional towards a brother or sister in Christ.

Request. Ask that the communion God gives us with Himself would encourage and empower us to invite others into biblical community.

Thank. Thank the Lord for providing this group with a space to gather and people to engage with.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

1. What is your favorite memory with your family and why?
2. What's something from last week's discussion that stuck out to you?
3. How does the community in your City Group give you a greater picture of community with God?

Week 3 | *Guide to Huddles*

Enjoying community while experiencing the Gospel.

Each of us longs for and needs other people to walk alongside with in life. Friends and family are a way to encourage us when we are downcast, show us hope when we see none, and enjoy life with. When done through the lens of the Gospel, we can both express the joys in our life and confess the sins in our life. Confessing the pride, anxiety, doubts, struggles, and messiness of our hearts doesn't leave us in despair, but actually gives us a greater hope. Exposing our sin serves to communicate the Gospel and point us toward our ultimate hope in the person and work of Jesus.

What are they?

Huddles are an extension of Sunday morning gatherings and City Groups. They are a place where 2-3 people of the same gender meet weekly for discipleship.

Why are they important?

A Huddle is a place to be known by others in such a way that you can be completely honest with your joys and struggles, confess sin, speak the truth of the gospel to one another, and point each other to Christ!

Hear & Obey

Bring your SOAP journal and share what you have heard from God and how you can obey it.

Repent & Believe

We all sin and we all need to repent of that sin. Each person confesses how you have sinned against God this past week and then repent (turn) from your sin. Encourage one another to believe and respond to the good news of the Gospel.

Questions to ask:

1. What are you trusting in besides God?
2. How have you been resisting God?
3. What is isolating you from God and other relationships?
4. How have you been stewarding your time, talents, and treasures?
5. How have you battled temptation?
6. How has anger or anxiety shown up this week?
7. Who are you in conflict with?

Praise & Prayer

Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? Who in the group do you need to call out greatness in today? How can the group pray for you? Who are you seeking to share the gospel with and how can we pray for them?

A Personal Story of Huddles

How to start a Huddle. How you approach confession and repentance can hugely influence the perception people have of Huddles and biblical community. Therefore, it's important to cast vision well and reinforce the why behind the what. Below is a personal story of a college student and his experience of being in a Huddle.

“My freshman year of college, I would often get together with a couple other guys to take part in what we called “The Crucible”. Simply put, we saw our natural proclivity to sin, desired to fight that sin, and saw that being in community with others who also desired to fight sin made that fight a little easier. And so we would meet throughout the year where we could really take inventory of where we were at in our walks with Christ, confess where we’ve sinned, and take steps to repent of that so that we could be forged more into the image of Jesus.

Our outline for each time we met was a simple acronym: C.P.R.

- confession, prayer, repentance. It helped us see that just as a person might need CPR to breath life back into them, we were getting life breathed into us as we confessed our sin and reminded one another of the true life that Jesus gives.”

How do I Encourage Confess and Repent?

Practice it yourself

James 5:16 says to confess your sins to one another and pray for one another. Why? So that you may be healed. Confessing to others where you fall short of the glory of God or build your own kingdom rather than resting in Jesus brings healing! This practice of regular confession in the presence of other believers allows us to bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2) and to encourage and exhort one another in the Gospel.

Place the focus on Jesus

Biblical confession is never meant to be shameful and moralistic, starting and ending with how we’ve messed up. Biblical confession is meant to be grace-filled and gospel-driven, acknowledging our brokenness and need of a Savior. We are to be ambassadors of God, teaching and admonishing others in all wisdom with the Gospel, singing and praising God in thanksgiving for the radical grace He has shown us.

Prioritize time for it

To the degree that we intentionally set time aside to confess our sin, internally to God and externally to others, to that same degree we will find it harder and harder to grieve the Spirit by holding onto an unrepentant heart. Confession and repentance feed off each other – biblical confession leads to true repentance and true repentance gives you a greater and clearer picture of just how wide the chasm is between you and God, and thus just how wide the cross of Jesus is.

Pursue repentance

How we approach confession is crucial to how we repent – are we nurturing a community of worldly grief or godly grief during confession? Repentance isn’t simply a box to check off, but it’s a lifestyle of continually taking on a posture of humility, and it’s for our good and God’s glory.

In repenting, we see the glorious grace God shows us time and again – Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us to approach the throne of grace in confidence, knowing that those who are willing to turn from their sin receive full acceptance in Jesus Christ. This is true whether it is our first time turning from our sin or the 10,000th time. What good news! Our confidence is Christ's faithfulness, and He was faithful – completely. Therefore, because of His life, death, and resurrection, we have access to complete unending grace from the Father!

Pray

While it may seem simple, something often overlooked is prayer. James 5:16 doesn't simply tell us to confess our sins to one another, but to pray for one another. That's because prayer is powerful and prayer works! It's only God that can change the human heart and stir our affections for Jesus. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to convict hearts, both ours and others, and to lead them to repentance.

How are we practicing this?

The goal is that Huddles would form in your group and meet regularly. Next week, we'll separate into men and women and get a feel for what Huddles look like. Feel free to meet in two different locations if that works best for your group, or you could have the men meet in the basement and the women meet upstairs.

Remember, confessing and repenting of sin doesn't have to be, and shouldn't be, a time for you to be shamed for what you've done. It's meant to sharpen our beliefs (Proverbs 27:17) and keep us Gospel centered as the church.

Spend some time discussing...

1. How do you think Huddles will give your group a greater sense of community?
2. How do you think they sharpen your faith?

Week 4 | *Huddles in Action*

Pursuing Confession and Repentance in Huddles

Huddles are simply a discipleship tool where hearts are softened and eyes are placed on Jesus. Those in the Huddles should always communicate the Gospel and Jesus should always be the response when someone confesses and repents.

As we start practicing Huddles, let's revisit what we learned last week.

What are they?

Huddles are an extension of Sunday morning gatherings and City Groups. They are a place where 2-3 people of the same gender meet weekly for discipleship.

Why are they important?

A Huddle is a place to be known by others in such a way that you can be completely honest with your joys and struggles, confess sin, speak the truth of the Gospel to one another, and point each other to Christ!

Hear & Obey

Bring your SOAP journal and share what you have heard from God and how you can obey it.

Repent & Believe

We all sin and we all need to repent of that sin. Each person confesses how you have sinned against God this past week and then repent (turn) from your sin. Encourage one another to believe and respond to the good news of the Gospel.

Questions to ask:

1. What are you trusting in besides God?
2. How have you been resisting God?
3. What is isolating you from God and other relationships?
4. How have you been stewarding your time, talents, and treasures?
5. How have you battled temptation?
6. How has anger or anxiety shown up this week?
7. Who are you in conflict with?

Praise & Prayer

Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? Who in the group do you need to call out greatness in today? How can the group pray for you? Who are you seeking to share the gospel with and how can we pray for them?

Let's Practice!

Tonight your City Group will share in Huddles. This is a chance for your group of men or women to come alongside your brother or sister, confess to one another, and praise God together as you hear stories of Him working powerfully. It's also a time to get to know one another on a deeper level and grow as a spiritual family.

Sharing and confessing isn't the easiest thing to do. When someone finishes sharing, it's appropriate to thank them for sharing and maybe follow up with a few questions that push deeper, yet point towards Jesus. Consider using these questions to spur on deeper conversations:

1. What are you trusting in besides God to give you security, joy, value, or comfort?
2. How have you been stewarding your time, talents, and treasures?
3. How have you battled temptation? What area in your life do you find it easy to submit to the desires of the flesh and struggle to submit to the desires of the Spirit?

When you are done sharing, spend time in prayer thanking God for what He has done and asking for the Holy Spirit's power to toil and strive after the desires of the Spirit and put to death the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-18).

Module B | *Biblical Community*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of community?

Month 7 | **Community on Mission**

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Looking at Places of Ministry

Scripture Passages: John 2:1-5, 4:1-10; Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13; Acts 16:11-34,
17:16-17

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer
Brainstorm ideas for your Third Place

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Planning and Praying for your Third Place
Review sharing the Gospel from Module A - Month 3 - Week 3
Put your first Third Place on the calendar

Week 4: In Action

Go out and practice your Third Place

Mission in Third Places

Before You Study

- Read John 2:1-5, 4:1-10; Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13; Acts 16:11-34, 17:16-17
- Pay special attention to the places mentioned in these passages.

The Gospel Compels Us to Go

Some American Christians have adopted the cultural belief that “ministry” takes place in a church building. This is an effective means of spreading the Gospel only if the culture views the church as having an important and positive role in society. We assume that all you need to do to be a missionary is invite someone to a church event and allow the “paid professionals” to present the Gospel. Not only is this idea not biblical, but our culture is becoming increasingly post-Christian, meaning that alternative world views are increasing while a Christian worldview is diminishing. Omaha ranks #31 out of 100 in post-Christian rankings of cities polled by Barna in the US.

If the average person is not interested in church, the Bible, or faith in Jesus, how do we, as a community on mission, reach people around us with the good news? Since the tide of culture is not pulling toward God and His Church, we won’t naturally drift into mission. There will need to be intentional steps of obedience to move toward those outside of the faith community because our natural bent will be to focus inward and do what is comfortable.

In this study, we are going to look at a few examples in the Gospels and Acts that identify the places Jesus and Paul went to minister and make disciples. Let Scripture inspire your group to brainstorm places you can go to regularly invest in relationships with people who do not know Jesus. We call these kinds of places “Third Places”. It’s not a Sunday morning church gathering or your City Group Bible study. It’s a Third Place where you can invite people to belong to true community before they believe in Jesus.

“Mission is about people, not projects. We must think through ways we can integrate people into our communities, not just serve them at arm’s length.”

What does the Bible say?

1. *Read John 2:1-5* - Where were Jesus and the disciples when Jesus performed His first miracle? Have you ever been presented with an opportunity to minister in some way at a celebration you were invited to?

2. *Read John 4:1-10*--Verse 4 says that Jesus “had to pass through Samaria.” Many strict Jews opted never to pass through Samaria in order not to defile themselves by coming into contact with Samaritans, yet Jesus intentionally traveled that way. Is there a place or people you are avoiding because they are unsafe or somehow “unclean”?

3. *Read Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 9:9*—Where did Jesus find His disciples? What was His simple invitation to them? How do you feel when you receive an invitation from someone you admire or respect?

4. *Read Acts 16:11-15*—When Paul arrived in Philippi there was no Synagogue so where did he go and what was he hoping to find? What part did Paul play in this scene and what did the Lord do?

5. *Read Acts 16:25-34*—After Lydia’s conversion Paul and Silas were arrested and ended up in prison. Although they didn’t go there on purpose, God had a purpose. What was it?

6. *Read Acts 17:16-17*—What did Paul notice about the city of Athens? What are the two places he went to reason with people? How often did he go and with whom did he converse?

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. Briefly share with one another the physical place you came to know Christ (If your group is large you may want to do this in pairs or smaller groups). If it happened in a church building, were there events that led up to you attending a church gathering? How does the understanding of where God pursued you inspire you to move toward others who don’t know Him?

2. Think about your unbelieving friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. How do you know them? Where do they spend time? What do they like to do? What would it look like for your group to go to them and create spaces to invite them into your community?

An effective Third Place is neutral ground that is informal and non-committal. It naturally fits into the rhythms of your lost friends' lives, and you do it regularly. Next week you will have a chance to brainstorm together during your family meal what these places might be for your particular community.

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that He invites us into His mission.

Admit. Confess times when you have passed by an opportunity to share the Gospel.

Request. Ask that Jesus would give you strength and endurance to live on mission toward your group's neighborhood or network.

Thank. Thank God for His pursuit of us - would we in turn pursue others!

Helpful Resources

John 5:1-9, Matthew 9:1, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 11:37-38, Luke 14:1-6, Luke 10:38-42, Luke 19:1-7

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

1. Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
2. Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.

3. The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
4. Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
5. And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Last week's Bible study looked at the various places where Jesus and Paul went and how that led to opportunities to share the Gospel. Tonight, you are going to take time as a group to start brainstorming what this looks like in your context in the 21st century.

We call this kind of space a Third Place. It's informal and naturally fits into the rhythms of life. A Third Place is neutral, natural, and regular.

Ask yourselves—where do people naturally go and how can we gather there instead? Or how can we plan an event that is neutral and will help build new friendships?

Here are some real-life examples of Third Place.

1. One of our college City Groups started doing Sunday morning pancake breakfasts. They invited friends over for pancakes every Sunday and then anyone who wanted to go to church afterward could go together. There were several students who ended up joining them who said they had always wanted to go to church, but didn't want to walk in by themselves.
2. Another group of young adults would meet for City Group and then go to the same country dance bar most Wednesday nights. Eventually the City Group became friends with some of the other regulars. These new friends started asking questions because they kept seeing this group of life-giving young people who genuinely loved each other. Their faithfulness eventually led to a young man joining the City Group who later placed his faith in Jesus Christ!

3. Have you ever thought about how something as normal as a baby shower or bridal shower could be a witness for Jesus? One time a Citylight staff member heard from a personal friend who had never attended Citylight Church that one month she happened to attend a baby shower and a bridal shower for two different people, but they were both hosted by Citylight groups. You know what she noticed? She said it seemed like everyone really loves and supports one another. She told her daughter that when she goes to college, she should try out Citylight Church because she has never seen so many young people who are so serious about their faith and loving to each other.

4. One last story about a Third Place that you wouldn't necessarily choose to be a regular rhythm in your life. A young family in our church found out that their 8-month-old son had leukemia. They ended up spending the majority of the following 10 months at Children's Hospital where members of their City Group visited, brought meals, hung out, played cards, prayed, and cried together. Just like Paul was a witness to the whole palace guard when he was imprisoned, this family was a witness to the hospital staff and fellow patients walking through pain. If someone in your group is going through a hard season, you may not be able to choose where your Third Place is, but you can ask God to give you opportunities to share the Gospel wherever you are.

As you eat, walk through these questions together. Below is a list of ideas to help you get started with your Third Place. The goal is to put at least one Third Place gathering on the calendar for this month.

1. What are some regular places we go and interact with people outside of our community?
2. How could we do some of those things together with more intentionality to build relationships?
3. What's something we can plan together to do for Week 4 of this month?

Ideas for Third Place gatherings:

Invite In – Group Activities

Neighborhood Picnic and Grill Out
Hiking
Disc Golf or Frisbee
Sand Volleyball
Lake day with Kayaks and Canoes
Go get ice cream
Book club
Game nights
Go Karts!
Pool Party
Escape Rooms
The Gym
Kids play dates
Sports League (softball, basketball, etc.)

Join In - Omaha Rhythms

Benson First Fridays
Farmers Market
Midtown Crossing Monday Night Movies
College World Series
Jazz on the Green
Stinson Park Activities
Local 5k Races
Junkstock
Omaha Storm Chasers
Omaha Children's Museum
Joslyn Museum
CenturyLink Center Events
Top Golf

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Third Place: Planning and Praying

Third Place. The tide of culture is pulling away from God and His Church. Third Place is an attempt to intentionally move toward those outside of the faith community. This week your City Group will discuss and determine a Third Place that you will do next week.

A Third Place is neutral ground that is informal and non-committal. It naturally fits into the rhythms of your lost friends' lives, and you do it regularly.

So where do we gather for a Third Place? It depends on the people you're trying to reach. Ask the question, "where do people already spend time and naturally go? How can we gather there?"

For those of you who work downtown, this may be an after work happy hour. Downtown professionals naturally gather there after their workday. For families with younger kids, this might be a park where other families and kids play throughout the day.

A Third Place creates space where someone can belong to before they believe. We want to do it regularly, and invite those who don't know Jesus to participate often.

How are we practicing this?

Third Place is an easy rhythm that your group can practice on a regular basis to connect with people who would never come to a Sunday morning church gathering. Based on your discussion from last week, what's a Third Place that your City Group can do next week? Determining a regular Third Place for your group can be challenging, so you may not find your regular Third Place on the first try. Keep praying and asking God where He would send you.

Once you decide, make sure everyone in the group has the details for next week's Third Place.

1. Where is the event taking place? If it's not a public place, does the host need help preparing? How can your group help the host prepare? (mow the lawn, clean, set up, bring extra tables, chairs, coolers)

2. What time is the event taking place? This may seem obvious, but never assume that everyone knows or remembers what time things are happening. Especially if they are not at the planning meeting.

3. What do you need to bring? Will you have food? Games? Music? Make sure everyone knows what they are responsible to bring.

4. Don't forget to invite people! It's really easy to plan an event with your group that ends up being another family gathering because no one invited anyone outside the group. How will you send out invitations? Will you set up a Facebook event, send text messages, emails, or make phone calls? Do it together tonight. If you have friends in common, make sure they get an invite from each of you.

5. Send reminders. Make a plan to send follow up reminders the day before or the day of the event. People are busy and they forget! Unless they have already said they can't come, send out another quick reminder.

Spend some time...

1. Confirming the plan of your Third Place gathering. Make sure everyone knows the details (especially group members that are not present).

2. Reviewing the material for sharing the Gospel from Module A - Month 3 - Week 3. Be ready if God would lead you to share the Gospel with someone.

3. Praying for those you have invited to next week's gathering. Ask God to orchestrate divine appointments and to prepare hearts--yours and theirs.

Week 4 | *In Action*

Go Out and Practice Third Place

Why should we have a Third Place?

As previously mentioned, our culture is not drifting toward the Church. Rather, many people are actively walking away from the Church. There is a need now more than ever to go and make disciples just as Jesus commissioned us to do.

Matthew 28:18–20

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

Let's Practice!

Tonight you will go out and engage in the Third Place that you decided on in Week 3. As you go home from your Third Place, ask yourselves the following questions.

1. What did you enjoy about your Third Place?
2. How did you feel God moving in your interactions with others?
3. How can you make Third Place a regular rhythm in your City Group?

Module B | *Biblical Community*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of community?

Month 8 | *Living in Biblical Community*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: The “One Anothers” of Scripture
Scripture Passages: John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Peter 2:9-10

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer
Experiencing and fostering biblical community

Week 3: In Action

Material Focus: Prayer Walks
Group will do a prayer walk through their Third Place

Week 4: Celebration & Review

Celebration Checkpoint

The “One-Anothers” of Scripture

Before You Study

- Read John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Pay attention to the characteristics of biblical community.

What does it mean to live in Biblical Community?

Last week, we talked about the value of gathering as a group at a Third Place. Third Places are neutral and natural spaces in our city where groups can engage people who may not believe the same things or live the same way. By practicing Third Places, City Groups proactively move toward people who do not know Jesus.

This week, we are turning our attention to living in biblical community with one another. At this point, we’ve learned that the Gospel doesn’t just get us into heaven later, but it brings us into a new redeemed family right now. When you place your faith in Jesus, you not only receive a reconciled relationship with the Father, but you are brought into a new spiritual family. So what does life in this new spiritual family look like? How do we speak, love, pray for, and resolve conflict with one another? The good news is that God has given us 59 different “one-another” commands in Scripture. This is not an obligatory to-do list, but a gracious picture of our call to a countercultural life that builds others up and puts the power of God on display to the watching world.

Instead of walking through all 59 one-anothers, we will highlight some of the primary themes we see in Scripture. These commands are more than just good ideas for a healthy City Group. They are a call to God’s people to live in such a way that we would display the humility, love, and kindness of Jesus to one another and to the watching world. This kind of biblical love is fueled by the Gospel and sustained by the Spirit of Jesus working in and through us.

What does the Bible say?

Unity

1 Corinthians 1:10 - “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

Humility

Philippians 2:3 - “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

Love

John 13:34 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

Hospitality

1 Peter 4:9 - “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

Acceptance

Romans 15:7 - “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Encouragement

Hebrews 3:13 - “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Confession and Prayer

James 5:16 - “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. Who was your first Christian friend that showed you the love of Jesus? How did that make God's love for you more tangible?
2. Share about a time when you prayed, served, or encouraged another believer? How did that impact that person's life? How did God work in your own heart through it?
3. When have you ever been hurt by Christian community or by another believer? What has been the process of forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation?
4. How has this City Group been a blessing to you? What "one-anothers" are being lived out in a way that helps you grow in your love and care for others?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God for not being a distant God, but drawing near to us.

Admit. Confess to the Lord and ask for forgiveness.

Request. Ask that your relationship with the Lord would foster intimacy and growth.

Thank. Thank God for giving us the good gift of community.

Helpful Resources

City Groups Resource - List of the Biblical One-Anothers
"Community" - Brad House

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

1. What was your favorite band, song, or movie growing up?
2. What was your first experience with Christian community? What was good or hard about it?
3. Why have you committed to Christian community and how are you hoping God uses you to bless or build up others?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Third Place Prayer Walk

Tonight, you will be going out and doing a prayer walk through your City Group's Third Place. Prayer is a labor, but we believe that God hears and answers prayer! In the book of Acts, the Gospel is preached, thousands of people respond in faith, the church is born, and we see the good news of Christ advance across cultural, political, racial, and geographical boundaries. What preceded this powerful move of God was not a capital campaign, a marketing plan, or the recruitment of talented communicators. It was a group of ordinary Christians faithfully praying. Prayer is the primary work of God's people!

Acts 1:14 - All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer

Coaching for the Prayer Walk

Tonight, break into groups of 2-3 and head out on a prayer walk through your group's Third Place. Feel free use the prayer prompts listed below or to pray as the Holy Spirit prompts. If opportunities present themselves, stop and start a conversation with someone you pass by. As a group, agree to meet back up at a specific time and location. Spend time debriefing with the discussion questions and close in prayer as a big group.

1. Pray that you'd be able to form new relationships with people and have open doors to pursue spiritual conversations (Romans 10:14).
2. Pray for a love for lost people and a boldness to share your story and the Gospel with them (Ephesians 6:19).
3. Pray that the people you meet would have multiple Christians pursuing them and inviting them into community (1 Corinthians 3:6).
4. Pray that God would give people a hunger for Him and His Word and distaste for sin. Pray that people would see the emptiness of their idolatry, rebellion, and pursuit of worldly desires.

5. Pray that God would use your City Group to help others come to know Jesus.

6. Pray that God would remove Satan's blinding influence (2 Corinthians 4:4).

· Pray for an opportunity to serve people in a practical way even on this very prayer walk (Matthew 5:16).

Discussion

1. What did God reveal to you as you prayed for others?
2. What kind of burden, conviction, or anticipation of God moving was stirred within you?

Week 4 | *Celebration Checkpoint*

Assessing Growth

Congratulations, you've made it through **Module B!** As you look back on these past four months, take a moment to reflect. Each module is not independent of the other modules, but rather works with them in order for you to experience greater depths of learning and discipleship.

As you reflect on your past four months with your City Group, discuss these questions:

1. What has God been teaching you and your group?
2. How has your group grown together as a family?
3. How can you invite others into experiencing biblical community?

Don't forget the Gospel

If the most important Core Value at Citylight is the Gospel, why don't we dedicate a module to that? Actually, the Gospel is necessarily interwoven throughout each module. While spiritual formation, community, and mission are the focuses of each module, the Gospel is the foundation on which they sit. The Gospel is the cause, while spiritual formation, community, and mission are the effects it should have on one's life.

As you continue reflecting, ask yourself how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has impacted your learning and discipleship:

1. How does Biblical community give you a greater understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does the Gospel empower you to live in biblical community?

Pray and Celebrate!

Reflect and celebrate over the last 8 months how God has changed you and your City Group through your study of Scripture, community with one another, and equipping for mission.

Pray and thank God for His love that He has shown us through Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to transform your life and use your City Group as a missional community for His glory!

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 9 | On Mission with God

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Everyday Mission

Scripture Passages: Genesis 22:16-18; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9-10

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer

Discuss how The Great Commission impacts us on a personal level

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Preparing for Fruitful Discipleship

Pray and SOAP in Scripture together

Week 4: In Action

Discipleship in Action. Break into Huddles and share the Gospel

Week 1 | Bible Study

The Great Commission

Before You Study

- Read Genesis 12:1-3; Mathew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9-10
- Pay special attention to what this teaches us about God and man.

What is God's mission?

God's ultimate goal is to bring glory to Himself. As people who have been saved by Jesus Christ for God's glory, we have the responsibility and joy to share the good news of the Gospel to the world as a part of God's plan to have all nations worship Him. During His time on earth, Jesus clearly communicated that He had come to be the Savior of the world. His teachings to His followers 2,000 years ago have personal implications for us today and the part we play in His story of redemption.

God's plan to bring salvation to all peoples has been from the very beginning. We see God make a promise of blessing to the whole world in Genesis 12:1-3. God is saying that through Abraham's descendants all the nations will be blessed. Just as Abraham was blessed by God, He also blesses us to be a blessing. God's heart is to bless all peoples of the earth. God's promise of His ultimate blessing will be fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ and His life, death, and resurrection.

As people who have been saved by Jesus, God now invites us into His mission:

Matthew 28:18–20

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

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

From these passages we see the scope of God’s mission: the ends of the earth. This mission can seem overwhelming and out of reach, but God has promised He will always be with us and has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. Jesus even prays for us as we are sent out (John 17:17-23). We’ve learned that God’s mission has been from the beginning and fulfilled in Jesus. Now, God invites us into His mission and one day it will be fully realized when all nations will worship God and give Him glory (Revelation 7:9-10).

What does the Bible Say?

1. Read Mathew 28:18. In this verse Jesus states His authority over the heavens and the earth before giving His command to make disciples of all nations. Why is it important that Jesus states His authority?
2. Read Mathew 28:19-20. Jesus is speaking to His disciples (them then and us now). What are the commands Jesus gives and how do they apply to us today?
3. Read Revelation 7:9-10. What can we know about God’s heart if His mission is to all nations?

How do I apply what I Learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. The Holy Spirit lives inside each believer. How does Acts 1:8 show us how the Holy Spirit can help us navigate our call to be involved in the mission of God?
2. In Acts 1:8 it describes believers receiving the Holy Spirit as being given power. How has the Spirit shown you power to be a witness for Jesus? How can you let the Spirit help you make disciples in this world?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, he took on our sin and death while giving us his righteousness and life!

Admit. Confess times when you have kept the Gospel hidden rather than as a lamp unto the world.

Request. Ask that God would give you and your group a passion to be on mission to reach the lost - to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the Earth.

Thank. Thank Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to make His home in us and be a seal on us to present us holy and blameless before the Father.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together.

1. What's something new that you learned last week?
2. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit encourage you to step into God's mission?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Preparing for Fruitful Discipleship

Jesus has invited us into His Father's mission as His chosen people. That mission is to be a disciple who makes disciples (Matthew 28:19). The call to reach the nations is vast and we need to be prepared for whatever God calls us to. Let's look at a few ways to prepare to share the Gospel and make disciples.

Pray for Guidance

Many chances to share the Gospel and make disciples are going to come up in our lives. To best focus on God's Great Commission, we simply have to ask Him where our focus should be. Start by praying for Jesus to shine a light on opportunities for you to share the Gospel. Through continued prayer, God will uncover pathways for discipleship to occur.

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Study Scripture

Learning any new information takes time and this is true with the Word of God. For us to be truly equipped to share Scripture and teach others to obey it (Matthew 28:20), we must first know it and obey it in our own hearts and lives. Study will not only help your understanding of the Lord grow, but it will also deepen your relationship with Him. As you learn more about our God, your trust in Him will grow. By seeing His promises and blessings come true not only in Scripture but in our lives today, your confidence in discipling will flourish.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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

Seek Accountability

In your City Group, there could be people serving missionally in multiple ways or you may all have the same missional goal. In either scenario, having a team of people to encourage and hold you accountable through your discipling journey is important. Scripture shows us that we are not serving on Jesus' mission alone and to use one another for support.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing .

Share the Gospel

Sharing the gospel can be intimidating. Taking the first step is the most difficult, so encourage yourself by practicing with your Huddle or City Group. Sharing with people you are comfortable with will help you find a rhythm and may make taking that first step less daunting.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

How are we practicing this?

Great news, you already learned how to do this!

Pray for Guidance -- In Month 5 you learned the importance of praying Scripture. Specifically, the Psalms are always God centered and help focus your mind on God.

Study Scripture -- In Month 1 you learned the importance of spending time with God through His Word and using the S.O.A.P. method to read the Bible.

Seek Accountability - In Month 6 you learned the importance of Huddles and their role in keeping people accountable in their walk with Christ.

Share the Gospel - In Month 3 you learned how to share the Gospel using the One-Verse Bridge Illustration.

Spend some time...

Praying through Psalm 67 as a group.

1. What encouraged you in Psalm 67?
2. How does this Psalm prepare you for sharing the good news with others?

SOAPing through Psalm 67 as a group.

1. What did you learn about God
2. What did you learn about yourself?
3. What did you learn about others?

Week 4 | *In Action*

Living Out Fruitful Discipleship

Why do we come back to the basics of discipleship?

As disciples of Jesus, we never graduate from practicing the basics of following Him. These discipleship rhythms continually ground us and remind us of who God is, His mission, and the role we play. Imagine what would happen if you began studying advanced theology without maintaining a personal walk with Jesus through prayer and personal Bible reading. Your life would slowly begin to be marked by knowledge about God, but you would lack a personal walk with God.

Reviewing and practicing the rhythms you have already learned will help ensure these discipleship basics become second nature. This week, you will break into Huddles to talk about sharing the Gospel and spend time practicing sharing the Gospel with one another.

Let's Practice!

Break into Huddles or small groups (refer to Module B - Month 6 - Week 3).

1. Share your fears about sharing the Gospel
2. How can you hold each other accountable on your discipleship journey?

Practice Sharing The Gospel

1. While still in your Huddles, practice sharing the Gospel with one another using the One-Verse Bridge Illustration (refer to Module A - Month 3 - Week 3).

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 10 | *On Mission with the Family of God*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: Everyday mission towards others.

Scripture Passages: Matthew 4:18-19, 5:13-14; Mark 16:15; John 1:45; Acts 4:13; Colossians 4:2-6

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer

Discuss challenges when sharing the Gospel in familiar places.

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Nine Rhythms of Everyday Mission

The group will watch a video together and develop a plan for week 4.

Week 4: In Action

Everyday mission in action!

On Mission with the Family of God

Before You Study

- Read Matthew 4:18-19, 5:13-14; Acts 4:13; Colossians 4:2-6
- Pay attention to who, how, and what Jesus calls His disciples to.

How do we live out our mission toward others?

God's passion is for His Glory. Everything He does is done for the sake of His name and fame. He created us for His Glory and, through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, He has saved us for His Glory. As heirs to God's promise to Abraham, we are blessed to be a blessing to all peoples. As ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we have been commissioned to make disciples of all nations and, as He ascended into Heaven, Jesus declared that His followers, by the power of the Holy Spirit, would be witnesses to His great power in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

It's important to realize that God's mission has a Church with a global purpose. The local church is made up of a community of individual believers, a people with a purpose. Our purpose, as His people, is to glorify Him with our lives, live in unity with one another and Christ, and proclaim the Gospel as the power of God for salvation so that all peoples might also glorify God (Romans 15:1-13.)

This month, we will focus on reaching our 'Jerusalem', our local community, for Christ. Who are these people Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:8? To answer that, we must look to Jesus as our example. He came to earth with a clear mission, to seek and save the lost (Luke 9:10.) He pursued the neglected, the suffering, and the marginalized. He sought out people in need of redemption and reconciliation that only comes from God. These people are all around us, we only need to ask for eyes to see them and the love and courage to pursue them as Jesus did us. As individuals and, as a community, on mission, it's good to consider what people and places in our city would capture Jesus' heart and then go to those people, serve them in love, and tell them the good news.

God is drawing people to Himself, opening doors for the Gospel to be received, and calling us into His mission. He has set us apart for the work He has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10) and we must be ready at all times to share the hope that we have with those He places in our paths (1 Peter 3:15). Understanding that God's heart is for all peoples is crucial to mission.

Equally important are the breaking down of cultural barriers that could keep us from connecting with people who are different from us. In addition, we need to develop spiritual rhythms in our lives that keep our hearts and minds aligned with Christ and focused on the mission.

Every Christian receives the same commission, to make disciples of all nations. We all receive the same Holy Spirit through whom we have the power to live out that mission. God blesses us in numerous ways that we might be a blessing to others and they, like us, will worship Him. We are each given spiritual gifts and placed in communities of believers, according to His purposes, to be resourced for His mission to be worshipped by all nations. We are a sent people – sent next door, around the corner, down the street, and across our city – and called to reach our Jerusalem so that they might be reconciled to God and worship Him!

What does the Bible say?

As you read the passages this week, what did you notice? What challenged you?

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6. What was Paul's first suggestion to prepare believers for sharing the Gospel? Why is this important?
2. Who opens the door to sharing the Gospel? How does God prepare and equip you?
3. Why is our behavior important to those that do not know Christ?

How do I apply what I learned?

How can I take practical steps to every day mission?

Be relational. Build friends, not targets.

Be intentional. See every situation as an opportunity and yet, God directs our steps.

Be present. Building relationships depends upon trust.

Be available. God-moments might be unexpected and inconvenient.

Be a blessing. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Be generous. As God, in Christ, has been generous to us.

Be hospitable. As God, in Christ, has welcomed us home.

Be patient. As God, in Christ, has been patient with us.

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. How can you pray today for opportunities tomorrow?
How can you make the most out of every opportunity?
2. What attitudes, thoughts, and intentions do you need to change to better love the people around you?
3. Start by identifying 3-5 people that you will commit to praying for and asking God to give you the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that just as He adopted us into His family, He is actively working to adopt others into His family as well. Our family is growing!

Admit. Confess times when you've invested in a relationship without sharing the Gospel..

Request. Ask that Jesus' kindness shown to us in the Gospel empowers us to show others that same kindness by sharing the Gospel with them as well!

Thank. Thank Jesus for His grace in giving us His Word so we may meditate on it day and night.

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together!

1. Where is God challenging you to take a risk to share the Gospel?
2. How does God's mission in our everyday lives give you greater encouragement and purpose to your life?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Nine Rhythms of Mission

Watch this videos together:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ImJB7uPV-o>

How can we practice and prepare?

Charles Spurgeon said, “Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor.” Thankfully, with the rise of the missional movement, more Christians have accepted this call to live on mission in whatever community God has placed them. But, how do we engage the sphere of influence God has entrusted us with most effectively? Here are nine practical ways to live on mission in your community:

Pray

We begin with the acknowledgement that we are absolutely dependent on God to move if we’re going to make any real impact in our community. Pray for one another.

Love

Our effectiveness will be severely limited if we don’t authentically love the people we’re trying to reach. Do you actually love the people in this community? Do you see them as God sees them?

Schedule Margin

It’s easy to be so regimented in our schedule that we don’t have time for the glorious inefficiency of a life on mission. Do you have enough margin in your schedule to allow for unexpected relationships and extended conversations?

Do What You Love With Others

God has gifted us with unique gifts and abilities, and there are people in our community who share these passions. As we explore how our hobbies can be done alongside others in our community, we’ll find that we already have a greater level of credibility and kinship with those whom we share these similarities. The gospel is intrinsically powerful—unleash it from its cage and see what happens. Be bold, and be amazed at the way lives are changed.

Ask Good Questions

As we connect with people, we want to ask good questions that express our genuine interest in their lives. In most conversations, people have to fight to get in a word about themselves. When we carry a posture of servanthood in a conversation by asking good questions, we're being countercultural and expressing our desire to authentically know another.

Listen

People have a boss that will talk at them or a spouse who will criticize them, but few have people who will actually listen to them. As we ask good questions, we want to listen well so we can accumulate information of how the Gospel can uniquely speak into someone's hopes, fears, and life stage.

Share Your Story

While people might initially resist the firm truth claims of the Gospel, I've yet to meet anyone who isn't intrigued by how the gospel has shaped your life story. Know how to authentically, winsomely share how Jesus has blessed you and shaped who you are, and be ready to share that story as these people ask you really good questions in return.

Invite Into Community

Because we're created in the image of a Triune God, we were created and long for community. However, most people don't feel close to others relationally, even though they might live close to others in proximity. Inviting someone into your church community—where people can taste the goodness of life amongst the people of God—is an incredibly powerful tool for mission. Throw parties, celebrate holidays, watch football and create a culture where the “outsider” is welcome.

Share The Gospel

Too often the missional movement has been prone to drift towards being really effective at developing friendships with non-Christians without being honest about the ultimate hope of the friendship—to see this person reconciled to God through the work of Jesus Christ. It can be scary to think about altering the dynamic of a friendship, but

Christians are often way more scared to talk about the Gospel than non-Christians. The gospel is intrinsically powerful—unleash it from its cage and see what happens. Be bold, and be amazed at the way lives are changed.

Living on mission is a difficult, glorious mess, but when we take practical steps of faith to live on mission for Jesus, his assuring words from the Great Commission become more precious and real than ever: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Discuss together:

1. How can your City Group practice the nine rhythms of living on mission?
2. What will your group do next week to reach people in your mission field? Think about your mission statement and how to fulfill it.
3. Schedule a prayer walk or an outing to your Third Place. See Week 4 for more guidance.

Spend some time...

1. Reviewing how to share the Gospel
2. Reviewing your own personal testimony
3. Thinking of one person you can invite to your City Group.

Week 4 | *In Action*

Everyday Mission in Action

This week you will be entering your mission field once again. Having a regular and visible presence is crucial for mission. Hopefully prayer walks and Third Place events have become a regular part of your City Group. As you engage your mission field, keep praying that God will move in the hearts and lives of the people you meet.

Coaching for the Prayer Walk

1. Break into groups of 2-3 to prayer walk your Third Place.
2. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads or use the prompts from Module B - Month 8.
3. If opportunities present themselves, stop and start a conversation with someone you pass by.
4. As a group, agree to meet back up at a specific time and location. Spend time debriefing and close in prayer as a big group.

Coaching for Third Place

As a reminder, a Third Place is informal and naturally fits into the rhythms of life. It's neutral, natural, and regular. Ask yourselves—where do people naturally go and how can we gather there instead? Or how can we plan an event that will help build new friendships? For more information, see Module B - Month 7.

Remember to discuss the important details:

1. Where is the event taking place?
2. What time is the event taking place?
3. What do you need to bring?
4. Don't forget to invite people!
5. Send reminders.

Everyday Mission Options to Explore

1. Host a bbq or cookout.
2. Host a breakfast for dinner party! Everyone loves breakfast.
3. Host an “open invitation” to City Group.
4. If your mission field is a network of people, use this week to scatter for mission. Each group member spend time with an unbelieving friend by going to dinner, coffee shop, or another activity.
5. Challenge your City Group to have one intentional spiritual conversation this week. The simple question, “Do you go to church anywhere?” can open doors to learn more about the person you’re trying to reach.

Helpful Resources

<https://www.navigators.org/being-a-missionary-where-you-are/>
<https://www.christianfaithatwork.com/7-easy-steps-to-be-a-missionary-where-you-are/>
<https://www.namb.net/send-network-blog/10-practical-tips-for-living-on-mission-in-your-community-1/>

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 11 | *Christ's Mission to the Nations*

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: On Mission in the Nations.

Scripture Passages: Isaiah 42:6-13; Psalm 67; John 4:39-42.

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion and prayer

How can you participate in God's mission to reach the nations?

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Six Ways to Reach the Nations

Brainstorm ways to participate in the mission of bringing light to the nations now

Week 4: In Action

How will your City Group reach the nations?

Create an action plan for your group

Week 1 | *Bible Study*

On Mission in the Nations

Before You Study

- Read Matthew 24:14; John 4:1-42; Revelation 7:9-10
- Consider the importance of global missions.

God's Heart for the Nations

This week we are going to be focusing on our call as Christ's chosen people to be a light to the nations. We learned in Month 9 that God saves us for His glory, blesses us to be a blessing, and commissions us to make disciples of all nations declaring that we will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. In Month 10, we looked at what the Great Commission looks like when applied to our communities, our Jerusalem. This month, we are going to consider the ways in which we might fulfill His call on our lives to reach the nations, those He has brought to our city and those who live across the seas.

In Revelation 7:9-10, we see this incredible vision of the completion of God's mission to reconcile the world to Himself. People from every tongue, tribe, and nation are standing before the throne worshipping our Holy God! Jesus, the light of the world, came as Savior for the whole world and we, as His ambassadors, are commissioned by Him to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, that is, every people group.

Jesus understood His Father's heart for all peoples and much of His ministry included breaking down the cultural biases of His disciples and the religious leaders of the day. In John 4: 1-42, we witness Jesus revealing Himself to a Samaritan woman and using the opportunity to share with His disciples His Father's will to deliver all peoples. In John 17:18 Jesus prayed, "As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." God's will for us is that our hearts would align with His and that we would have a love for all nations just as He does, being obedient to His call to engage in His mission as He directs.

As followers of Jesus, we all have a part to play in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus tells the disciples that, “this Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” It’s not hard to imagine that the disciples may have seen this as a daunting task and it’s likely that we might feel the same. There are still about 7,000 people groups in the world that have yet to hear the name of Jesus and many of those people live in cultures hostile to the Gospel. Praise God that He is the one who opens doors, prepares the fields for harvest, raises up laborers, empowers us through His Holy Spirit, and provides creative ways for us to reach the unreached. May we be faithful and obedient to His call.

What does the Bible say?

1. What key themes stuck out to you in this week's reading?
2. How does the glorious picture of the future displayed in Rev 7:9-10 encourage you to more eagerly pursue and remain faithful to the Great Commission?
3. How does Jesus' example of cross-cultural ministry impact you as you consider that He is calling you to the same?
4. God sent Jesus and He is sending us out. How has God uniquely gifted you to fulfill the Great Commission?

How do I apply what I learned?

In John 4, we see that the disciples are a bit taken aback by Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman. Her people were hated by the Jews and were not worthy of their time or attention and certainly not salvation, but Jesus shows us a different way. As in Jesus' day, we tend to hold cultural biases and might even think that certain groups of people are unworthy of the Gospel, incapable of receiving it, or, at the very least, best left for someone else to evangelize. As we have learned, though, we are all called to take all of Jesus to all of the world.

1. What biases are common in your circle of family and friends? Do you have any prejudices against certain groups of people that might keep you from sharing the Gospel with them? If so, how might you break through those barriers?
2. What are ways that you could reach different cultures and backgrounds right here in Omaha?

Praying Truth

Take time to pray with your City Group.

Praise. Praise God that the Gospel is for all people.

Admit. Confess times when you've acted out of uncomfortability rather than an urgency to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Request. Ask that Jesus would dwell in your hearts and He would be the source from which you draw the power to live on mission.

Thank. Thank God for the diversity in his Kingdom, that we aren't from one tribe, one, tongue, and one nation, but that there will be those called from EVERY tongue, tribe, and nation.

Helpful Resources

Scripture: Isaiah 42:5-13; Malachi 1:11; Matthew 4:23-25; Luke 13:22-30, 17:11-19;
John 3:16-17, 4:1-42, 6:38-40, 12:30-49; 1 John 4:14

Week 2 | *The Family Meal*

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God's love for all nations tell you about His character?
2. What fears do you have about reaching and serving the nations?

Week 3 | *Equipping*

Six Ways to Reach the Nations

This week we are going to look at how we can reach the nations and serve them from wherever we are located. Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). He loves the world and wants people to know Him. So, while it can seem daunting, God has given us an important commission to help spread His Word to everyone. We are all called to this mission regardless of whether we are to physically go to the nations or support this initiative right where you are.

Six Ways to Reach the Nations

Pray

Praying for the nations is fundamental for God's mission. Whether it is praying for wisdom on where Jesus wants you to serve the nations, or a missionary family overseas, prayer is always needed. When we pray, God listens and works.

Learn

Learning means that we take time to gain a deeper understanding of the world and unique circumstances. This might mean, for example, learning what parts of the world have little or no chance of hearing the Gospel without a missionary team.

Go

Going is one of the more commonly known ways of being involved with missions. For some, this means taking part in a short-term mission trip or for others, God may call them to long-term missions work.

Send

Every missionary that Citylight has sent out has an entire team behind them. Missionaries need support prayerfully, financially, and communally. There are multiple ways that we can support those going out to the nations.

Welcome

God is bringing the nations to us in the form of international students, immigrants, and refugees. Sometimes they come from countries we cannot access. We can welcome them in many ways. It could be hosting a family in your home or providing community through meals and social activities.

Mobilize

Mobilizing means that you help involve others. *This can look like sharing what you are currently doing to reach the nations. Through your story, others may feel called to serve the nations alongside you. The more people that are involved in reaching the nations, the more we will see God's work in them.*

How can we begin practicing this?

1. Learn more about what each of these methods looks like. View the video resource: <https://joshuaproject.net/>.
2. Ask your group to pray and think about ideas for how your City Group could become involved in reaching the nations for next week.

Helpful Resources

Links:

- 9 Practical Ways to Prepare for Missions
<https://vimeo.com/228755241>
- Reaching the Unreached
<https://vimeo.com/127875015>
- 6 Ways to Reach God's World
<https://vimeo.com/17625553>
- Leverage your Life
<https://vimeo.com/414909981>
- Sending the Gospel Even When You Can't Go
<https://www.scbaptist.org/articles/sending-the-gospel-even-when-you-cant-go/789/>

Books:

God's Heart for the Nations - Jeff Lewis

Scripture:

Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15; Luke 10:19; Acts 1:8,8:5-25; Romans 10:18

Week 4 | *In Action*

City Groups for the Nations

How can we practically serve the nations?

This week your City Group will spend your time praying and discussing how you can reach the nations for Jesus. Review the six ways to reach the nations from last week. Discuss and pray how your group could engage in each of the six ways. Some examples may look like:

- 1. Praying at the beginning of each meeting for the nations.*
- 2. Financially supporting a missionary family.*
- 3. Build relationships with international students or refugee families.*
- 4. Go on a short-term mission trip together as a City Group.*

As God leads, begin to take actual steps toward seeing your ideas turn into reality. If you need help doing what God is leading you to do, contact your location pastor, City Group Director, or Missions Director. The church staff team exists to equip you for missions. You can do it, they can help.

Use these questions to help you put your plans into actions:

- 1. Where is the first area God is calling your group to serve?
What's the first step you will take to make that happen?*
- 2. What do you need to do or who do you need to talk with to help you reach your goal?*
- 3. How will you make sure that the nations are an important part of your City Group?*

Module C | *Christ's Mission*

How do we know, love and worship Jesus in the context of mission?

Month 12 | Living out Christ's Mission

Material Overview:

Week 1: Bible Study

Material Focus: City Groups for Local and Global Missions

Scripture Passages: Psalm 67:1-2, Psalm 96; Luke 24:44-48; Romans 1:1-6

Week 2: Family Meal

Family meal, discussion, and prayer.

Pastoral Visit: Reflect on the last year as you look forward to the next.

Week 3: Equipping

Material Focus: Stages of Missional Communities

Review City Group Mission Statement

Determine where you are as a group and where you want to be.

Week 4: In Action

Decide how the group is going to continue to look for local and global missional opportunities

Celebrate completion of the pathway and give thanks to the Lord in communal prayer.

Local and Global Missions

Before You Study

- Read Psalm 67:1-2, Psalm 96; Luke 24:44-48; Romans 1:1-6
- Consider God's heart for local and global mission.

What is the Goal of Missions?

Worship of the God of the universe is the goal of missions and that, along with a great compassion for the lost, is the fire that fuels our passion to reach all peoples with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The past three months we have walked through God's passion for His glory, His mission to redeem all peoples, and His call for us as followers of Christ. God desires His followers to be marked as a people who are so tightly gripped by the glory of God and His global purpose that we seek with all our hearts to align our lives with His mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory just as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14.)

Below are three guiding principles of mission for every follower of Christ:

1. **Mission exists because worship doesn't.** The ultimate purpose of God has always been and will always be worship. He is passionate about His glory and His name. One day, the redeemed from every tongue, tribe, and nation will fall on their knees before our holy God and worship Him forever. Until that day comes, our passion for His mission is fueled by our desire for all peoples everywhere to worship the one, true God.

2. **As followers of Christ, we are blessed for a purpose.** God's ultimate blessing for His people is salvation through Jesus Christ and we are saved for His glory. We have received this blessing and many others and, as heirs of Abraham, we have a responsibility to be a blessing to others for the sake of their salvation and God's name. Just like Jesus, we are called to have compassion on those who have yet to experience His amazing grace, His endless mercy, and His extravagant love. We should share what we have been given with them so that they might experience abundant life in Christ as they join us on mission to proclaim the name of Jesus among the nations for the glory of God.

3. **We are to proclaim the Gospel here and there.** We are all commissioned by Jesus to make disciples of all nations starting in our own neighborhoods and networks and extending our reach to the ends of the earth. As we learn more about God's heart for all peoples (and those who have yet to hear of Jesus) and pray to align our hearts with His, we will know Him more intimately. As we know Him more we will worship Him more and our desire for all people everywhere to worship our great God will become the passion that drives our mission to reach the lost right here in our city, on the other side of the globe, and everywhere in between.

What does the Bible say?

1. Read Psalm 96. What does God communicate about His desire for the world? Does your personal and corporate worship reflect the God of all nations?
2. Read Romans 1:1-6. How do you see God's blessings in your life connecting to God's plan to save people from all nations? What does our study of blessing and purpose show us about how we are to our lives?
3. Read Luke 24:44-48. When considering the Great Commission, how important is a full understanding of God's global heart in discipleship? Why?

How do I apply what I learned?

Spend some time discussing these questions:

1. What are the most important things you've learned the last three months and how have you put them into practice in your life?
2. What are some ways you can apply what you have learned from these studies of God's glory and mission that might change the way your City Group is living on mission right in your own backyard?

Praying Truth

Praise. Praise God because He is worthy of our worship!

Admit. Confess times when you have allowed personal comfort, financial security, or fear of the unknown to keep you from engaging in God's mission.

Request. Ask God that the Holy Spirit would open your eyes to see and your heart to have compassion on the people who live near you and those who live a world away.

Thank. Thank God for His promises, His faithfulness, and His mission by which you have been saved through Jesus Christ for His glory!

Week 2 | The Family Meal

Experiencing the Family

The Gospel brings us into God's family. As believers, we are more than a Bible study or a support group, we are a family! Families share life as they gather around tables and enjoy meals together. That's why this week your City Group will be sharing a meal together.

Meals were at the very core of Jesus' ministry as he often ate with His disciples, sinners and unbelievers, and many other friends along the way (Matthew. 9:9-17, 26:20-30; Luke 10:38-42). The early church did more than just gather at the temple for preaching, they met in homes to eat with one another, encourage one another, and point one another back to Jesus.

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." (Acts 2:46)

Why are Tables so important?

Meals remind us of God's Provision. God is gracious to provide us with food, but ultimately we want to remember that Jesus is God's ultimate provision. He is the bread of life who saves sinners (John 6:35).

Meals remind us of our Humanity. You may be strong or weak, young or old, rich or poor, but eating together reminds us that we are all humans who get hungry and need food.

Meals create space for Community. God has not left us alone. He gives us a community to belong to. The dinner table is a space to share stories, joys, pains, and hopes with other believers (Romans 12:15).

Coaching for Family Meals

- Communicate with the group at least one week in advance that you are doing a Family Meal.
- Pick a main dish or theme (i.e. taco night) and invite group members to bring a side to share.
- The host should prepare by making sure there is enough seating for everyone.
- Remind the group why family meals are important and introduce the Connection Questions for the night.
- And remember to have fun! Laughter and fun help build deep friendships.

Connecting Around the Table

1. Share a meal together. As you eat, walk through these questions together and with the visiting pastor:
2. What was the most valuable thing you learned from the City Group Pathway?
3. How will what you learned impact your life and City Group moving forward?

Week 3 | *In Action* City Group Growth

As your City Group has journeyed through the pathway, you have grown in your understanding of spiritual formation (UP), community (IN), and mission (OUT). As missional communities, City Groups are focused around a local mission that will prayerfully, through God’s grace, have a ripple effect that will reach farther than we could ever imagine. Knowing where your City Group has come from and where you still need to grow is important to see this happen.

As a group, take some time to reflect on the following diagram of the growing stages of a City Group:

Discipleship & Group Formation Process

SUNDAY ATTENDER	FAMILY	FAMILY OF MISSIONARIES	MISSIONARY FAMILY
Social Group	Small Group	City Group	City Group
Gathers Socially	Gather for Community	Gather for Community	Gather for Community
Like each other, but won't sacrifice for one another	Will sacrificially love one another	Group members live for more than themselves	Whole group lives for more than themselves
Believe the group exists only for themselves	Believe the group exists for more than themselves	Scatter for Mission - Different Neighborhoods - Different Networks	Gather for Mission - Shared Neighborhood - Shared Network
Need City Group Basic Training	Need Coaching for living on Mission	Multiplies Disciples & Groups Need Ongoing Equipping	Multiplies Disciples & Groups Need Ongoing Equipping

WHERE PEOPLE ARE

WHERE WE DESIRE TO BE

There are four common stages in the life of communities:

Stage 1 – Social Community Group

After forming communities from our Sunday gatherings, most groups begin with this DNA. A Social Community Group is one where the people enjoy spending time together in a gathered event, possibly desire to go through a book or bible study, but lack any impulse towards those outside of the church.

Primarily, these kinds of communities come into existence because a group of people have a felt need for community – hence “social community group”. These kinds of groups have relationships that are newly forming or shallow, and generally gather only for an event.

Stage 2 – Small Group

As a Community Group begins to have a heart change, a Small Group emerges. This is a community where people have a desire to make disciples but don't quite know how. Rather than needing a change of heart, these kinds of groups need to work through a host of practical challenges.

Many times, Small Groups still have relationships that are newly forming, but they have gone through a significant experience together (a training that casts compelling vision, a crisis in the group, etc.) or there are very few natural barriers to their community (the groups that just “click”).

Stage 3 - Family of Missionaries

As a Small Group begins to implement the practices of missional communities, there are often some realizations that take place within that community. The first is how life giving a missional expression of community can be, and second is how challenging this kind of community lifestyle actually is.

As individuals in the community understand their identity as missionaries and put practices in place consistent with that identity, a Team of Missionaries emerges.

A Team of Missionaries is a group that is seeking to make disciples in each individual's separate sphere of influence. While the group members may live in different parts of the city, work in different places, and have different interests, each individual is praying for people by name and seeking to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus.

We often say this kind of community “gathers for community, but scatters for mission”.

Stage 4 - Missionary Family

A new City Group often begins as a Community Group, then transitions from a Small Group to Family of Missionaries. As these transitions take place, the mission of the group is growing in clarity, and often going from generic to very specific and local. A Missionary Family has the same characteristics of a Family of Missionaries, however, the main difference is that the core group of committed people are trying to reach a very specific and defined neighborhood or network of people.

Spend some time discussing...

What kind of group is your City Group?

1. Social Community Group
2. Small Group
3. Family of Missionaries
4. Missionary Family

How have you and your City Group grown in the last year?

How will your City Group continue to grow?

Review your City Group Mission Statement.

1. How has God brought clarity to the neighborhood or network you're trying to reach?
2. Imagine your City Group one year from now. What do you want to see God do?
3. What steps does God want you to take to keep moving forward and reach your goal?

Week 4 | *Celebration Checkpoint*

Assessing Growth

Congratulations, you've made it through Module C and the City Group Pathway! As you look back on the past year, take a moment to reflect. Each module is not independent of the other modules, but rather works with them in order for you to experience greater depths of learning and discipleship.

As you reflect on your past four months with your City Group, discuss these questions:

1. What has God been teaching you and your group?
2. How has your group grown together as missionaries?
3. How can your group keep growing as missionaries?

Don't forget the Gospel

If the most important Core Value at Citylight is the Gospel, why don't we dedicate a module to that? Actually, the Gospel is necessarily interwoven throughout each module. While spiritual formation, community, and mission are the focuses of each module, the Gospel is the foundation on which they sit. The Gospel is the cause, while spiritual formation, community, and mission are the effects it should have on one's life.

As you continue reflecting, ask yourself how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection has impacted your learning and discipleship:

1. How does Christ's mission give you a greater understanding of the Gospel?
2. How does the Gospel empower you to live out Christ's mission?

Pray and Celebrate!

1. Reflect and celebrate over the last 12 months how God has changed you and your City Group through your study of Scripture, community with one another, and equipping for mission.
2. Pray and thank God for His love that He has shown us through Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to transform your life and use your City Group as a missional community for His glory!

CITATION & REFERENCE

ESV Bible Reference

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ESV Study Notes (Module B - Month 7)

Taken from the ESV® Study Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2008 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

What is a Missional Community (Introduction)

Engstrom, Todd. (2013, March 12). What is a Missional Community [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://tod-dengstrom.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/What-is-a-Missional-Community.pdf>

How to Share Your Testimony (Module A - Month 2)

Copyright © 2018 Campus Crusade for Christ International. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

One-Verse Bridge Illustration (Module A - Month 3)

Some content taken from One-Verse Evangelism by The Navigators. Copyright © 2000. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries.

The Word Hand (Module B - Month 5)

Some content taken from The Word Hand by The Navigators. Copyright © 1964. Used by permission of NavPress. All rights reserved. Represented by Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries.

When You Don't Desire God's Word (Module B - Month 5)

Walker, Shar. (2019, November 6). When you Don't Desire God's Word [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-desire-gods-word/>

7 Reasons You Should Pray the Psalms (Module B - Month 5)

Ash, Christopher. (2018, August 27). 7 Reasons You Should Pray the Psalms [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/7-reasons-pray-the-psalms/>

Why You Should Be Praying the Psalms (Module B - Month 5)

Whitney, Donald. (2016, June 9). Why You Should Be Praying the Psalms [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.9marks.org/article/why-you-should-be-praying-the-psalms/>

How to Pray a Psalm (Module B - Month 5)

Taylor, Justin. (2016, September 30). How to Pray a Psalm [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/how-to-pray-a-psalm/>

CITATION & REFERENCE

Missional Community Practices - Third Place (Module B - Month 7)

Engstrom, Todd. (2013, April 3). Missional Community Practices - Third Place [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://toddengstrom.com/2013/04/03/missional-community-practices-third-place/>

The Most Post-Christian Cities in America: 2017 (Module B - Month 7)

Barna Group. (2017, July 11). The Most Post-Christian Cities in America: 2017 [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.barna.com/research/post-christian-cities-america-2017/>

Group Formation Process Graphic (Module C - Month 12)

Engstrom, Todd. (2015, August 23). Group Formation Process Graphic [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://toddengstrom.com/2015/08/23/group-formation-process-graphic/>

FOUNDATIONS NEW TESTAMENT

A 260-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

WEEK 43

- Revelation 1
- Revelation 2
- Revelation 3
- Revelation 4
- Revelation 5

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:9-10

WEEK 44

- Revelation 6
- Revelation 7
- Revelation 8
- Revelation 9
- Revelation 10

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:11-12

WEEK 45

- Revelation 11
- Revelation 12
- Revelation 13
- Revelation 14
- Revelation 15

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:13-14

WEEK 46

- Revelation 16
- Revelation 17
- Revelation 18
- Revelation 19
- Revelation 20

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:15-16

WEEK 47

- Revelation 21
- Revelation 22
- Matthew 1
- Matthew 2
- Matthew 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:17-18

WEEK 48

- Matthew 4
- Matthew 5
- Matthew 6
- Matthew 7
- Matthew 8

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:19-20

WEEK 49

- Matthew 9
- Matthew 10
- Matthew 11
- Matthew 12
- Matthew 13

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:21-23

WEEK 50

- Matthew 14
- Matthew 15
- Matthew 16
- Matthew 17
- Matthew 18

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:24-25

WEEK 51

- Matthew 19
- Matthew 20
- Matthew 21
- Matthew 22
- Matthew 23

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:26-27

WEEK 52

- Matthew 24
- Matthew 25
- Matthew 26
- Matthew 27
- Matthew 28

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:28-29

WEEK 1

- Luke 1
- Luke 2
- Luke 3
- Luke 4
- Luke 5

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:1-2

WEEK 2

- Luke 6
- Luke 7
- Luke 8
- Luke 9
- Luke 10

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:3-4

WEEK 3

- Luke 11
- Luke 12
- Luke 13
- Luke 14
- Luke 15

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:5-6

WEEK 4

- Luke 16
- Luke 17
- Luke 18
- Luke 19
- Luke 20

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:7-8

WEEK 5

- Luke 21
- Luke 22
- Luke 23
- Luke 24
- Acts 1

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:9-10

WEEK 6

- Acts 2
- Acts 3
- Acts 4
- Acts 5
- Acts 6

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:11-12

WEEK 7

- Acts 7
- Acts 8
- Acts 9
- Acts 10
- Acts 11

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:13-14

WEEK 8

- Acts 12
- Acts 13
- Acts 14
- James 1
- James 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:15-16

WEEK 9

- James 3
- James 4
- James 5
- Acts 15
- Acts 16

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:17-18

WEEK 10

- Galatians 1
- Galatians 2
- Galatians 3
- Galatians 4
- Galatians 5

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:19-20

WEEK 11

- Galatians 6
- Acts 17
- Acts 18
- 1 Thessalonians 1
- 1 Thessalonians 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:21-22

WEEK 12

- 1 Thessalonians 3
- 1 Thessalonians 4
- 1 Thessalonians 5
- 2 Thessalonians 1
- 2 Thessalonians 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:23-24

WEEK 13

- 2 Thessalonians 3
- Acts 19
- 1 Corinthians 1
- 1 Corinthians 2
- 1 Corinthians 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:25-26

WEEK 14

- 1 Corinthians 4
- 1 Corinthians 5
- 1 Corinthians 6
- 1 Corinthians 7
- 1 Corinthians 8

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:27-28

WEEK 15

- 1 Corinthians 9
- 1 Corinthians 10
- 1 Corinthians 11
- 1 Corinthians 12
- 1 Corinthians 13

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:29-30

WEEK 16

- 1 Corinthians 14
- 1 Corinthians 15
- 1 Corinthians 16
- 2 Corinthians 1
- 2 Corinthians 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:31-32

WEEK 17

- 2 Corinthians 3
- 2 Corinthians 4
- 2 Corinthians 5
- 2 Corinthians 6
- 2 Corinthians 7

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:33-35

WEEK 18

- 2 Corinthians 8
- 2 Corinthians 9
- 2 Corinthians 10
- 2 Corinthians 11
- 2 Corinthians 12

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:36-37

WEEK 19

- 2 Corinthians 13
- Mark 1
- Mark 2
- Mark 3
- Mark 4

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:38-39

WEEK 20

- Mark 5
- Mark 6
- Mark 7
- Mark 8
- Mark 9

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:40-42

WEEK 21

- Mark 10
- Mark 11
- Mark 12
- Mark 13
- Mark 14

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:43-44

WEEK 22

- Mark 15
- Mark 16
- Romans 1
- Romans 2
- Romans 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:45-46

WEEK 23

- Romans 4
- Romans 5
- Romans 6
- Romans 7
- Romans 8

Memorize:

- Matthew 5:47-48

WEEK 24

- Romans 9
- Romans 10
- Romans 11
- Romans 12
- Romans 13

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:1-2

WEEK 25

- Romans 14
- Romans 15
- Romans 16
- Acts 20
- Acts 21

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:3-4

WEEK 26

- Acts 22
- Acts 23
- Acts 24
- Acts 25
- Acts 26

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:5-6

WEEK 27

- Acts 27
- Acts 28
- Colossians 1
- Colossians 2
- Colossians 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:7-8

WEEK 28

- Colossians 4
- Ephesians 1
- Ephesians 2
- Ephesians 3
- Ephesians 4

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:9-11

WEEK 29

- Ephesians 5
- Ephesians 6
- Philippians 1
- Philippians 2
- Philippians 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:12-13

WEEK 30

- Philippians 4
- Philemon
- Hebrews 1
- Hebrews 2
- Hebrews 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:14-15

WEEK 31

- Hebrews 4
- Hebrews 5
- Hebrews 6
- Hebrews 7
- Hebrews 8

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:16-18

WEEK 32

- Hebrews 9
- Hebrews 10
- Hebrews 11
- Hebrews 12
- Hebrews 13

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:19-21

WEEK 33

- 1 Timothy 1
- 1 Timothy 2
- 1 Timothy 3
- 1 Timothy 4
- 1 Timothy 5

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:22-24

WEEK 34

- 1 Timothy 6
- 2 Timothy 1
- 2 Timothy 2
- 2 Timothy 3
- 2 Timothy 4

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:25-26

WEEK 35

- Titus 1
- Titus 2
- Titus 3
- 1 Peter 1
- 1 Peter 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:27-28

WEEK 36

- 1 Peter 3
- 1 Peter 4
- 1 Peter 5
- 2 Peter 1
- 2 Peter 2

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:29-30

WEEK 37

- 2 Peter 3
- John 1
- John 2
- John 3
- John 4

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:31-32

WEEK 38

- John 5
- John 6
- John 7
- John 8
- John 9

Memorize:

- Matthew 6:33-34

WEEK 39

- John 10
- John 11
- John 12
- John 13
- John 14

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:1-2

WEEK 40

- John 15
- John 16
- John 17
- John 18
- John 19

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:3-4

WEEK 41

- John 20
- John 21
- 1 John 1
- 1 John 2
- 1 John 3

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:5-6

WEEK 42

- 1 John 4
- 1 John 5
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude

Memorize:

- Matthew 7:7-8

Robert Murray M'Cheyne's Bible Reading Calendar



**R.M.M'Cheyne (1813-1843) was the minister of
St Peter's Church, Dundee, Scotland.**

**To learn more about M'Cheyne
please visit my website -
<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/d.haslam/m-cheyne.htm>**

**To obtain further copies of this calendar
follow the hyperlink for
Frequently Asked Questions**

*David F. Haslam
January 2000*

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Genesis	1	Matthew	1	1	Ezra	1	Acts	1
Genesis	2	Matthew	2	2	Ezra	2	Acts	2
Genesis	3	Matthew	3	3	Ezra	3	Acts	3
Genesis	4	Matthew	4	4	Ezra	4	Acts	4
Genesis	5	Matthew	5	5	Ezra	5	Acts	5
Genesis	6	Matthew	6	6	Ezra	6	Acts	6
Genesis	7	Matthew	7	7	Ezra	7	Acts	7
Genesis	8	Matthew	8	8	Ezra	8	Acts	8
Genesis	9 , 10	Matthew	9	9	Ezra	9	Acts	9
Genesis	11	Matthew	10	10	Ezra	10	Acts	10
Genesis	12	Matthew	11	11	Nehemiah	1	Acts	11
Genesis	13	Matthew	12	12	Nehemiah	2	Acts	12
Genesis	14	Matthew	13	13	Nehemiah	3	Acts	13
Genesis	15	Matthew	14	14	Nehemiah	4	Acts	14
Genesis	16	Matthew	15	15	Nehemiah	5	Acts	15
Genesis	17	Matthew	16	16	Nehemiah	6	Acts	16
Genesis	18	Matthew	17	17	Nehemiah	7	Acts	17
Genesis	19	Matthew	18	18	Nehemiah	8	Acts	18
Genesis	20	Matthew	19	19	Nehemiah	9	Acts	19
Genesis	21	Matthew	20	20	Nehemiah	10	Acts	20
Genesis	22	Matthew	21	21	Nehemiah	11	Acts	21
Genesis	23	Matthew	22	22	Nehemiah	12	Acts	22
Genesis	24	Matthew	23	23	Nehemiah	13	Acts	23
Genesis	25	Matthew	24	24	Esther	1	Acts	24
Genesis	26	Matthew	25	25	Esther	2	Acts	25
Genesis	27	Matthew	26	26	Esther	3	Acts	26
Genesis	28	Matthew	27	27	Esther	4	Acts	27
Genesis	29	Matthew	28	28	Esther	5	Acts	28
Genesis	30	Mark	1	29	Esther	6	Romans	1
Genesis	31	Mark	2	30	Esther	7	Romans	2
Genesis	32	Mark	3	31	Esther	8	Romans	3

I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Genesis	33	Mark	4	1	Esther	9 , 10	Romans	4
Genesis	34	Mark	5	2	Job	1	Romans	5
Genesis	35 , 36	Mark	6	3	Job	2	Romans	6
Genesis	37	Mark	7	4	Job	3	Romans	7
Genesis	38	Mark	8	5	Job	4	Romans	8
Genesis	39	Mark	9	6	Job	5	Romans	9
Genesis	40	Mark	10	7	Job	6	Romans	10
Genesis	41	Mark	11	8	Job	7	Romans	11
Genesis	42	Mark	12	9	Job	8	Romans	12
Genesis	43	Mark	13	10	Job	9	Romans	13
Genesis	44	Mark	14	11	Job	10	Romans	14
Genesis	45	Mark	15	12	Job	11	Romans	15
Genesis	46	Mark	16	13	Job	12	Romans	16
Genesis	47	Luke	1:1-38	14	Job	13	1 Corinthians	1
Genesis	48	Luke	1:39-80	15	Job	14	1 Corinthians	2
Genesis	49	Luke	2	16	Job	15	1 Corinthians	3
Genesis	50	Luke	3	17	Job	16 , 17	1 Corinthians	4
Exodus	1	Luke	4	18	Job	18	1 Corinthians	5
Exodus	2	Luke	5	19	Job	19	1 Corinthians	6
Exodus	3	Luke	6	20	Job	20	1 Corinthians	7
Exodus	4	Luke	7	21	Job	21	1 Corinthians	8
Exodus	5	Luke	8	22	Job	22	1 Corinthians	9
Exodus	6	Luke	9	23	Job	23	1 Corinthians	10
Exodus	7	Luke	10	24	Job	24	1 Corinthians	11
Exodus	8	Luke	11	25	Job	25 , 26	1 Corinthians	12
Exodus	9	Luke	12	26	Job	27	1 Corinthians	13
Exodus	10	Luke	13	27	Job	28	1 Corinthians	14
Exodus	11 , 12:1-21	Luke	14	28	Job	29	1 Corinthians	15

Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Exodus	12:22-51	Luke	15	1	Job	30	1 Corinthians	16
Exodus	13	Luke	16	2	Job	31	2 Corinthians	1
Exodus	14	Luke	17	3	Job	32	2 Corinthians	2
Exodus	15	Luke	18	4	Job	33	2 Corinthians	3
Exodus	16	Luke	19	5	Job	34	2 Corinthians	4
Exodus	17	Luke	20	6	Job	35	2 Corinthians	1
Exodus	18	Luke	21	7	Job	36	2 Corinthians	6
Exodus	19	Luke	22	8	Job	37	2 Corinthians	7
Exodus	20	Luke	23	9	Job	38	2 Corinthians	8
Exodus	21	Luke	24	10	Job	39	2 Corinthians	9
Exodus	22	John	1	11	Job	40	2 Corinthians	10
Exodus	23	John	2	12	Job	41	2 Corinthians	11
Exodus	24	John	3	13	Job	42	2 Corinthians	12
Exodus	25	John	4	14	Proverbs	1	2 Corinthians	13
Exodus	26	John	5	15	Proverbs	2	Galatians	1
Exodus	27	John	6	16	Proverbs	3	Galatians	2
Exodus	28	John	7	17	Proverbs	4	Galatians	3
Exodus	29	John	8	18	Proverbs	5	Galatians	4
Exodus	30	John	9	19	Proverbs	6	Galatians	5
Exodus	31	John	10	20	Proverbs	7	Galatians	6
Exodus	32	John	11	21	Proverbs	8	Ephesians	1
Exodus	33	John	12	22	Proverbs	9	Ephesians	2
Exodus	34	John	13	23	Proverbs	10	Ephesians	3
Exodus	35	John	14	24	Proverbs	11	Ephesians	4
Exodus	36	John	15	25	Proverbs	12	Ephesians	5
Exodus	37	John	16	26	Proverbs	13	Ephesians	6
Exodus	38	John	17	27	Proverbs	14	Philippians	1
Exodus	39	John	18	28	Proverbs	15	Philippians	2
Exodus	40	John	19	29	Proverbs	16	Philippians	3
Leviticus	1	John	20	30	Proverbs	17	Philippians	4
Leviticus	2 , 3	John	21	31	Proverbs	18	Colossians	1

O send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Leviticus	4	Psalms	1 , 2	1	Proverbs	19	Colossians	2
Leviticus	5	Psalms	3 , 4	2	Proverbs	20	Colossians	3
Leviticus	6	Psalms	5 , 6	3	Proverbs	21	Colossians	4
Leviticus	7	Psalms	7 , 8	4	Proverbs	22	1 Thessalonians	1
Leviticus	8	Psalms	9	5	Proverbs	23	1 Thessalonians	2
Leviticus	9	Psalms	10	6	Proverbs	24	1 Thessalonians	3
Leviticus	10	Psalms	11 , 12	7	Proverbs	25	1 Thessalonians	4
Leviticus	11 , 12	Psalms	13 , 14	8	Proverbs	26	1 Thessalonians	5
Leviticus	13	Psalms	15 , 16	9	Proverbs	27	2 Thessalonians	1
Leviticus	14	Psalms	17	10	Proverbs	28	2 Thessalonians	2
Leviticus	15	Psalms	18	11	Proverbs	29	2 Thessalonians	3
Leviticus	16	Psalms	19	12	Proverbs	30	1 Timothy	1
Leviticus	17	Psalms	20 , 21	13	Proverbs	31	1 Timothy	2
Leviticus	18	Psalms	22	14	Ecclesiastes	1	1 Timothy	3
Leviticus	19	Psalms	23 , 24	15	Ecclesiastes	2	1 Timothy	4
Leviticus	20	Psalms	25	16	Ecclesiastes	3	1 Timothy	5
Leviticus	21	Psalms	26 , 27	17	Ecclesiastes	4	1 Timothy	6
Leviticus	22	Psalms	28 , 29	18	Ecclesiastes	5	2 Timothy	1
Leviticus	23	Psalms	30	19	Ecclesiastes	6	2 Timothy	2
Leviticus	24	Psalms	31	20	Ecclesiastes	7	2 Timothy	3
Leviticus	25	Psalms	32	21	Ecclesiastes	8	2 Timothy	4
Leviticus	26	Psalms	33	22	Ecclesiastes	9	Titus	1
Leviticus	27	Psalms	34	23	Ecclesiastes	10	Titus	2
Numbers	1	Psalms	35	24	Ecclesiastes	11	Titus	3
Numbers	2	Psalms	36	25	Ecclesiastes	12	Philemon	1
Numbers	3	Psalms	37	26	Song	1	Hebrews	1
Numbers	4	Psalms	38	27	Song	2	Hebrews	2
Numbers	5	Psalms	39	28	Song	3	Hebrews	3
Numbers	6	Psalms	40 , 41	29	Song	4	Hebrews	4
Numbers	7	Psalms	42 , 43	30	Song	5	Hebrews	5

From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Numbers	8	Psalms	44	1	Song	6	Hebrews	6
Numbers	9	Psalms	45	2	Song	7	Hebrews	7
Numbers	10	Psalms	46 , 47	3	Song	8	Hebrews	8
Numbers	11	Psalms	48	4	Isaiah	1	Hebrews	9
Numbers	12 , 13	Psalms	49	5	Isaiah	2	Hebrews	10
Numbers	14	Psalms	50	6	Isaiah	3 , 4	Hebrews	11
Numbers	15	Psalms	51	7	Isaiah	5	Hebrews	12
Numbers	16	Psalms	52 , 53 , 54	8	Isaiah	6	Hebrews	13
Numbers	17 , 18	Psalms	55	9	Isaiah	7	James	1
Numbers	19	Psalms	56 , 57	10	Isaiah	8 , 9:1-7	James	2
Numbers	20	Psalms	58 , 59	11	Isaiah	9:7-21 , 10:1-4	James	3
Numbers	21	Psalms	60 , 61	12	Isaiah	10:5-34	James	4
Numbers	22	Psalms	62 , 63	13	Isaiah	11 , 12	James	5
Numbers	23	Psalms	64 , 65	14	Isaiah	13	1 Peter	1
Numbers	24	Psalms	66 , 67	15	Isaiah	14	1 Peter	2
Numbers	25	Psalms	68	16	Isaiah	15	1 Peter	3
Numbers	26	Psalms	69	17	Isaiah	16	1 Peter	4
Numbers	27	Psalms	70 , 71	18	Isaiah	17 , 18	1 Peter	5
Numbers	28	Psalms	72	19	Isaiah	19 , 20	2 Peter	1
Numbers	29	Psalms	73	20	Isaiah	21	2 Peter	2
Numbers	30	Psalms	74	21	Isaiah	22	2 Peter	3
Numbers	31	Psalms	75 , 76	22	Isaiah	23	1 John	1
Numbers	32	Psalms	77	23	Isaiah	24	1 John	2
Numbers	33	Psalms	78:1-37	24	Isaiah	25	1 John	3
Numbers	34	Psalms	78:38-72	25	Isaiah	26	1 John	4
Numbers	35	Psalms	79	26	Isaiah	27	1 John	5
Numbers	36	Psalms	80	27	Isaiah	28	2 John	1
Deuteronomy	1	Psalms	81 , 82	28	Isaiah	29	3 John	1
Deuteronomy	2	Psalms	83 , 84	29	Isaiah	30	Jude	1
Deuteronomy	3	Psalms	85	30	Isaiah	31	Revelation	1
Deuteronomy	4	Psalms	86 , 87	31	Isaiah	32	Revelation	2

Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Deuteronomy	5	Psalms	88	1	Isaiah	33	Revelation	3
Deuteronomy	6	Psalms	89	2	Isaiah	34	Revelation	4
Deuteronomy	7	Psalms	90	3	Isaiah	35	Revelation	5
Deuteronomy	8	Psalms	91	4	Isaiah	36	Revelation	6
Deuteronomy	9	Psalms	92 , 93	5	Isaiah	37	Revelation	7
Deuteronomy	10	Psalms	94	6	Isaiah	38	Revelation	8
Deuteronomy	11	Psalms	95 , 96	7	Isaiah	39	Revelation	9
Deuteronomy	12	Psalms	97 , 98	8	Isaiah	40	Revelation	10
Deuteronomy	13 , 14	Psalms	99 , 100 , 101	9	Isaiah	41	Revelation	11
Deuteronomy	15	Psalms	102	10	Isaiah	42	Revelation	12
Deuteronomy	16	Psalms	103	11	Isaiah	43	Revelation	13
Deuteronomy	17	Psalms	104	12	Isaiah	44	Revelation	14
Deuteronomy	18	Psalms	105	13	Isaiah	45	Revelation	15
Deuteronomy	19	Psalms	106	14	Isaiah	46	Revelation	16
Deuteronomy	20	Psalms	107	15	Isaiah	47	Revelation	17
Deuteronomy	21	Psalms	108 , 109	16	Isaiah	48	Revelation	18
Deuteronomy	22	Psalms	110 , 111	17	Isaiah	49	Revelation	19
Deuteronomy	23	Psalms	112 , 113	18	Isaiah	50	Revelation	20
Deuteronomy	24	Psalms	114 , 115	19	Isaiah	51	Revelation	21
Deuteronomy	25	Psalms	116	20	Isaiah	52	Revelation	22
Deuteronomy	26	Psalms	117 , 118	21	Isaiah	53	Matthew	1
Deuteronomy	27 , 28:1-19	Psalms	119:1-24	22	Isaiah	54	Matthew	2
Deuteronomy	28:20-68	Psalms	119:25-48	23	Isaiah	55	Matthew	3
Deuteronomy	29	Psalms	119:49-72	24	Isaiah	56	Matthew	4
Deuteronomy	30	Psalms	119:73-96	25	Isaiah	57	Matthew	5
Deuteronomy	31	Psalms	119:97-120	26	Isaiah	58	Matthew	6
Deuteronomy	32	Psalms	119:121-144	27	Isaiah	59	Matthew	7
Deuteronomy	33 , 34	Psalms	119:145-176	28	Isaiah	60	Matthew	8
Joshua	1	Psalms	120,121,122	29	Isaiah	61	Matthew	9
Joshua	2	Psalms	123 , 124 , 125	30	Isaiah	62	Matthew	10

They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Joshua	3	Psalms	126 , 127 , 128	1	Isaiah	63	Matthew	11
Joshua	4	Psalms	129 , 130 , 131	2	Isaiah	64	Matthew	12
Joshua	5 , 6:1-5	Psalms	132 , 133 , 134	3	Isaiah	65	Matthew	13
Joshua	6:6-27	Psalms	135 , 136	4	Isaiah	66	Matthew	14
Joshua	7	Psalms	137 , 138	5	Jeremiah	1	Matthew	15
Joshua	8	Psalms	139	6	Jeremiah	2	Matthew	16
Joshua	9	Psalms	140 , 141	7	Jeremiah	3	Matthew	17
Joshua	10	Psalms	142 , 143	8	Jeremiah	4	Matthew	18
Joshua	11	Psalms	144	9	Jeremiah	5	Matthew	19
Joshua	12 , 13	Psalms	145	10	Jeremiah	6	Matthew	20
Joshua	14 , 15	Psalms	146 , 147	11	Jeremiah	7	Matthew	21
Joshua	16 , 17	Psalms	148	12	Jeremiah	8	Matthew	22
Joshua	18 , 19	Psalms	149 , 150	13	Jeremiah	9	Matthew	23
Joshua	20 , 21	Acts	1	14	Jeremiah	10	Matthew	24
Joshua	22	Acts	2	15	Jeremiah	11	Matthew	25
Joshua	23	Acts	3	16	Jeremiah	12	Matthew	26
Joshua	24	Acts	4	17	Jeremiah	13	Matthew	27
Judges	1	Acts	5	18	Jeremiah	14	Matthew	28
Judges	2	Acts	6	19	Jeremiah	15	Mark	1
Judges	3	Acts	7	20	Jeremiah	16	Mark	2
Judges	4	Acts	8	21	Jeremiah	17	Mark	3
Judges	5	Acts	9	22	Jeremiah	18	Mark	4
Judges	6	Acts	10	23	Jeremiah	19	Mark	5
Judges	7	Acts	11	24	Jeremiah	20	Mark	6
Judges	8	Acts	12	25	Jeremiah	21	Mark	7
Judges	9	Acts	13	26	Jeremiah	22	Mark	8
Judges	10 , 11:1-11	Acts	14	27	Jeremiah	23	Mark	9
Judges	11:12-40	Acts	15	28	Jeremiah	24	Mark	10
Judges	12	Acts	16	29	Jeremiah	25	Mark	11
Judges	13	Acts	17	30	Jeremiah	26	Mark	12
Judges	14	Acts	18	31	Jeremiah	27	Mark	13

Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
Judges	15	Acts	19	1	Jeremiah	28	Mark	14
Judges	16	Acts	20	2	Jeremiah	29	Mark	15
Judges	17	Acts	21	3	Jeremiah	30 , 31	Mark	16
Judges	18	Acts	22	4	Jeremiah	32	Psalms	1 , 2
Judges	19	Acts	23	5	Jeremiah	33	Psalms	3 , 4
Judges	20	Acts	24	6	Jeremiah	34	Psalms	5 , 6
Judges	21	Acts	25	7	Jeremiah	35	Psalms	7 , 8
Ruth	1	Acts	26	8	Jeremiah	36 , 45	Psalms	9
Ruth	2	Acts	27	9	Jeremiah	37	Psalms	10
Ruth	3 , 4	Acts	28	10	Jeremiah	38	Psalms	11 , 12
1 Samuel	1	Romans	1	11	Jeremiah	39	Psalms	13 , 14
1 Samuel	2	Romans	2	12	Jeremiah	40	Psalms	15 , 16
1 Samuel	3	Romans	3	13	Jeremiah	41	Psalms	17
1 Samuel	4	Romans	4	14	Jeremiah	42	Psalms	18
1 Samuel	5 , 6	Romans	5	15	Jeremiah	43	Psalms	19
1 Samuel	7 , 8	Romans	6	16	Jeremiah	44	Psalms	20 , 21
1 Samuel	9	Romans	7	17	Jeremiah	46	Psalms	22
1 Samuel	10	Romans	8	18	Jeremiah	47	Psalms	23 , 24
1 Samuel	11	Romans	9	19	Jeremiah	48	Psalms	25
1 Samuel	12	Romans	10	20	Jeremiah	49	Psalms	26 , 27
1 Samuel	13	Romans	11	21	Jeremiah	50	Psalms	28 , 29
1 Samuel	14	Romans	12	22	Jeremiah	51	Psalms	30
1 Samuel	15	Romans	13	23	Jeremiah	52	Psalms	31
1 Samuel	16	Romans	14	24	Lamentations	1	Psalms	32
1 Samuel	17	Romans	15	25	Lamentations	2	Psalms	33
1 Samuel	18	Romans	16	26	Lamentations	3	Psalms	34
1 Samuel	19	1 Corinthians	1	27	Lamentations	4	Psalms	35
1 Samuel	20	1 Corinthians	2	28	Lamentations	5	Psalms	36
1 Samuel	21 , 22	1 Corinthians	3	29	Ezekiel	1	Psalms	37
1 Samuel	23	1 Corinthians	4	30	Ezekiel	2	Psalms	38
1 Samuel	24	1 Corinthians	5	31	Ezekiel	3	Psalms	39

The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
1 Samuel	25	1 Corinthians	6	1	Ezekiel	4	Psalms	40 , 41
1 Samuel	26	1 Corinthians	7	2	Ezekiel	5	Psalms	42 , 43
1 Samuel	27	1 Corinthians	8	3	Ezekiel	6	Psalms	44
1 Samuel	28	1 Corinthians	9	4	Ezekiel	7	Psalms	45
1 Samuel	29 , 30	1 Corinthians	10	5	Ezekiel	8	Psalms	46 , 47
1 Samuel	31	1 Corinthians	11	6	Ezekiel	9	Psalms	48
2 Samuel	1	1 Corinthians	12	7	Ezekiel	10	Psalms	49
2 Samuel	2	1 Corinthians	13	8	Ezekiel	11	Psalms	50
2 Samuel	3	1 Corinthians	14	9	Ezekiel	12	Psalms	51
2 Samuel	4 , 5	1 Corinthians	15	10	Ezekiel	13	Psalms	52 , 53 , 54
2 Samuel	6	1 Corinthians	16	11	Ezekiel	14	Psalms	55
2 Samuel	7	2 Corinthians	1	12	Ezekiel	15	Psalms	56 , 57
2 Samuel	8 , 9	2 Corinthians	2	13	Ezekiel	16	Psalms	58 , 59
2 Samuel	10	2 Corinthians	3	14	Ezekiel	17	Psalms	60 , 61
2 Samuel	11	2 Corinthians	4	15	Ezekiel	18	Psalms	62 , 63
2 Samuel	12	2 Corinthians	5	16	Ezekiel	19	Psalms	64 , 65
2 Samuel	13	2 Corinthians	6	17	Ezekiel	20	Psalms	66 , 67
2 Samuel	14	2 Corinthians	7	18	Ezekiel	21	Psalms	68
2 Samuel	15	2 Corinthians	8	19	Ezekiel	22	Psalms	69
2 Samuel	16	2 Corinthians	9	20	Ezekiel	23	Psalms	70 , 71
2 Samuel	17	2 Corinthians	10	21	Ezekiel	24	Psalms	72
2 Samuel	18	2 Corinthians	11	22	Ezekiel	25	Psalms	73
2 Samuel	19	2 Corinthians	12	23	Ezekiel	26	Psalms	74
2 Samuel	20	2 Corinthians	13	24	Ezekiel	27	Psalms	75 , 76
2 Samuel	21	Galatians	1	25	Ezekiel	28	Psalms	77
2 Samuel	22	Galatians	2	26	Ezekiel	29	Psalms	78:1-37
2 Samuel	23	Galatians	3	27	Ezekiel	30	Psalms	78:38-72
2 Samuel	24	Galatians	4	28	Ezekiel	31	Psalms	79
1 Kings	1	Galatians	5	29	Ezekiel	32	Psalms	80
1 Kings	2	Galatians	6	30	Ezekiel	33	Psalms	81 , 82

O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
1 Kings	3	Ephesians	1	1	Ezekiel	34	Psalms	83 , 84
1 Kings	4 , 5	Ephesians	2	2	Ezekiel	35	Psalms	85
1 Kings	6	Ephesians	3	3	Ezekiel	36	Psalms	86
1 Kings	7	Ephesians	4	4	Ezekiel	37	Psalms	87 , 88
1 Kings	8	Ephesians	5	5	Ezekiel	38	Psalms	89
1 Kings	9	Ephesians	6	6	Ezekiel	39	Psalms	90
1 Kings	10	Phillipians	1	7	Ezekiel	40	Psalms	91
1 Kings	11	Phillipians	2	8	Ezekiel	41	Psalms	92 , 93
1 Kings	12	Phillipians	3	9	Ezekiel	42	Psalms	94
1 Kings	13	Phillipians	4	10	Ezekiel	43	Psalms	95 , 96
1 Kings	14	Colossians	1	11	Ezekiel	44	Psalms	97 , 98
1 Kings	15	Colossians	2	12	Ezekiel	45	Psalms	99 , 100 , 101
1 Kings	16	Colossians	3	13	Ezekiel	46	Psalms	102
1 Kings	17	Colossians	4	14	Ezekiel	47	Psalms	103
1 Kings	18	1 Thessalonians	1	15	Ezekiel	48	Psalms	104
1 Kings	19	1 Thessalonians	2	16	Daniel	1	Psalms	105
1 Kings	20	1 Thessalonians	3	17	Daniel	2	Psalms	106
1 Kings	21	1 Thessalonians	4	18	Daniel	3	Psalms	107
1 Kings	22	1 Thessalonians	5	19	Daniel	4	Psalms	108 , 109
2 Kings	1	2 Thessalonians	1	20	Daniel	5	Psalms	110 , 111
2 Kings	2	2 Thessalonians	2	21	Daniel	6	Psalms	112 , 113
2 Kings	3	2 Thessalonians	3	22	Daniel	7	Psalms	114 , 115
2 Kings	4	1 Timothy	1	23	Daniel	8	Psalms	116
2 Kings	5	1 Timothy	2	24	Daniel	9	Psalms	117 , 118
2 Kings	6	1 Timothy	3	25	Daniel	10	Psalms	119:1-24
2 Kings	7	1 Timothy	4	26	Daniel	11	Psalms	119:25-48
2 Kings	8	1 Timothy	5	27	Daniel	12	Psalms	119:49-72
2 Kings	9	1 Timothy	6	28	Hosea	1	Psalms	119:73-96
2 Kings	10	2 Timothy	1	29	Hosea	2	Psalms	119:97-120
2 Kings	11 , 12	2 Timothy	2	30	Hosea	3 , 4	Psalms	119:121-144
2 Kings	13	2 Timothy	3	31	Hosea	5 , 6	Psalms	119:145-176

As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
2 Kings	14	2 Timothy	4	1	Hosea	7	Psalms	120,121,122
2 Kings	15	Titus	1	2	Hosea	8	Psalms	123,124,125
2 Kings	16	Titus	2	3	Hosea	9	Psalms	126,127,128
2 Kings	17	Titus	3	4	Hosea	10	Psalms	129,130,131
2 Kings	18	Philemon	1	5	Hosea	11	Psalms	132,133,134
2 Kings	19	Hebrews	1	6	Hosea	12	Psalms	135 , 136
2 Kings	20	Hebrews	2	7	Hosea	13	Psalms	137 , 138
2 Kings	21	Hebrews	3	8	Hosea	14	Psalms	139
2 Kings	22	Hebrews	4	9	Joel	1	Psalms	140 , 141
2 Kings	23	Hebrews	5	10	Joel	2	Psalms	142
2 Kings	24	Hebrews	6	11	Joel	3	Psalms	143
2 Kings	25	Hebrews	7	12	Amos	1	Psalms	144
1 Chronicles	1 , 2	Hebrews	8	13	Amos	2	Psalms	145
1 Chronicles	3 , 4	Hebrews	9	14	Amos	3	Psalms	146 , 147
1 Chronicles	5 , 6	Hebrews	10	15	Amos	4	Psalms	148,149,150
1 Chronicles	7 , 8	Hebrews	11	16	Amos	5	Luke	1:1-38
1 Chronicles	9 , 10	Hebrews	12	17	Amos	6	Luke	1:39-80
1 Chronicles	11 , 12	Hebrews	13	18	Amos	7	Luke	2
1 Chronicles	13 , 14	James	1	19	Amos	8	Luke	3
1 Chronicles	15	James	2	20	Amos	9	Luke	4
1 Chronicles	16	James	3	21	Obadiah	1	Luke	5
1 Chronicles	17	James	4	22	Jonah	1	Luke	6
1 Chronicles	18	James	5	23	Jonah	2	Luke	7
1 Chronicles	19 , 20	1 Peter	1	24	Jonah	3	Luke	8
1 Chronicles	21	1 Peter	2	25	Jonah	4	Luke	9
1 Chronicles	22	1 Peter	3	26	Micah	1	Luke	10
1 Chronicles	23	1 Peter	4	27	Micah	2	Luke	11
1 Chronicles	24 , 25	1 Peter	5	28	Micah	3	Luke	12
1 Chronicles	26 , 27	2 Peter	1	29	Micah	4	Luke	13
1 Chronicles	28	2 Peter	2	30	Micah	5	Luke	14

The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Family				Date	Secret			
Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter		Book	Chapter	Book	Chapter
1 Chronicles	29	2 Peter	3	1	Micah	6	Luke	15
2 Chronicles	1	1 John	1	2	Micah	7	Luke	16
2 Chronicles	2	1 John	2	3	Nahum	1	Luke	17
2 Chronicles	3 , 4	1 John	3	4	Nahum	2	Luke	18
2 Chronicles	5 , 6:1-11	1 John	4	5	Nahum	3	Luke	19
2 Chronicles	6:12-42	1 John	5	6	Habakkuk	1	Luke	20
2 Chronicles	7	2 John	1	7	Habakkuk	2	Luke	21
2 Chronicles	8	3 John	1	8	Habakkuk	3	Luke	22
2 Chronicles	9	Jude	1	9	Zephaniah	1	Luke	23
2 Chronicles	10	Revelation	1	10	Zephaniah	2	Luke	24
2 Chronicles	11 , 12	Revelation	2	11	Zephaniah	3	John	1
2 Chronicles	13	Revelation	3	12	Haggai	1	John	2
2 Chronicles	14 , 15	Revelation	4	13	Haggai	2	John	3
2 Chronicles	16	Revelation	5	14	Zechariah	1	John	4
2 Chronicles	17	Revelation	6	15	Zechariah	2	John	5
2 Chronicles	18	Revelation	7	16	Zechariah	3	John	6
2 Chronicles	19 , 20	Revelation	8	17	Zechariah	4	John	7
2 Chronicles	21	Revelation	9	18	Zechariah	5	John	8
2 Chronicles	22 , 23	Revelation	10	19	Zechariah	6	John	9
2 Chronicles	24	Revelation	11	20	Zechariah	7	John	10
2 Chronicles	25	Revelation	12	21	Zechariah	8	John	11
2 Chronicles	26	Revelation	13	22	Zechariah	9	John	12
2 Chronicles	27 , 28	Revelation	14	23	Zechariah	10	John	13
2 Chronicles	29	Revelation	15	24	Zechariah	11	John	14
2 Chronicles	30	Revelation	16	25	Zechariah	12 , 13:1	John	15
2 Chronicles	31	Revelation	17	26	Zechariah	13:2-9	John	16
2 Chronicles	32	Revelation	18	27	Zechariah	14	John	17
2 Chronicles	33	Revelation	19	28	Malachi	1	John	18
2 Chronicles	34	Revelation	20	29	Malachi	2	John	19
2 Chronicles	35	Revelation	21	30	Malachi	3	John	20
2 Chronicles	36	Revelation	22	31	Malachi	4	John	21

Directions for M'Cheyne's daily Bible reading calendar

- 1 **The centre column contains the day of the month.** The two first columns contain the chapter to be read in the family. The two last columns contain the portions to be read in secret.
- 2 The head of the family should previously read over the chapter indicated for the family worship and mark two or three of the most prominent verses upon which he may dwell, asking a few simple questions.
- 3 Frequently the chapter named in the calendar for family reading might be read more suitably in secret; in which case the head of the family should intimate that it be read in private, and the chapter for secret reading may be used in the family.
- 4 The metrical version of the Psalms should be read or sung through at least once in the year. It is truly an admirable translation from the Hebrew, and is frequently more correct than the prose version.
If three verses be sung at each diet of family worship, the whole Psalms will be sung through in the year.
- 5 Let the conversation at the family meals frequently turn upon the chapter read; thus every meal will be a sacrament, being sanctified by the Word and prayer.
- 6 Let our secret reading prevent the dawning of the day. Let God's voice be the first we hear in the morning. Mark two or three of the richest verses and pray over every line and word of them.
Let the marks be neatly done, never as to abuse a copy of the Bible.
- 7 In meeting believers on the street or elsewhere, when an easy opportunity offers, recur to the chapters read that morning. This will be a blessed exchange for those *idle words* which waste the soul and grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
In writing letters to those at a distance, make use of the provision of the day gathered.
- 8 Above all, use the Word as a lamp to your feet and a light to your path - your guide in perplexity, your armour in temptation, your food in times of faintness. Hear the constant cry of the great Intercessor,

"SANCTIFY THEM THROUGH THY TRUTH : THY WORD IS TRUTH."

St. Peter's, Dundee, 30th Dec. 1842