

PART FOUR

MAKES DISCIPLES

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28.19-20)

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2.2)

STEP TWENTY

LEADING A BIBLE STUDY

Every Christian should learn how to lead a Bible study. Fathers must know how because they are commanded to do so (Deuteronomy 4.9; 6.6-7; 11.18-19; 32.46; Psalm 78.3, 5; Proverbs 1.8; 2.1; 3.1; 4.1; 6.20) and so should all Christian mothers (Proverbs 1.8; 6.20; 31.26).

To lead a Bible study one must first know the Bible. It is not necessary to know the Bible from cover-to-cover, but it is a goal that everyone who seeks to teach Scripture should have. It is best to teach through the Bible book-by-book. You do not have to start with Genesis and work your way to Revelation.

Choose a book to teach through and master that book. It is best to start with a book that you are familiar with. If you have limited knowledge of the Bible start with the general epistles (James through Jude). Begin with James by reading the entire book once a day for one month. Pray for wisdom as you read through it (James 1.5). If you are capable of writing a commentary/exegetical study (see Step 15) do it. Next write out a teaching outline (see Step 16 & p. 128). Write out discussion/study questions to give to your students (Step 10). Memorize the key verses in the book. Spend as much time as possible meditating on that book. Continue reading the book once a day until you finish teaching it.

(Note: It is not recommended for pastors to make teaching outlines – see Step 22, page 117. Although, for someone who has not been called to be a pastor and who has not studied the Bible very much outlines are helpful. Do not think you must stick to your outline point-by-point as you teach. If the Holy Spirit leads you to teach on something that is not in your outline do it. If your class wants to focus on something that is not in your outline do it unless it is totally unrelated to the passage and you believe it would be a distraction. If you have been studying Scripture for many years study the advice on teaching and preaching in Step 22.)

As you study the Bible always keep the perfect rule of understanding in mind:

Take everything literally unless Scripture says it is symbolic or unless it is physically impossible for it to be literal or to take place in a literal manner with the exception of miracles.

Before each Bible study pray by yourself for wisdom as you teach. Also pray that the Holy Spirit give your students wisdom. If one or more men in your study want to pray with you before the study do it. Before you begin to teach have a time of prayer with everyone in the study. Let some or all of them pray too. Pray as much as possible for the “*prayer of the upright is His delight*” (Proverbs 15.8), and “*He hears the prayer of the righteous*” (Proverbs 15.29). Encourage your students to pray short sentence prayers. If someone prays for several minutes speak with him/her afterward and explain that in group prayer time it is best to offer short prayers. Set an example by your prayers.

Give the students the discussion questions before you begin teaching. Ask them to write out answers to the questions before each lesson. Read the verses or let the students read the verses that you plan to teach on. Then ask them what their answers are for each discussion question. If they answer them correctly congratulate them. If they answer the question incorrectly give them the correct answer and explain the passage as much as is needed. If they answer the question correctly you can explain the passage in more detail using cross references.

Rather than spoon feeding your students the answers and lecturing them, motivate them to seek out the answers for themselves. Encourage them to study more, and emphasize the fact that a true disciple thirsts and hungers for God (Psalm 42.2; 63.1); for truth (John 17.17) and for righteousness (Matthew 5.6) each and every day of his life. Also explain that as one grows in knowledge and understanding of the Word one’s hunger and thirst for greater knowledge, understanding and wisdom grows. If you do not display a hunger and thirst for the Word in your life and in your teaching, your students will not develop a true hunger and thirst for truth.

Remember to explain that when one has an overpowering hunger and thirst for God, His righteousness and the truth he is to study the Bible (John 7.37; 6.48). All of our spiritual knowledge, understanding and wisdom come from the Bible. It should be our primary source of spiritual food.

It is good to read books about the Bible and transcribed sermons by men who knew the Word and lived it. Some of the best heroes of the faith to study under are – John Wycliffe (1320s-1384), John Hus (1372-1415), Martin Luther (1483-1546), Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531), William Tyndale (1494-1536), John Calvin (1509-1564), John Knox (1510-72), William Gurnall (1617-1679), John Bunyan (1628-1688),

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), George Whitefield (1704-1770), Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981) and Miles Stanford (1914-1999).

Always keep in mind that when you answer a question from a student do not try to come up with a clever analogy. Rely on Scripture. Quote the Bible or turn to the appropriate passage and read it. Let God answer the question instead of you.

It is the Infallible, Holy Word of God that convicts people of their sins (Hebrews 4.12), produces faith in them (Romans 10.17) and gives them understanding and wisdom (James 1.5). Let God do the talking.

STEP TWENTY-ONE

SEMINARY CURRICULUM

Most men who seek the office of pastor (1 Timothy 3.1) think it is necessary to graduate from seminary to be fully equipped. That is not true. All seminaries emphasize the study of commentaries and books by men they consider to be faithful to Scripture. This seminary course emphasizes the study of Holy Scripture and avoidance of all commentaries and books. The best way for a man to be properly equipped to be a pastor is through daily reading, study, memorization and meditation of Scripture with intense prayer. It is the Word of God that prepares a man to be an under-shepherd of Jesus, not the study of denominational doctrines, commentaries and books.

Reading program

Students are to follow the prescribed daily reading program:

Read one chapter of Proverbs and two chapters each day from the following divisions of the Bible:

Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy)
Historical books (Joshua-Esther)
Poetical books (Job-Song of Solomon)
Major prophets (Isaiah-Ezekiel)
Minor prophets (Daniel-Malachi)
Gospels & Acts
Pauline Epistles (Romans-Hebrews)
General Epistles & Revelation (James-Revelation)

This reading program is 17 chapters per day. It may seem like it is a lot of reading, but it is necessary. Since there are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament you will read the OT through about 4 times, the New Testament about 8.4 times and Proverbs 12 times each year.

Memorization program

Students are to memorize as many of the following 510 verses as possible. Choose a translation and stick with it.

New Testament

Matthew 6.9-13; 7.12, 21-23; 25.46; 28.19-20 (12 verses)

Mark 8.36-37; 10.42-45 (5 verses)

Luke 19.10 (1 verse)

John 1.1-14; 3.3, 14-18; 5.24; 6.37; 7.24; 8.31-32, 36; 10.27-30; 13.34-35; 14.1-6, 23; 15.1-8, 12-14, 16; 16.8, 33; 17.3, 17; 20.31 (56 verses)

Acts 1.8; 6.4; 17.11; 13.48 (4 verses)

Romans 1.16; 3.10-12, 23; 4.3; 5.8; 6.23; 8.37-39; 9.22-23; 10.9-10, 13, 17; 12.1-2, 19-21 (22 verses)

1 Corinthians 6.19-20; 10.13, 31; 15.51-52 (6 verses)

2 Corinthians 4.3-4; 5.10, 17; 5.20-21; 6.2; 9.7; 10.3-5; 11.13-14; 13.5 (14 verses)

Galatians 1.9; 5.13-26; 6.6 (16 verses)

Ephesians 2.8-10; 4.11-13, 25-27, 30-31; 6.10-18 (20 verses)

Philippians 2.3-4; 4.6, 8, 13, 19 (6 verses)

Colossians 3.2, 16 (2 verses)

1 Thessalonians 4.16-18; 5.1-6, 9, 17-19 (13 verses)

2 Thessalonians 2.1-3 (3 verses)

1 Timothy 3.1-7; 6.7-12 (13 verses)

2 Timothy 2.2-3, 15; 3.16-17; 4.2-4, 7-8 (10 verses)

Titus 2.13; 3.5-6 (3 verses)

Hebrews 1.14; 3.12-13; 4.12, 15; 5.12-14; 6.1-2; 9.27; 10.12, 24-25;
11.1, 6; 13.1-2, 17 (18 verses)

James 1.2-8, 13-15, 19-20, 22; 2.10, 17, 26; 3.1, 4.3-10, 14
(26 verses)

1 Peter 1.15-16; 2.1-2, 21; 3.15; 4.1-2; 5.1-9 (17 verses)

2 Peter 1.5-7, 20-21; 3.9 (6 verses)

1 John 1.6-10; 2.15-17, 27; 3.16-18; 5.11-13, 21 (16 verses)

Revelation 3.20; 20.10-15; 21.6; 22.12-13, 17 (11 verses)
(Total verses in the NT = 300)

Old Testament

Genesis 1.1; 15.6 (2 verses)

Exodus 20.1-17 (17 verses)

Leviticus 19.2

Number 23.19

Deuteronomy 6.4-8; 8.3 (6 verses)

Joshua 1.8; 8.34-35; 22.5; 24.15 (5 verses)

Judges 21.25

1 Samuel 15.29

1 Kings 8.60-61 (2 verses)

1 Chronicles 16.23; 28.9 (2 verses)

Nehemiah 8.3

Job 1.20-22; 19.26; 23.12; 28.24; 34.21 (7 verses)

Psalms 1.1-6; 14.1; 23.1-6; 34.7; 37.1-5, 18; 42.1-2; 45.6; 51.5; 58.3; 84.12; 90.12; 96.2; 103.11-12; 111.9; 119.9-11, 99 (35 verses)

Proverbs 1.7; 2.6-7; 3.1-12; 6.16-19; 7.1-3; 8.13, 17, 32-36; 9.8-10; 10.16, 21, 23; 11.2, 30; 12.1, 15; 13.14, 20; 14.12, 29, 34; 15.3; 16.16, 18, 20, 32; 18.15; 19.8, 17; 21.3; 22.15; 23.6-7, 17; 24.1; 25.17, 26, 28; 27.2, 17; 28.9; 29.11, 18; 30.4, 8-9 (66 verses)

Ecclesiastes 3.18; 7.2-5; 12.13-14 (8 verses)

Isaiah 1.16-18; 3.12; 9.6; 11.1-4; 26.3-4, 19; 40.28-31; 42.1-4; 43.10-11; 44.6; 48.16; 52.13-53.12; 55.9; 61.1-2; 64.6 (40 verses)

Jeremiah 2.13; 9.23-24; 17.9-10 (5 verses)

Daniel 12.3-4 (2 verses)

Hosea 4.6a

Micah 5.2

Habakkuk 2.4

Malachi 4.2-3

(Total verses in the OT = 210 – Grand total 510)

Study program

Do a study of the doctrines listed below. Do not use commentaries or books. Use only Bibles, an interlinear Bible, a Strong's concordance, a word study book and Greek and Hebrew lexicons. Let the Holy Spirit teach you. If you have already done the studies on "Sin," "Judgment," "Grace and Salvation," "Hell and the Lake of Fire," "Trinity," "Rapture," "Millennial Kingdom" and "Eternal Kingdom" in Steps 18 and 19 you do not need to do them again. If you have not completed Steps 18 and 19 you must do all of the studies below.

Qualifications and duties of pastors and deacons – Do a complete study on this topic. List every qualification for a pastor and also for a deacon and explain each one. Then list the duties of the deacons. Next

list the duties of a pastor and explain each one as best you can. No man should think of becoming a pastor until he has done a study of the qualifications and duties of a pastor.

Book study – Pick one book in the Bible and do a thorough study of it. The way to prepare for a teaching lesson or a sermon is to read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture as much as possible. If the book is not too large, 15 chapters or less, read through it once a day for 30 days to get acquainted with it. If it is more than 15 chapters divide it up. Take two or more months to read and study through it.

During the month or so that you are reading through a book choose key verses to memorize and hide them in your heart. Study the meaning of key words checking the Hebrew or Greek. Find as many cross references for each verse and write them in your Bible. Pick a Bible suitable for writing notes in. Wide margin Bibles are the best. When you teach – these verses and notes will be your teaching outline. Meditate on each chapter of the book. Let the Holy Spirit teach you (1 John 2:27). Lastly write your own commentary on the book. Once you have done this you will be ready to teach on that book. You should study a few books of the Bible thoroughly and be prepared to teach/preach on them by the time you finish this course. Once you become a pastor you can teach through that book and as you are doing that you can start on the next book you decide to teach through. If you can study through several books before you become a pastor it will be beneficial. Study Step 22 to learn more about teaching and preaching.

Sin and Judgment – Explain what sin is, what it does to man, what the results of it are, if everyone is born in sin and list as many sins as possible using Scripture. Explain whether or not man will be judged when he dies, what he will be judged for and when he will be judged.

Grace and Salvation – Explain what grace is, what it does, who gives it. Explain what salvation is, how one is saved, and what he is saved from. Explain what the “Gospel” is and conclude with a clear and concise presentation of the Gospel.

Punishment of the wicked in Hell and the Lake of Fire – Explain whether or not those who die in their sins will be punished and how long. Also explain what that punishment will be in Hell (Hades) and in the Lake of Fire (Gehenna). Make sure to explain whether or not the descriptions of punishment in Hell and the Lake of Fire are literal or symbolic. Describe where Hell is located and also where the Lake of

Fire will be located. Also note whether or not the wicked in the Lake of Fire will be able to see New Jerusalem.

Trinity – Explain the doctrine of the Trinity as best you can. Make an exact and literal translation of Deuteronomy 6.4 and a paraphrase translation. Also give a full explanation of what it says. Describe the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as best you can. Make sure to explain as many of their qualities as you can and if They are equal to each other in all ways. Include the Son’s deity, virgin birth, sinless life and sacrifice, and bodily resurrection. Describe what you believe they consist of and where they dwell. Do not forget to explain whether They are bound by time or exist apart from it. Explain why the word Elohim is used in the Old Testament and should it be translated “God” or “Gods.” Lastly, explain whether or not They think and if They can change Their minds.

Rapture – Explain what the Rapture is, when it will take place, if it can take place at any moment, and if all Christians will be raptured. Explain how long it will take and if there will be any warning beforehand. Make sure you explain whether there is a gap between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation if you believe it takes place beforehand. List each position for the timing of the Rapture and give biblical reasons why you do not believe the Rapture will not take place at the other times.

Tribulation – Explain what the Tribulation is, how long it is and if the events described in Revelation and elsewhere concerning it are literal. Describe who the Antichrist and False Prophet are and what nations each of them will come from. Do not forget to explain what the mark of the Beast is. Make sure you explain what the creatures in Revelation nine are and who made them. List the things and events in Revelation that are literal and those that are symbolic. List the passages in the Old Testament that describe the Tribulation.

Millennial Kingdom – Explain whether or not there will be a literal 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth. Give as much detail of it as you can. Explain whether babies will be born and whether or not anyone will die during it. Try to calculate how many people could be born during that time. Explain what Christians will be doing during it. Also make sure you explain how a person is saved during that dispensation. Do not forget to explain what happens at the end of that kingdom. List as many passages in the Old Testament dealing with that Kingdom.

Eternal Kingdom – Describe what the Eternal Kingdom will be like using every passage in the Bible dealing with it.

Free will versus election – Find every verse in the Bible that speaks about free will and also election. List them and then explain what each one means, in context. Then explain what you believe the Bible teaches – that everyone has free will to trust Jesus or no one has a free will to be saved and that Jesus chooses the people He wants to save and then saves them. Conclude by explaining if it is necessary to explain to the lost that they have free will or not when one shares the Gospel. If you cannot come to a decision on this doctrine explain why.

The cults (Explain the major false doctrines that the following cults teach – Mormonism, Watchtower Society, Seventh Day Adventists, Worldwide Church of God and Church of Christ. Give a solid argument why they cannot be of God and whether anyone can be saved by becoming a member of one of them. Include a brief summary of how each cult began.

Also list and explain the major false doctrines that the Roman Catholic Church teaches. Explain whether or not a person can be saved by becoming a Roman Catholic.

STEP TWENTY-TWO

SHEPHERDING A CHURCH

The men who have completed this discipleship program will know Scripture well enough to teach and preach the Word. They will need some guidance on shepherding a church. This step is designed to give them that guidance.

Qualifications of a Pastor

Every man who seeks to be a pastor seeks a good thing (1 Timothy 3.1), yet he must meet the qualifications for the position:

Be above reproach (living a holy life)

Husband of one wife (if married)

Be sensible

Be modest

Be hospitable

Able to teach

Holding fast to the Word

Not a novice (recently saved)

Not greedy

Not a lover of money

Be sober (not a regular drinker of wine)

Not addicted to any kind of alcohol

Not quarrelsome

Not a brawler

Be gentle

Able to rule his own family

His children are obedient

Have a good reputation

Have a love for what is good

Be just

Be devout

Have self-control (1 Timothy 3.1-7; Titus 1.6-9)

The qualifications are strict, but necessary. If you fall short in any of them it is best to wait until the Lord has given you the grace and strength to fully meet them all. If you are married and one or more of your children are juvenile delinquents it is best that you take a position of Bible teacher in a church. If you have divorced after being saved and your wife was saved it might be best to be just a Bible teacher.

Duties of a Pastor

Once you are certain that you meet all of the qualifications you need to do a thorough study of the duties of a pastor. You can read books about this, but the only way to know exactly what the duties of a pastor are is to study the Bible. The primary books to study are the letters to Timothy and Titus. Other duties of pastors can also be found in Acts 6, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Hebrews 13 and 1 Peter 3 and 5.

Before you become a pastor study those books and chapters to learn what the duties are. It is foolhardy to take a “job” without knowing what the duties of that “job” are. Being a pastor is a “job” but it is foremost a ministry. Pastors are ministers to their flock who minister to their needs (1 Peter 5.1-3). Jesus is the Chief Shepherd over all the churches in the world (1 Peter 5.4), and pastors are an under-shepherds. A pastor’s *“lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts”* (Malachi 2.7). Be very careful of the doctrine you teach.

Remember that the primary duties of a pastor are prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6.4). Pastors must refrain from being caught up in financial matters, individual counseling of members, and organizing activities. Pastors need to choose faithful men to handle those things or let the congregation choose them. When a pastor gets involved in those matters it takes away too much time from prayer and the ministry of the Word.

Give careful consideration to getting 501C3 status. If you do you will be under the authority of the government which can limit what you say from the pulpit. You will also need a board. If you have a board make sure it is set up by the deacons and that it has authority over the church property. A board can never have authority over the pastors. If a church has just one pastor and he violates his office he must be disciplined by the pastors of a sister church. The sheep are not qualified to discipline a pastor. If the church has three or more pastors, as all churches should have, the other pastors should deal with him.

Making Pastors

Once you are a pastor train at least two other faithful men to be associate pastors with you. Every church needs a minimum of three pastors who have equal authority. When spiritual decisions must be made the three pastors are to vote. Obviously the vote will be unanimous, or two will be yeas and one nay, or two nays and one yea. A church must always have an odd number of pastors who vote on a spiritual decision so there will never be a stalemate. As more pastors are added to the staff they must be added in even numbers. If a church cannot pay the other pastors a salary they are to serve without pay.

A church must always have an odd number of pastors. Deacons or men in the church cannot have a vote on spiritual matters. Deacons and other men in the church can only vote on non-spiritual matters. Pastors should refrain from voting on non-spiritual matters. They need not be distracted by non-spiritual matters in the church. It also gives the deacons and others responsibility which is necessary in the spiritual growth of a congregation. Pastors should not attend church business meetings. The deacons can handle that.

Ministries of the Church

Below are some ministries that pastors may wish to consider:

1. Home/church Bible studies.
2. Home/church prayer meetings and daily prayer at lunch time.
3. Saturday night Bible study for youth and adults.
4. Personalized home Bible studies. (A teacher holds a personal Bible study for a single person, couple, family or a small group.)
5. Sunday school classes teaching book-by-book.
6. Class to teach fathers how to conduct family devotions.
7. Discipleship program.
8. Memorization club.
9. Bible reading club. (Read a book of the Bible and discuss it.)
10. Weekly Bible study for all pastors, deacons and Bible teachers.
11. New member's class on basic Bible doctrines.
12. A class on health and diet.
13. Class for members to determine what their spiritual gifts are.
14. Bible study correspondence course.
15. A Bible college for members and others. (It does not need to be accredited. The pastors and qualified Bible teachers teach classes

- on specific books of the Bible, O.T. and N.T. survey, Bible doctrine, hermeneutics, homeletics, Church history, etc.)
16. Evangelism class. (Training members how to share the Gospel.)
 17. Evangelism programs.
 18. Community outreach programs.
 19. Send out missionaries and support those in the field.
 20. Compassion ministry for church members and others.
 21. Food bank. (For church members and the poor.)
 22. Day-care ministry for members.
 23. Homeschooling program for parents to home school their children.
 24. Regular dinner parties. (Pastors, deacons and Bible teachers invite members of the church to their home for dinner/fellowship. The host should take time to share his testimony and listen to the testimonies of his guests. He should get to know them, and ask them if they need help in their spiritual growth or in their daily lives.)
 25. Night of preaching. (Men called to be pastors preach for 20 minutes. Three or more men preach. It can be a powerful evangelistic tool.)

Spiritual Success

Most pastors want to be successful. They want to have a big church with several ministries to help the members of their congregation. Some even want to have a radio or television ministry. There is nothing wrong in this, yet that is not success. Spiritual success does **not** consist of numbers, money, buildings, ministries, fame and notoriety. Most churches that have those things are spiritual failures.

Spiritual success consists of:

Making certain that every member of your congregation is truly born from above. If you cannot spend time with every member of your flock to listen to their testimony and be assured they are saved you need to train men to help you (Hebrews 13.17);

Feeding every member of your flock with the Word and helping them grow to spiritual maturity (Acts 6.4; Ephesians 4.11-16; 1 Peter 5.2);

Setting up a Scripture reading, studying, memorization and meditation program for every member and helping them stay on it (Appendix C);

Getting every member involved in ministry. Determine what gifts each member has and find a way for them to use them. The more members there are involved in ministry the greater impact the church will have on the community (Romans 12.7-8; 1 Corinthians 12.7-10);

Watching over the flock. When a member or regular attendee does not attend a Sunday morning service call and tell him that you missed him. Gently determine why he skipped and make him understand he is an important member. Explain to him that the whole body suffers when just one member is missing. Train men to help you if you have a large church. When the member is a woman have your wife or a female member of your congregation make the call (Hebrews 13.17);

Discipling all husbands so they can disciple their wives and children (Deuteronomy 6.6-7);

Discipling faithful men called to be pastors (2 Timothy 2.2);

Having your wife or spiritually mature women in your congregation disciple mothers so they can disciple their children (Proverbs 1.8; 6.20; 31.26)

Showing hospitality to every member of your flock by inviting them to dinner on a regular basis (once a week or once a month). The deacons, Bible teachers and other men in your flock can help you (Romans 12.13; 1 Timothy 3.2; Titus 1.8) as well as all members of your flock (1 Timothy 5.10; Hebrews 13.2; 1 Peter 4.9);

Meeting the physical needs of every member of your congregation (Acts 6.1-3; Romans 12.7; 1 John 3.16-18);

Taking the Gospel to every home and person in your city, and discipling those who believe in Jesus Christ (Matthew 28.19-20);

Sending out missionaries to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28.19-20), and assisting missionaries in their work (3 John 5-8).

Sometimes a pastor may be hesitant to let a member exercise his gift. When a pastor does not let members use their gifts he is grieving the Holy Spirit. If a man has the gift of teaching give him a trial opportunity explaining that he will only become a permanent teacher when you determine if he has the gift of teaching, and that it is the will of the Lord for him to teach. Watch what he says to make sure his doctrine is correct

and determine if he has the gift. If you and the members of the church conclude he does not have the gift tell him. Then find out what his gift is. Let everyone use their gifts so you and the congregation can see what gifts they have (1 Peter 4.10). Making up rules that a member cannot teach or exercise other gifts until he has sat on the bench for 90 days, six months or a year is not scriptural and it hinders the work of the Lord. Put every member to work serving the Lord as quickly as possible.

Teaching and preaching

The way a pastor prepares to teach a Bible lesson or preach a sermon is not by writing a sermon outline or getting one from the Internet. No pastor should ever write out a teaching/sermon outline. That is what pastors have been doing for hundreds of years, but that is not how God wants his ministers to prepare for a sermon.

Jesus never wrote a sermon outline. Neither did Peter, Paul, John or any of the Apostles. They taught and preached sermons based on their intimate knowledge of Scripture. They knew Scriptures so well they could teach on any book or subject without preparation. Jesus, the Apostles and pastors of the first century did not have a New Testament. Some had a few of the books of the New Testament, but none of them had all of the books. They taught mainly from the Old Testament and from the few books of the New Testament that they had. They also taught from oral tradition of what Jesus and the Apostles taught.

Consider this question: Who would you rather have as your personal teacher – fallible men who make many mistakes in doctrine and their understanding of Scripture or the infallible God who wrote the Bible and who knows it inside and out and never makes a mistake?

Do not rely on commentaries. Instead of being taught by fallible men let God teach you as He promised He would (1 John 2.27).

The two greatest pastors of the Reformation were Martin Luther and John Calvin. They relied solely on Scripture and the teaching of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2.27) when they prepared for a sermon. They did not have any commentaries to consult nor did they have any sermon outlines they could borrow. They were the greatest of the Reformers because of this. If you want to be a great pastor follow their example.

The way every pastor should prepare for a lesson or sermon is to read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture as much as possible. Choose a book of the Bible and teach through it, and then teach through another book until you finish teaching through the entire Bible. Once

you have taught through the Bible start over again. You can teach through the Bible in any order you desire, but teach through every book. Do not teach through the Song of Solomon if children are in the congregation. Only teach through that book in an adult Bible class.

The way to know a book inside and out is to read, read and read. If the book is not too large (15 chapters or less) read through it once a day for 30 days to get acquainted with it. If it is more than 15 chapters split it in half and take two or more months to read and study through it. As you read take notes of things the Holy Spirit gives you.

During the month that you are reading through a book choose key verses to memorize. Study the meaning of key words checking the Hebrew or Greek. Find as many cross references for each verse and write them in your Bible. Pick a Bible suitable for writing notes in. When you teach – these verses and notes will be your teaching outline. A loose leaf Bible is excellent for teaching from because you can insert pages with extra notes and references in it. Meditate on each chapter of the book. Let the Holy Spirit teach you (1 John 2.27). Lastly write your own commentary on the book.

Once you have followed the recommendations noted above you will be ready to teach on that book. Do not write out teaching or sermon outlines. You can begin with an historical background and then start teaching through the book. Read a certain number of verses that make up a thought. In the book of James, Chapter One, you would teach on verses 1-4, then 5-8, then 9-11, then 12-18, and then 19-27. After reading a specific passage explain what it means. Next note what doctrine and truths are in the passage, and how one can apply the truths to his life. Use as many cross references as you can.

Do as much teaching from the pulpit as possible. Keep your preaching to a minimum. Remember, a sermon is just a pep talk. You do not want to give pep talks every Sunday and Wednesday. You should teach from the pulpit and only give one sermon (pep talk) once a month at the most. Teach Sunday and Wednesday nights.

Teach your flock the Bible. Give them homework and engage them in dialog. Do not stand behind the pulpit through your entire lesson. Get in the aisles and ask people questions. Do not give a lecture like most professors do in universities and seminaries. After you finish teaching on a passage ask questions. Ask the congregation if they understood what you taught. Sometimes you will want to ask a specific person a question and other times ask a question for anyone to answer. Try to get as many people involved in answering questions as possible.

Pastors who have large congregations can still walk the aisles and ask questions. You will not be able to get everyone involved, but you should try to get as many people involved as possible.

It is the Word of God that convicts people “*concerning sin, and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment*” (John 16.8). The Word cuts to the heart, and the Holy Spirit teaches people as they hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture. Let the Word of God and the Holy Spirit do Their job. Do as little teaching as possible and read as much Scripture as possible:

For the word of God is quick , and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 12.4)

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1 John 2.27)

Sample Sermon

Hunger & Thirst for the Word

This is an idea that all pastors should consider doing at least once. Tell your flock that every believer should have a daily hunger and thirst for God. Quote/read: Job 23.12; Deuteronomy 8.3; Psalm 42.1-2; 63.1; 143.6; 2 Peter 2.2.

Explain that hungering and thirsting for God means one desires to know Him and have fellowship with Him. The way we do that is by spiritually feeding on and drinking in His Word – the Bible. The first way of drinking in His Word is by hearing Scripture. Simply read the passages concerning hearing Scripture and then move on to verses on reading Scripture, Bible study, memorization and meditation. Next read the passages dealing with holiness and obedience, and finally the passages concerning knowing our God and Savior. After you finish reading the last verse, close in prayer.

Do not explain the Scriptures. Let the Holy Spirit do that. You may want to print out the seven topics and the passages, and put it in the bulletin as an insert for members to study during the week.

Listening to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; Proverbs 8.34; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).

Reading Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Psalm 42.1-2; 63.1; 143.6; Revelation 1.3).

Studying Scripture (Deut. 8.3; Matthew 4.4; Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; 22.17; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15; 3.15).

Memorizing Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16).

Meditating on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; 1 Timothy 4.15).

Holiness & obedience are two reasons we study the Bible (John 15.3; 17.17; Romans 12.1-2; Ephesians 5.26; 6.14, 17; 2 Timothy 3.16-17; Titus 3.5 & Joshua 1.8; 1 John 2.3-4).

Knowing our God and Savior is another reason to study the Bible (Jeremiah 9.24; Hosea 6.3; John 17.3; Philippians 3.10; Colossians 1.10; 2 Timothy 1.12; 1 John 2.3).

Prayer is something that we must do while we hear, read, study, memorize and meditate on the Word. We should pray for wisdom and understanding as well as our daily needs and the needs of others (Matthew 7.7-11; Luke 18.1-8; John 16.24; Ephesians 6.18; James 1.5; 1 Thessalonians 5.17).

Following service (one week later)

Open in prayer and then ask:

Who listened to Scripture – sermons or teaching lessons last week?

Who read the Bible every day during the last week?

Who studied the Bible during the last week?

Who memorized Scripture during the last week?

Who meditated on Scripture last week?

Say to the congregation, “Those who answered no to any of these questions ask yourselves why. Those who answered no to most or all of them are probably backslidden or you may not be saved. Come forward and get saved or rededicate your life to God.”

Then give the invitation. You may want to preach a sermon after giving the invitation. It would be good to give a sermon on the importance of daily intake of the Word. You can use the following analogies in your follow-up sermon.

Most people eat three meals a day. Do most Christians feed on Scripture three times a day? Why not? Should we feed our souls as much or more than we feed our bodies? Which is more important to you – your eternal soul or your mortal body?

What about feeding our minds? Do most Christians spend more time watching secular movies/TV shows than they do studying the Bible?

When a husband and wife are separated for a prolonged period they write letters to each other, or email and call each other. In the old days when soldiers went off to war they were eager to get letters from home and their families were eager to get letters from them. They would read them over and over and keep them with them at all times.

Should Christians have the same eagerness to read the letters that our God and Savior wrote to us – the Bible? How often do you read letters from God written specifically for you? Some Christians read the New Testament but most do not read the Old Testament. Remember the events recorded in the Old Testament were written for our benefit (1 Corinthians 10.6). We should all study the entire Bible.

Invitation to action

This is an invitation that every pastor should make to the congregation. Ask for a show of hands for the following questions:

Who wants to get on a Bible reading and memorization program?

Who would be willing to dedicate themselves to reading four chapters in the Bible every day?

Who would be willing to memorize one verse a week?

Who would be willing to stay on this program for one year?

Ask those who responded to fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate. Explain to them that a pastor, deacon or someone else will contact them and help them get started and stay with them throughout

the program. Assign men to men, women to women and couples to couples. Encourage people to continue in the program every year.

The Worship Service

Every pastor has his own idea of what a worship service should consist of. Some ideas are good and others are bad. Consider the following activities for a worship service:

Praying – It is always good to open in prayer and to have two or more men pray during the service. The pastor should try to have as many men in the congregation pray as possible by asking different men to pray each service.

Singing – Every worship service should include singing songs of praise to God and Jesus Christ (Judges 5.3; 2 Samuel 22.50; Psalm 7.17; 9.2; 147.1, 7; 149.1, 3; Isaiah 12.5; Romans 15.9; Ephesians 5.19). Musical instruments can be used (Psalm 150.4; Isaiah 38.20; Habakkuk 3.19), if the musicians are not the center of attention.

Reading Scripture – One or more men should read Scripture chosen by the pastor or themselves (1 Corinthians 14.26). It is best that the pastor does not read Scripture, but let different men in the congregation read each service. The more men a pastor can get involved in the service the better it will be.

Sharing testimonies of praise – The pastors can either choose members to give testimonies of praise or allow anyone to share. Do not allow a member to ramble on endlessly. Tell them to keep it short and concise. If someone wants to share every service and appears as if they are trying to get attention you will need to speak with them privately.

Sharing testimonies of what one has learned from Scripture – The pastors can either choose members to share what they learned from the Bible during the last week or allow anyone to share (1 Corinthians 14.26). Do not let the same person share every service. Encourage everyone to share. Get everyone involved.

Sharing personal testimonies – In most churches few people know something about most members. A way of helping members get to know each other is through sharing one's personal testimony. Each service the pastor should invite a few members to share their testimony

and a little bit about themselves. One service two couples could give their testimony or a family or a few single men and women. Over the course of a year or more, depending on the size of the congregation, everyone can learn a little bit about the other members. It is a great way to break the ice among members. It is also good to have members get experience sharing their personal testimony of coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pastors, make sure the members you invite to share their testimony before the congregation, share it with you first. You must make certain they have a solid testimony. If they do not they may not be saved and you can lead them to the Lord.

Teaching the Word of God – The pastors should teach Scripture book-by-book helping the congregation understand what is being taught. After teaching on a portion of Scripture ask specific questions to see if the congregation understands it. Give them homework to do during the week on the passage of Scripture you intend to teach next week. Below is a sample homework assignment (answers included). Do not give the congregation the answers until after you teach on it. Print the questions w/o answers at - www.makedisciplesofallthenations.com Get all the pastors involved in teaching on Sunday morning/evening and Wednesday evening. Rotate teaching assignments. No one pastor should teach every service.

James One

(Study & discussion questions)

1. What is a bond-servant? (v. 1)
A servant who decides to remain a servant for life.
2. Who did James write his letter to? (v. 1)
The 12 Hebrew tribes.
3. What are we to do when we encounter trials? (v. 2)
Consider it all joy.
4. What should the testing of our faith produce? (v. 3)
Endurance.
5. What should we be after we have gone through several testings of our faith? (v. 4)
A. Perfect B. Complete C. Lacking nothing.

6. What should we not lack? (v. 5-7) Wisdom.
- A. If we lack this what should we do? Ask God for wisdom.
 - B. What else can we do to get this? (Proverbs 1.1-7; 2.1-10; 4.7; 5.1-2; 7.1-4; 8.13)
 - 1. Increase in learning
 - 2. Acquire wise counsel
 - 3. Respect God
 - 4. Receive and treasure Scripture
 - 5. Search for it
 - 6. Acquire wisdom
 - 7. Keep the commandments
 - 8. Hate evil.
 - C. Does God give this to all men and in what manner?
Yes, and He gives it generously and without reproach
 - D. When we ask for this what must we not do and why?
Not doubt for if we do we will not get it.
 - E. What kind of a person will we be if we do not ask in faith?
A double-minded person who is unstable in all our ways.
7. What should the brother of humble circumstances do? (v. 9)
Glory in his high position.
8. What should the rich brother do and why? (v. 10-11)
Glory in his humiliation.
9. Which brother is given the greater blessing by God, and which brother will have more rewards in Heaven? (v. 9-10)
The poor brother.
10. What should we do when we encounter trials? (v. 12) Persevere.
- A. What will we receive if we are approved?
The crown of life.
 - B. Is there something else we must do to receive the reward?
Love Jesus.
 - C. If we are not approved will we still receive the reward?
Probably not.
11. Does God tempt people or does He test people? (v. 13-15) (2 Samuel 24.1; 1 Chronicle 21.1)
God never tempts people, but He frequently tests them.
- A. What is the difference between temptation and testing?
 - 1. Temptation is – Enticing someone to sin.
 - 2. Testing is – Showing observers how strong a person's faith, love, loyalty and obedience is.

- B. Can God be tempted by evil?
No! It is impossible for God to be tempted by evil!
- C. Could Jesus have been tempted by evil during His incarnation?
(Luke 4.1-13)
No! The temptation by the devil was permitted to prove to the devil, the fallen angels, the holy angels and all mankind that Jesus is fully divine and fully God in Adamic flesh.
- D. What causes a person to be tempted? (v. 14) Lust.
- E. What are the results of giving in to temptation? (v. 15)
1. Sin. 2. Death.
- F. Can the natural results of succumbing to temptation be stopped, and if so how? Yes, if one stops sinning, receives medical attention, takes care of his body or the Lord heals him.
12. What must we guard against? (v. 16) Deception.
- A. Who is the father of the thing we must guard against? (Gen. 3.1-7; John 8.44; Revelation 12.9; 20.3, 8, 10) The devil.
- B. How do we guard against this? (Ephesians 6.10-18)
By putting on the full armor of God which is:
- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Truth | 5. Salvation |
| 2. Righteousness | 6. Word of God |
| 3. Faith | 7. Prayer. |
| 4. Gospel | |
13. Where does every good thing and perfect gift come from? (v. 17)
From above (Heaven), from the Father of lights.
- A. Who receives these good things and gifts? People.
- B. What does no “variation” and no “shifting shadow” mean?
1. No variation – The blessings are the same for everyone.
2. No shifting shadow – The blessings do not go from good to bad.
14. Who brought whom forth? (v. 18)
The Father brought forth the saints (believers).
- A. By what was this done? The Word of Truth (Scripture).
- B. What is a first fruit? (Exodus 23.16) The first crop of a harvest.
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| 1. Who is the First Fruit? (1 Corinthians 15.20, 23) Jesus. |
| 2. Who was among the first fruits? (Matthew 27.51-53)
An unspecified number of Old Testament believers. |
15. What must every believer be? (v. 19)
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A. Quick to hear. | B. Slow to speak. | C. Slow to anger. |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

16. What can the anger of man never achieve? (v. 20)
The righteousness of God.
- A. What must never go down on our anger? (Ephesians 4.26) The sun.
 - B. Can we exhibit righteous anger? (Ephesians 4.26)
Yes, but we must be careful not to sin.
17. What must all believers do? (v. 21)
- A. Put away all filthiness and wickedness (sin).
 - B. Receive the Word (Scripture).
18. What can save our souls? (v. 21) Scripture.
- A. How is a person saved? (Ephesians 2.8)
By the grace of God through faith alone in Jesus.
 - B. By what does faith come? (Romans 10.17)
By hearing the Word (Scripture).
19. What must all believers do? (v. 22)
Be doers of the Word and not just hearers.
- A. Give a few examples of what we should do?
 1. Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deut. 6.5; Mark 12.30).
 2. Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19.18; Mark 12.31).
 3. Draw near to God (James 4.8).
 4. Keep the commandments in Scripture (1 John 5.2-3).
 5. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts (James 4.8).
 6. Pray for all kinds of people (1 Timothy 2.1).
 7. Share material goods with those in need (1 John 3.17-18).
 8. Be hospitable (Romans 12.13; Hebrews 13.1-2; 1 Peter 4.9).
 9. Serve each other (Galatians 5.13; 1 Peter 4.10).
 10. Visit orphans & widows (James 1.27).
 11. Humble yourselves (1 Peter 5.6).
 12. Resist the devil (James 4.7; 1 Peter 5.9).
 13. Love your enemies (Matthew 5.44).
 14. Give to the Lord in secret (Matthew 6.1-4).
 15. Do not love the world or the things in the world (1 John 2.15).
 16. Do not oppress employees, widows, orphans, aliens (Mal. 3.5).
 17. Seek good and not evil, hate evil and love good, and establish justice (Amos 5.14-15; Proverbs 8.13).
 18. Do not charge high rent to the poor (Amos 5.11).
 19. Do not reject knowledge (Hosea 4.6).
 20. Do not have idols in your life (1 John 5.21).

B. How do some believers delude themselves?

1. By going to church and doing little else.
2. By saying a quick prayer before dinner, and a quick prayer before sleeping and little else.
3. By giving some money or even tithing and little else.
4. By watching your favorite religious TV show and little else.
5. By helping a brother or sister in the Lord once in a great while and little else.

C. Should we periodically examine our faith? (2 Corinthians 13.5)

Yes, all Christians should examine their faith from time to time.

1. How do we examine our faith?

By studying the Scriptures to see what it says we should do. If we are not doing those things we have failed the test.

20. What one word best describes a hearer of the Word who does not obey it? (v. 23-24) Hypocrite.
21. What is the Perfect Law – the Law of Liberty? (v. 25) (James 2.12; John 8.32; Galatians 2.4; 6.2; 1 Peter 2.16)
Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and body and love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12.30-31).
22. What must all believers do with the Law of Liberty and what must we not do with it? (v. 25)
A. Look at it (Study it). B. Obey it. C. Not be forgetful hearers.
23. What will be the result if we do what we should do and not do something? (v. 25) (Psalm 1.1-3) We will be blessed in what we do.
24. What must we all do if we claim to be religious? (v. 26)
Control your speech.
A. If we do not do this what will be the result?
1. We will deceive ourselves.
2. Our religion (faith) will be worth nothing.
25. What is pure and undefiled religion? (v. 27)
A. Visiting and caring for orphans and widows.
B. Keeping oneself pure from the world.