

M:28
Discipleship (PTO)
Appendices



M:28 Discipleship Initiative – Qualifiers

IMPORTANT:

Due to the present incomplete status of ISI's M:28 curriculum development (e.g., securing permission of use from significant contributing sources included in this document) we request that all materials in this current draft form NOT be distributed for use beyond those who have directly participated in ISI's M:28 training venues.

Acknowledgements

ISI wishes to thank those who have contributed to the development and launch of ISI's M:28 Initiative among international students, in particular the ISI staff team in the greater Dallas area, who have made significant investments in helping us launch the program over the past three year.

We are also profoundly grateful to individuals and ministries such as David Watson (City Teams) and David Garrison, all of whom have labored for many years to develop relevant church-planting models and multiplication strategies. These resources have helped inform and refine the development of ISI's M:28 program.

Material by Clyde Hodson adapted and used with permission. Prayer Mentor Toolkit – www.prayermentor.org ©2004.

Material by David Watson adapted and used with permission.

ACTS Prayer by Chi Alpha, adapted and used with permission.

“A Handy Guide to Healthy Churches, Part 2” by David Garrison, October 6, 2010, adapted and used with permission.

Scripture used are taken from the New Living Translation unless where otherwise noted.

Holy Bible, New Living Translation copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. New Living, NLT, and the New Living Translation logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960,1962,1963,1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

M:28 Discipleship (PTO) Appendices

Copyright © 2013 by International Students, Inc.

ISBN # 78-1-930942-04-2

PO Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Phone: (719) 576-2700
www.internationalstudents.org

Table of Contents

Foreward	6
Appendix S1: Assurance of Salvation.....	7
Appendix 1a: 1-2-7's Discipleship Tool Hand Motions	8
Appendix 2a: Testimony Example of Paul.....	10
Appendix 2b: The Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism	12
Appendix 3a.1: Preparing for an M:28 Bible Study.....	15
Appendix 3a.2: M:28 Bible Study – Facilitator Guide.....	18
Appendix 3a.3: Anatomy of an M:28 Bible Study	21
Appendix 7a: Bible Reading Plan.....	22
Appendix 7b: Deep Study Resources	23
Appendix 8a: The ACTS Prayer	25
Appendix 9a: One-Verse Bridge.....	26
Appendix 10a: Trust Lean Instructions.....	28
Appendix 13a: Parable of the Elephant and the Rabbit.....	29
Appendix 13b: M:28 Ministry Cycle	30
Appendix 14a: Potential Script for Teaching the 5-4-3-2-1's.....	34
Appendix 14b: Values found in a Rabbit church – POUCH	36

Foreword

Dear Colleague in Christ,

Our partnership in fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ is both a high honor and a sober responsibility. Two thousand years after Jesus left this earth it remains a significant challenge for the Church—with an estimated five billion people yet unreached. How will the Church complete the task? How will WE invest in God’s global redemptive agenda?

As the cause of missions continues to experience dramatic shifts and growing repression around the world, the Church is looking for disciple-multiplying strategies that are both fluid and relevant. International students, effectively reached and equipped for disciple-making ministry, represent a strategic force in the world for helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

ISI’s M:28 Global Discipleship Initiative is a relevant and reproducible strategy designed to identify international students who are spiritual seekers, guide them in truth discovery, lead them to Christ, and equip them to be disciple-makers in their spheres of impact. In the M:28 process, students experience authentic biblical community and are imprinted from the very first day with the DNA of spiritual multiplication.

Implementation and refinement of the M:28 model over the past several years is beginning to yield exponential results. Our deep desire is that the M:28 initiative would be used by God to help spark a movement among international students around the world that would result in an army of students won to Jesus Christ, and launched into the marketplaces of society as God’s Kingdom agents.

Thank you for joining us in this strategic venture!



Dr. Doug Shaw
President/CEO
International Students, Inc.

Appendix S1: Assurance of Salvation

The goal of this lesson is to see how well the students understand the gospel. If they don't, use it to share the gospel.

To see the *One-Verse Evangelism* diagram and explanation, go to <http://www.navigators.org/us/resources/illustrations/items/One%20Verse%20Evangelism>.

You may also order the booklet, *One-Verse Evangelism* (© 2000 Randy D. Raysbrook and Steve Walker. Dawson Media, a ministry of The Navigators. All rights reserved) from NavPress, <http://www.navpress.com/>, or by calling (800) 366-7788.

Appendix 1a: 1-2-7's Discipleship Tool Hand Motions

(See video on how to do this at <http://vimeo.com/15547585>.)

One Holy Purpose God's Kingdom/God's Glory



Two Authorities



#1 God's Holy Word



The Bible



#2 God is 1st; I am 2nd



Seven commands of Jesus



Start Here (move hand out)



Repent (Turn hand)



Believe



Be Baptized



Pray

Love God, Love one Another



Make Disciples



Lord's Table (Remember Jesus)



Give



Appendix 2a: Testimony Example of Paul

Example Testimony Outline

• **Before Jesus**

- Was looking for hope when gave all of myself to religion studying and living according to the strictest code of Judaism
- Believed in a hope of God the scripture teach about, where He raises people from the dead
- I felt like Jesus was an affront to this code and so I persecuted all those who followed him.
- Became famous for my passion in persecuting them to death.

• **How I trusted Jesus**

- Journey to Damascus to persecute more
- Light in the Road and words that I heard in a vision
- It was Jesus...He gave me a vision about what my life was about.
- I obeyed what Jesus said in the vision. Turned my life around.

• **Since Jesus**

- **Preached to people in Damascus, Jerusalem, Judea and Gentiles**
- **Preached that they should repent and obey**
- **I have been persecuted but am still convinced that this Jesus is the fulfillment of hope we have.**
- **I hope you can have the same experience, this exhilarating sense of purpose and fulfillment of destiny, as me.**

Example Testimony

Acts 26:2-24 - Paul

“King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.

²“I am fortunate, King Agrippa, that you are the one hearing my defense today against all these accusations made by the Jewish leaders, ³ for I know you are an expert on all Jewish customs and controversies. Now please listen to me patiently!

⁴“As the Jewish leaders are well aware, I was given a thorough Jewish training from my earliest childhood among my own people and in Jerusalem. ⁵ If they would admit it, they know that I have been a member of the Pharisees, the strictest sect of our religion. ⁶ Now I am on trial because of my hope in the fulfillment of God’s promise made to our ancestors. ⁷ In fact, that is why the twelve tribes of Israel zealously worship God night and day, and they share the same hope I have. Yet, Your Majesty, they accuse me for having this hope! ⁸ Why does it seem incredible to any of you that God can raise the dead?

⁹“I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. ¹⁰ Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. ¹¹ Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.

¹²“One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. ¹³ About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone

down on me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.’

¹⁵ “‘Who are you, lord?’ I asked.

“And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. ¹⁶ Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. You are to tell the world what you have seen and what I will show you in the future. ¹⁷ And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God’s people, who are set apart by faith in me.’

¹⁹ “And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven. ²⁰ I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do. ²¹ Some Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this, and they tried to kill me. ²² But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God’s light to Jews and Gentiles alike.”

²⁴ Suddenly, Festus shouted, “Paul, you are insane. Too much study has made you crazy!”

Appendix 2b: The Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism

by Clyde Hodson

What is the Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism?

The Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism comes out of the teaching of Jesus in Luke 10 as He sent 72 of His followers ahead of Him to preach the gospel of the kingdom. This five-step plan is being used in the Neighborhood Houses of Prayer Movement in India and the Lighthouses of Prayer Movement in Argentina to mobilize believers to pray and share the gospel with persons of peace. In this plan, workers in the Lord's harvest field pray for at least five persons of peace (PoP) personally, with their own household and corporately with their Biblical communities.

The fivefold plan is:

1. **Pray for laborers** - Ask the Father to bring workers into the lives of your PoP and their network of family and friends (household).

"And He was saying to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest,'" Luke 10:2 [NASB].

2. **Pray for God's peace and blessing** - Pray for your five PoP and their households, persistently asking the Father to bless them and bring peace to their households.

"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house,'" Luke 10:5 [NASB].

3. **Associate with them** - Associate with your PoP and their households through coffee, a meal together or participating in an event together and begin investing your life in theirs.

"Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house," Luke 10:7[NASB].

4. **Pray for miracles** - Ask your PoP how you can pray for them and then pray persistently for miracles in their lives both personally, with your household and corporately with your Biblical community.

"...and heal those in it who are sick," Luke 10:9 [NASB].

5. **Share the gospel** - As your PoP experience God's blessing, presence and power in their lives, continue to make noise for Jesus and ask if they would be willing to do a Discovery Bible Study with you and introduce them to a knowledge of who God is and an understanding of the good news of the Kingdom of God.

"and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" Luke 10:9 [NASB].

How does the Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism work?

1. Pray together with your household and ask the Father to show you five PoP He wants you to focus your prayer and life on. This could be family, friends, neighbors, your kid's friends or teachers at school, associates, clients, vendors at work, family members, families at the gym or athletic field, etc. List the five persons of peace below:

2. Prepare the ground by praying forty days for your five PoP and their households, using the Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism pray:
 - a. *LABORERS*: Pray that Jesus would send others into the lives of your PoP and their households. (Luke 10:2).
 - b. *PEACE*: Pray that God's blessing and peace would come into the lives of your P(s)oP and their households (Luke 10:5).
 - c. *ASSOCIATION*: Pray that Jesus will open a door for you to associate with your PoP and their households (Luke 10:7).
 - d. *MIRACLES*: Pray that the Father will work in a miraculous way to meet the felt needs in the lives of your PoP and their households. (Luke 10:9).
 - e. *GOSPEL*: Pray that Jesus will open a door for you to make noise for Him and lead a Discovery Bible Study with your PoP and the Spirit will testify of Jesus as you testify of Jesus. (Luke 10:9).
3. After you have prayed for your PoPs for forty days, approach them and tell them that you are a part of a Biblical community that is praying for the neighborhood, or school or workplace, or community, etc. Then ask them:
 - a. How can we pray for the neighborhood/school/workplace/community?
 - b. How can we pray for your family?
 - c. How can we pray for you?
4. Persistently ask the Father to act in miraculous ways in answer to your PoP's prayer requests, using the Fivefold Plan for Prayer Evangelism:

As the Lord leads, associate with your PoP's, tell them you are praying with them and ask if they have seen God answer their prayer requests. Continue to make noise of Jesus and ask them to join you in a Discovery Bible Study. Invite your Biblical community to join you in reaching out to your PoP's and their households. As you pray, ask the Father to work in a miraculous way in their lives and to bring the reality of the Kingdom of God to them. Begin praying that as you do a Discovery Bible Study they will be open to lead a Discovery Bible Study with their own households.

Appendix 3a.1: Preparing for an M:28 Bible Study

Preparing for an M:28 Bible Study generally is not difficult. There are many ways to prepare but what is presented here is a starting point for doing it.

Steps for Basic Preparation

- Begin by asking God for His presence and guidance in the discussion process. Pray throughout the time of preparation.
- Do a Three-Column Personal Bible study on the passage (See end of this appendix for instructions.) Here are some specific things to look for...
 - Circle words or concepts that you feel your audience might have difficulty with.
 - **First**, see if the passage gives clues to the meaning of the word.
 - **Second**, get help to discover the meaning in the following ways:
 - Ask your coach for help.
 - Look in the dictionary often found in the back of many Bibles.
 - Look at other uses of the word in the Bible. To find these, use the concordance in the back of the Bible. A concordance lists words alphabetically and where they are found in the Bible. Seeing a particular word in context within the passage, often helps you figure out its meaning.
 - Go to a website like gotquestions.org, bible.org, eastonsbibledictionary.com, biblegateway.com to look in a Bible Dictionary or Topical Index.

Remember, it is best for students to use **the Bible** to discover for themselves the meaning of words. You want to use these tools to help find passages that can help them figure out the meaning. Also, during the meeting, another student may already know the meaning of the word. If a member of the group has an appropriate answer, let them be the one to share it with the group.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have any questions on the passage do not be afraid to ask your coach, no matter what the question.

Guide to doing a Three-Column Personal M:28 Bible Study¹

Turn a piece of paper on its side, or landscape orientation. Divide the paper into three columns. Label the first Column 'God's Words.' Label the second 'My Words' and the third 'I Will.' You can do this on any sheet of paper.

“God’s Words” Column

The length of the passage you choose affects how much time the study takes. Obviously, longer passages take longer to study. This isn't a bad thing, but you need to keep it in mind. Generally, try to keep your passages between 10 and 15 verses per session.

In the “God’s Words” column, write the passage word-for-word or exactly as it is written in the Bible. This takes time but you control how much time by choosing smaller chunks of Scripture. Break larger passages into several sections spread out over several days. What is most important however is this: when you copy a passage word-for-word you actually read it through several (about five to seven) times. It is a form of forced reflection on the passage for those of us who have a hard time sitting and thinking about a passage without losing focus. This process also keeps us from skimming familiar passages. When you write it out, you have to think about every word.

“My Words” Column

When you finish copying the passage, use the second column to ***write the passage in your own words***. Try to be thorough. Write it out like you're telling a friend about it over a cup of coffee. Don't move on until you write the passage in your own words. You don't really understand a passage if you can't tell it to someone else in your own words. You can't obey Scripture unless you understand it. Sometimes, you might have to stop on a passage for a couple of days and wrestle with it with the Holy Spirit before you can finish putting it into your own words. It might help to look at some of the verses before and after to help you understand. When you start this process, you will probably find there are several familiar passages that you can't write in your own words. Sometimes we 'know' more than we truly understand.

The Big Idea Statement

At the top of the sheet, based on your “My Words” section try to come up with one sentence that describes what the main point of the whole passage is. Try to say it in one sentence.

“I Will” Column

In the third column we transition from knowing God's Word to obeying God's Word. Look at each part of the passage. Ask God to reveal things you need to add to your life, take away from your life, or change in your life to obey this passage. Be specific. The passage may say that God created the earth, for example, and you have to decide what that means in your life. How does your life change because you believe God created the earth? What do you need to do differently? What can you do in the next 24 hours to obey this passage? Every time we open God's Word, He invites us into relationship. We call His invitation 'grace,' because we can't do anything to deserve it. Obedience is how we accept His invitation. God lives with those who obey His Word. (John 14:23-24). When we study God's Word we have a choice: we can choose to obey Him or we can choose to disobey Him. It is really that simple. This third column is your response to God's invitation.

Share What you Learn

When you finish this study, you have two responsibilities. First, you need to meet with other followers of Jesus and discuss what you learned. Tell them your 'I Will' statements. They can hold you accountable to do

¹ Adapted from David Watson's CPM Training Resources (<http://www.cpmtr.org/resources/>) "Discovering God v. 2.0"

what you say, and they can help you figure out other ways to help you obey God's Word. Second, look for opportunities to share what God said to other people in general. Mix the phrase, "God taught me something today" (or something similar) into conversations with people, (Jesus followers or not), and wait for a response. This creates discussion opportunities. If people care, and God is working in their hearts to learn more about Him, they might ask for more information and will want to know what you have to say. If it isn't the right time for them now, they will ignore you or change the subject. If the latter is true, don't continue to share, forcing it on them.

Summary

To summarize the process:

- Write the passage word-for-word, exactly as you see it in your Bible in column 1.
- Write the passage in your own words paragraph by paragraph in column 2.
- State the main point of the passage that God is trying to make at the top of the page.
- List the actions you must take to obey this passage in column 3.
- Share what you learned with Jesus followers for accountability.

Create discussion opportunities with non-Jesus followers by sharing what you are learning. Share further with people who are interested at this point in life

Passage: _____ The Big Idea: _____

God's Words	My Words	I will (be specific)

M:28 Bible Study – Facilitator Guide

CONNECT

Care - What are you thankful for this week? What difficulties and stresses have you experienced this past week? How can this group help you?

Share - With whom did you share what you learned last week?

Pray – Thank God for bringing everyone today. Ask for God’s provision/care concerning members’ needs shared above. Ask God’s Holy Spirit to enlighten each person regarding truth in the passage being explored today.

DISCOVER

Explore

- Step 1: Have participants take turns reading portions of the bible passage out loud while the rest follow in their bibles.
- Step 2: Ask participants if they don’t recognize any words. Have the group figure out the definitions.
- Step 3: Have one person read the entire passage out loud while the rest of the group listens (bibles closed).
- Step 4a: Have different people in the group retell the passage (one paragraph, a set of verses, or one verse at a time) in their own words. **Step 4b: For each section, ask the group, “What would you add? What do you see differently?”**
- Step 5: Use the following questions to guide discovery and application:

Engage

- What did you like or find significant about this passage?
- What bothers you or what don’t you understand about this passage? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?*
- What does this passage tell us about people?*
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?*
- What other questions do you have about this passage?

APPLY

Obey

- If this passage is true, how does it change how you personally view God?*
- If this passage is true, how should it change how you personally treat others?*
- If this passage is true, how should it change how you personally live life?*
- What, specifically, will you do differently this coming week in light of this passage?

Share /Witness

With whom will you share what you learned this week? What will you share?

- God’s Word (how this passage has spoken to you/what this passage has shown you)
- [Optional] God’s Work (how God is working in or changing your life)
- [Optional] God’s Ways (how God is answering prayer and providing for you)

Serve

Do you know anyone outside this group who needs help? How can you/we help them?

Pray

Have someone in the group close in prayer, thanking God for what you learned, and asking for God’s help/provision regarding needs (shared above).

** Use these for Discovering God (See verse sheet for alternate questions for other series)*

10 “Rules” for an M:28 Bible Study

Group Rules (Review as a group each time someone new joins.)

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs (no person dominating).
2. Focus only on what **this passage** is saying (not other passages).
3. Focus only on what **this group** is seeing (not other people or materials).
4. Give people time to respond (don’t be afraid of silence). (Note: Anyone can say “pass” if they don’t have something to share.)
5. Facilitate, don’t teach (using the Facilitator Guide). (Note: *The “coach”—outsider helping to start the group—is there to help, advise outside of the group and to silently pray during the group, not lead.*)

Facilitator Rules (guidelines for the facilitator)

6. **Keep the session on schedule—Complete all sections if possible** (Note: You may need to shorten the passage selection or have fewer people share.) **Most important** is the “Obey” section (encourage everyone to share).
7. **Responding to questions** —Ask, “**What in this passage helps us answer that question?**” (The goal is to help the group see that “**even they**” can understand the Bible) Facilitators: Don’t contribute your answer/comment to every question. Let the group try to figure it out.] **If the question is not about the passage**, say, “**Let’s discuss this further after our group time...**” If it is a genuine question, they will make time afterwards. If not, then it probably wasn’t too important to them. If you don’t know the answer and no one else does, say, “Let’s do a separate study at another time on a passage that answers that question.” (Then afterwards ask your coach for guidance.)
8. **Distracting questions or discussions** (unrelated issues or “digressions”). Ask, “**Where is that found in this passage?**” Or, suggest the group talk about it after the group meeting since, “**The goal for today is focusing on what this passage has to say.**”
9. “**Strange**” or “**wrong**” interpretations: Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds a culture of self-correction). Ask the question, “**Where is that found in this passage?**” If this fails, suggest that you and the person or whole group talk about it after the regular meeting because, “**The goal for today is focusing on what this passage has to say.**”
10. **Close the group after the second or third week.** If someone wants to bring a friend after that, help them start a new group with that friend and their friends.

Notes

- Many of the “Obey” questions are phrased “**If this is true...**” so that people who don’t yet fully trust the Bible can participate in this Bible study process comfortably. If you know everyone in the group believes in the truth of the Bible, you could change the statement to “**Since this is true...**” If people are having a **hard time saying what they will do differently (Obey section)**, you can introduce them to the SPECK tool. (**S**in to repent of, **P**romise to embrace, **E**xample to follow or not, **C**ommand to obey, or **K**nowledge to adopt).

Adapted from David Watson’s CPM Training Resources (<http://www.cpmtr.org/resources/>)

M:28 Bible Study – Passages (Half Sheet)

For each study, you want to focus on one passage and discover what God wants you to see, understand, share and obey. If you are going through this for the first time, find a coach who can help you. Because we may not have two years of weekly study with the same group in our situations, “Discovering God” is designed to help students get the big picture and meet the God of the Bible within a semester. Start a new group using “Discovering God Series” (Set 1). Set 2

reinforces Set 1, but also explores ideas like God’s law, etc. Use this set for groups who want to continue to explore God for a second semester.

Coaches: You can add or remove passages you think are necessary based on the things you hear in the meetings or from the facilitator. For example, if some couples are struggling with their marriage relationship, you might add a study exploring Ephesians 5:21-33. Using the three verse series’ below students will have a basic understanding of being a follower of Jesus Christ. **Important:** let students discover what the Bible and God say about the topic in each passage.

Studies to Start Off With (Discovering God Series)

Discovering God Series (Set 1)

God Creates

Genesis 1:1-25 – God Creates All Things

Genesis 2:4-24 – God Creates People

Man Rebels

Genesis 3:1-13 – People Disobey God

Genesis 3:14-24 – God’s Response

God Makes a Way Back

Genesis 6:5-22, 7:6-12, 7:18-24, 8:18-22 – God Judges His Creation

Genesis 9:1-19 – God Makes Promises to All Creation

Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-8 – God’s Special

Promise to One Family

Genesis 21:1-7, 22:1-19 – Abraham’s Big Test

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 – God’s Promised Suffering Servant

Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20 – The Birth of Jesus

John 3:1-21 – Jesus Meets a Man Seeking God

Choose one of these:

- Luke 5:17-26 – Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

- Mark 4:35-41 – Jesus Calms a Storm

Matthew 26:17-30 – Jesus Shares a Last Meal

Luke 23:32-49 – Jesus Dies on a Cross

Luke 23:50-24:12 – Jesus Rises from the Dead

John 1:1-18 – Series Summary: Becoming a Child

of God – (IMPORTANT)

Discovering God Series (Set 2)

God Creates

Psalm 19 – Creation a Testimony to God, His Word Makes Us Wise

Psalm 139:1-18 – Man’s Special Relationship with God

Man Rebels

Psalm 14 and 53 – All Have Turned Away from God

God Makes a Way Back

Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 5:32-6:2 – God’s Commands

Leviticus 4:13-31 – Sacrifices for Sin

Psalm 32 – The Blessing of Forgiveness

Psalm 2 – How We Will Know the Messiah/Christ

John 1:19-34 – Jesus is Baptized

Matthew 4:1-22 – The Testing of Jesus

John 4:1-26, 39-42 – Jesus Meets the Samaritan Woman

Choose one of these:

- Mark 5:1-20 – Jesus’ Authority Over Spirits

- John 11:1-44 – Jesus’ Authority Over Death

John 14:1-14 – How to See God

John 19:28-42 – Death and Burial of Jesus

Luke 24:13-35 – Jesus Meets Disciples after Rising Again

John 1:1-18 – Summary: Becoming a Child of God

Studies about Living as a Follower of Jesus

Following Jesus Series

Luke 5:1-11 – Followers of Jesus Leave Everything

John 14:15-31 – Followers Demonstrate Their Love by Obeying

Philippians 2:1-13 – Followers Have the Same Perspective as Jesus

Luke 4:1-13 – Followers Overcome Temptation Using God’s Word

John 1:35-51 – Followers Introduce Others to Jesus

Acts 4:23-31 – Followers Will Experience Persecution

Matthew 6:5-18 – Followers Apply Jesus’ Model of Prayer and Fasting

Matthew 5:38-48 – Followers Show Love for Enemies

Luke 8:22-25 – Followers Don’t Fear Circumstances

Matthew 6:25-34 – Followers Don’t Worry about tomorrow

Matthew 18:15-35 – Followers Forgive and Seek to Restore Broken Relationships

Following Jesus Series (cont.)

1 Corinthians 7:1-17, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 –

Following Jesus in Marriage, Part 1

Matthew 19:1-12, Ephesians 5:21-33 – Following Jesus in Marriage, Part 2

Matthew 5:33-37 – Followers Keep their Word

Ephesians 4:15-31 – Followers Behave Differently as They Mature in Christ

Some Suggested Discover Questions For This Series:

- What do these verses say about following Jesus/God?

- What do these verses say about relating to one another?

- Based on these verses, what should we expect if we follow Jesus?

Some Suggested Obey Questions For This Series:

- Fill in the blank: “Based on these verses, I will _____.” (be specific)

- What in my life will cause difficulty in obeying these verses?

- What can people in the group do to help me in obeying these verses?

Growing in Maturity Series

2 Timothy 2:1-7 – Followers Pass On What They Know and Stay Faithful

Matthew 28:16-20 – Followers Make Disciples

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 – Followers are Christ’s Ambassadors

John 4:4-26, 39-42 – Followers Share Their Story

Act 26:2-29 – Followers Share Their Story

Luke 10:1-12, 16-20 – Followers Look for People of Peace and Help People See Jesus

Hebrews 10:23-25 – Followers Continue to Meet Together

Matthew 16:13-21 – Followers Understand That Jesus is Building His Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 – Followers Understand they are a Part of Christ’s Body

Acts 2:42-47 – Followers Practice Community

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 – Followers Understand God is One

Colossians 1:15-20 – Followers Understand the Role of the Son

Psalm 139:1-8 – Followers Understand the Role of the Father

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 – Followers Understand the Role of the Holy Spirit

John 17 – Followers Pray Based on Their Relationship with God

Ephesians 1:3-14 – Followers Live in Light of their position in Christ.

Growing in Maturity Series (cont.)

John 10:25-30 – Followers Are Secure in Their Relationship with Christ

Hebrews 12:5-11 – Followers Accept Discipline from God

John 15:5-17 – Followers Remain in Christ

Mark 12:28-34 – Followers Love God and Love Others

Ephesians 4:1-6 – Followers Keep Unity in Christ

1 Corinthians 1:10-17 – Followers Keep Unity in Christ

Psalm 1 – Followers Delight in God’s Word Which Brings Wisdom for Living

2 Peter 1:16-21 – Followers Hear God Speaking Through Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14-17 – Followers Understand the Role of Scripture in Their Lives

Matthew 6:5-13 – Followers Pray with Purpose

John 14:12-14 – Followers Are Assured that God Will Answer Prayers

Philippians 4:4-7 – Followers Are Not Anxious But Pray

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Followers Pray All the Time

Mark 1:14-17 – Followers Leave Their Past and

Follow Jesus to Become Fishers of Men

Luke 9:57-62 – Followers Count the Cost of Following Jesus

Acts 8:9-13 – Followers Believe and Are Baptized

Romans 6:1-7 – Followers Are Baptized into Christ

Acts 8:26-38 – Followers Are Baptized After Believing

Luke 22:14-23 – Followers Remember Jesus in Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-33 – Followers Remember

Jesus in Communion

Acts 10 – Followers Understand the Gospel is for All People

Matthew 22:34-40 – Followers Practice God’s

Greatest Commandments, to Love.

Luke 10:25-37 – Followers See Loving your

Neighbor is Loving Everyone

2 Corinthians 8:1-15 – Followers Give

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 – Followers Give

Some Suggested Discover Questions For This Series:

- What do these verses say about following Jesus/God?

- What do these verses say about relating to one another?

- Based on these verses, what should we expect if we follow Jesus?

Some Suggested Obey Questions For This Series:

- Fill in the blank: “Based on these verses, I will _____ be specific).

- What in my life will cause difficulty in obeying these verses?

- What can people in the group do to help me obey these verses?

Appendix 3a.3: Anatomy of an M:28 Bible Study

Review

⇒ = Most Important
DNA Elements

- ⇒ • What are you thankful for this week?
- ⇒ • What difficulties and stresses have you experienced this past week? [Optional: Have someone pray for what was shared above.]
- How can this group help you?
- ⇒ • With whom did you share what you learned last week? What happened?
- ⇒ • How did you obey what you learned last week?
- In what ways did you experience God this past week?
- [Optional] Go over group rules if there are new people.

Engage

Can be paragraphs, 3 verses, even one verse at a time

- ⇒ Step 1: Have participants take turns reading portions of the Bible passage out loud while the rest follow in their Bibles.
- ⇒ Step 2: Ask participants if they don't recognize any words. Have the group figure out the definitions.
- ⇒ Step 3: Have one person read the entire passage out loud while the rest of the group listens (with bibles closed).
- ⇒ Step 4a: Have different people in the group retell the passage (one paragraph, a set of verses, or one verse at a time) in their own words. Step 4b: For each section, ask the group "What would you add? What do you see differently?"
- ⇒ Step 4b: For each section, ask the group "What would you add? What do you see differently?"
- ⇒ Step 5: Use the following questions to guide discovery and application:

Discover

(Facilitator chooses best questions based on time and the passage.)

- What did you like or find significant about this passage?
- What bothers you or what don't you understand about this passage? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?*
- What does this passage tell us about people?*
- What does this passage tell us about the relationship between God and people?*
- What other questions do you have about this passage?

Obey

- If this passage is true, how does this passage change how you personally view God?*
- If this passage is true, how does this passage change how you personally treat others?*
- If this passage is true, how does this passage change how you personally live life?*
- What, specifically, will you do differently this coming week in light of this passage?

Share

* Use these for Discovering God (See verse sheet for alternate questions for other series)

- With whom will you share what you learned this week?
- What will you share?
 - God's **Word** (how this passage has spoken to you)
 - [optional] God's **Work** (how God is changing your life)
 - [optional] God's **Ways** (how God is answering prayer and providing for you)

Care (for others)

- ⇒ • Do you know anyone who needs help? How can you/we help them?

Prayer (God-dependence)

- Have someone in the group close in prayer, thanking God for what you learned, and asking for God's help/provision regarding members' needs (shared above).

DNA of Prayer/Worship—Have each person share one thing he is thankful for and one thing that is stressing him out. After 1 or 2 weeks, share that prayer in its simplest form is telling God the things that we are thankful for and the problems we currently have. If most of the group believes in Jesus, transition this from group sharing to an open, interactive prayer and worship time. This form of "prayer" is interactive and gets the quietest people involved in group prayer. You

DNA of Group Care— this develops the DNA of ministry within the body – the ministry of the group to one another.

DNA of Giving Witness and Accountability—DNA of sharing what God is doing and teaching you in your life (evangelism/ teaching) and the importance of immediate obedience to what you learned.

DNA Looking for God—Encourages group members to have a personal time with God and look for him daily involved in our lives. Giving them an opportunity to share allows room for the Holy Spirit to take the group study in a completely different direction than planned.

DNA of Authority of the Bible—Emphasizes the Bible as our primary source of authority. Reading, listening, and retelling Scripture is important. This pattern allows different learning styles to engage Scripture. Everyone has time to think about the passage and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word.

DNA of Bible Interpretation—Retelling the passage allows them to interpret what they saw in the passage and to think through sharing this passage with someone outside the group.

DNA of Self-Correction— Allowing the group to add to or disagree with the retelling encourages everyone to think about the main points in the passage and encourages quality control through group correction. This also is a great way to check understanding.

DNA of Doing Biblical Theology—Choice of discovery questions with enough passages over time helps students develop a biblical theology, for example here, of whom God

DNA of Bible Authority—Discipline to Keep the Discussion focused on the Passage. If someone in your group is well-read (you?), it will be hard to avoid introducing outside materials into the study. As the facilitator, you need to work hard to limit the discussion of extra-biblical materials or other passages. These things are not bad, but they don't facilitate interaction with THIS passage. Do your best to keep discussion focused on the current. You can change the discover questions based on the genre or the goal of study (for examples see verse list).

DNA of Obedience Rooted in Love – Knowledge of God's Word must translate into personal obedience or it is wasted/rots. Everyone in the group should answer these questions before they leave. If they already obey this passage, have them share how. Focus on specifics. For example, realizing that there is only one God is good, but that realization needs to translate into action. In this case you might encourage them with a follow up question: "Now that you believe there is one God, what do you need to change in your life?"

DNA of Sharing– develops the DNA of sharing what you learn about God right away with others which makes it natural to share about Jesus all the time later.

DNA of Ministry/Outreach - this develops the DNA of ministry outside of the community and also is the "proto" version of "making noise for Jesus" which is a "probe" to find & cultivate people of peace.

DNA of God as our Authority And Provider

Appendix 7a: Bible Reading Plan

To view the Discipleship Journal's Bible Reading Plan, go to
<http://www.navpress.com/uploadedFiles/15074%20BRP.dj.pdf>.

This convenient plan is downloadable and sized to fit snugly in your bible for daily reference.

Appendix 7b: Deep Study Resources

Here are some useful sites and books to help you understand how to research what the Bible teaches about various subjects and background information. These are just some basic resources that are accessible in most countries and are enough to get started. Remember the resources are not “The Bible” and do not have God’s authority. Nevertheless, these resources do help us to understand the Bible in its cultural context. They also help us to see how passages fit in the entirety of the whole Bible.

Concordance

Concordances list all the words of the Bible and where they are found in alphabetical order. If you wish to find out what the Bible says about a topic, or if you know some words in a passage and want to find that passage, it is good to use a concordance. Many Bibles come with basic concordances in the back. In English you can get a low cost “basic” concordance for as little as \$6. For example, the *Pocket Bible Concordance: Nelson Pocket Reference Series* (Thomas Nelson, 2004) – <http://amazon.com/1418500178>.

If you go online, you can use a free but excellent website like www.biblegateway.com. It has the ability to search for words and helps you find all the locations where a word is found in the Bible. As an added bonus it has Bibles in many different versions and languages. This might be useful for you to study the Bible when you are in your country and with your people. It also has a useful topical index.

Bible Dictionaries

A Bible dictionary defines words used in the Bible. There are many special words in the Bible that are not used in everyday language. There are also names, historical figures and places that are hard to understand. Some Bibles have Bible dictionaries in the back. These can be useful but they are often very simple. A simple, low-cost Bible Dictionary is the *Pocket Bible Dictionary: Nelson Pocket Reference Series* (Thomas Nelson, 2005) – <http://amazon.com/141850016X>. A more complete but expensive and big one is the *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Zondervan, 2011) - <http://amazon.com/0310229839>

There are tremendous online Bible dictionary resources online. For example, there are several very good Bible dictionaries at <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/>. That main site, <http://www.biblestudytools.com>, has other very handy tools to understand the history and context of the Bible. They have concordances, biblical history textbooks, encyclopedias and many other FREE resources related to the Bible. Of the dictionaries found there, Easton’s Bible dictionary (<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/eastons-bible-dictionary>) is easy to read but all are good.

Bible Handbooks

Bible Handbooks are useful tools to help you understand the context of a passage in a whole book of the Bible or even the whole Bible itself. It helps you understand what the focus of each Bible book is, who the author is, when it was written and what was going on in the world at the time of its writing. A good, small, inexpensive Bible handbook is *Pocket Bible Handbook: Nelson’s Pocket Reference Series* (Thomas Nelson, 2005) – <http://amzn.com/1418500186>.

Bible Maps

A Bible Atlas helps you understand the Bible in its geographical context and usually includes maps and other related diagrams. Events happened in many different geographical locations in the Bible. Maps help you to understand the geographical context. Most Bibles have very good maps in the back. You can get a low cost set of compact fold-out maps in *Then and Now Bible Maps - fold out Pamphlet* (Rose Publishing, 2007) - <http://amazon.com/1596361301>. There are some online Bible maps at <http://www.biblemap.org/> at <http://bible.org/maps>.

A Note on the Different Translations of the Bible:

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, and the New Testament was written in Greek. Most of the versions of the Bible that we use today are translations. As people who have crossed cultures, you know there are always slightly different ways to translate an idea, and as language changes so do too the different ways to translate the ideas. Some Bibles translate word-for-word with less regard to cultural differences between the biblical culture and ours. Some Bibles translate *the ideas* in terms today's culture can best understand. Either way, it is said, the average good Bible translation (e.g. the New Living, New International, New King James or New American Standard) is in the 95-99.9% range of being true to what the original text, as we have it², says. Still, it is good to sometimes compare the versions to see how different authors translated the passage to get a sense of the breadth of what the passage is saying.

Bibles in other Languages

The Bible is best learned in your heart language. Here are two links of sites that have Bibles in different languages: www.biblegateway.com and <http://www.askthebible.com/biblang.htm>. You can also buy different Bibles in many languages from <http://www.multilanguage.com/> or you can search on www.amazon.com.

² The oldest copies of the Hebrew text date back to the first century B.C. We have parts of the Greek New Testament as old as the early second century A.D.

Appendix 8a: The ACTS Prayer³

Adoration

“Because Thy loving kindness is better than life, My lips will praise Thee,” Psalms 63:3.

“Adoration” is to adore God, to worship him and to fulfill the commandment to love him with all of our heart, mind and soul. As we spend time in adoration, we praise God for who He is—our Creator, our Sustainer and our Redeemer.

When we focus our attention on the One who can meet our needs, it takes our eyes off circumstances and allows us to experience God’s sufficiency and peace.

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heaven! Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness! Praise him with a blast of the ram’s horn; praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!” Psalm 150.

Confession

“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness,” 1 John 1:8-9.

“Confession” allows you to clear away the things in the relationship between you and God which are displeasing to Him. All of us have sinned, and the Holy Spirit will reveal areas in our lives that are not pleasing to Him. Take some time to confess those sins. If the Spirit reveals sin in your life, name that sin specifically and repent. This involves a change in your attitude and an active move on your part to no longer indulge in that sin.

Then thank God for forgiving your sin on the basis of His promise in 1 John 1:9, “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Finally, and most importantly, ask God to fill (control and empower) you by His Holy Spirit. Sometimes confession involves restitution or making things right with a friend you have wronged. If the Holy Spirit reveals this in your life, do not hesitate to obey.

Thanksgiving

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus,” 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

Just as “adoration” is to praise God for who He is, in His pre-existent and eternal Being, “thanksgiving” allows us to thank God for what He has done for us, and through us right now. Whereas adoration is to praise Him for His character, thanksgiving is thanking Him for His actions toward us.

Each day God is blessing us! Every moment we can recall wonderful things that God has done for us and gifts that we have been given. We need to be thanking God continuously for His blessings.

“But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me. If you keep to my path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God,” Psalm 50:23.

Supplication

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done,” Philippians 4:6.

Finally we come to ask God for the needs of others, the world and ourselves.

Pray for others – In the epistles of Paul, we read of him praying for those he has led to faith, and asking them to pray for him. So, you too can pray for other Christians, and encourage them to pray for you. Pray for your

³ Adapted from <http://xacentral.com/resources/files/ActsPrayer.pdf>

family members, neighbors and friends. It's also good to pray for those who don't know Jesus to come to faith; many Christians have come to believe in Christ through the prayers of others.

Pray for world issues – Pray for peace in difficult situations, for leaders and those in influential positions, for global issues such as care of God's environment, justice for the poor, relief of suffering in less developed countries, and other issues that come to you. Pray that God's kingdom can grow in different countries of the world. Pray for specific places and their people.

Pray for your own needs – It's easy to neglect this, but Jesus encourages us to do so in the Lord's Prayer – the model for prayer that He gave us.

“For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right,” Psalm 84:11.

Practical Helps for Personal Prayer Time

- Set a time. The same time every day is the best way to establish a lasting habit. When will you devote time to your relationship with Jesus every day?
- Set a place. The same place each day is also instrumental in establishing a disciplined time with God. Where will you meet alone with the Lord?
- Avoid distractions. What are the things that could distract you from following through with your desire to focus only on God? TV? Music? Visitors? Phone calls? The refrigerator? Whatever it is, how will you avoid this distraction?
- Set reasonable goals. You may know someone who spends an hour a day with the Lord, or another who reads through the Bible completely in a year. But these goals may not be reasonable for you at first. Perhaps at a later time these would be good goals for you! Be realistic! What can you guarantee you would do each day? The idea is to be successful at reaching your goal with consistency. Maybe 20 minutes of Bible reading and prayer, maybe 30 minutes? What can and will work for you?
- Have someone hold you accountable. It is always helpful to have another Christian know your goal and pray that you will reach it. They could even call you regularly for a while to ask you if you spent time with Christ.

Appendix 9a: One-Verse Bridge

How to Share Christ's Love Conversationally and Visually

Note: Though this uses the same evangelism tool/diagram mentioned in Appendix S1, it is slightly different in the way it is utilized.

Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism they must memorize a complex illustration and a multitude of verses. But the Gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism(r) is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism(r) is also sensitive to peoples' busy schedules because it can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes.

To see the *One-Verse Evangelism* diagram and explanation, go to <http://www.navigators.org/us/resources/illustrations/items/One%20Verse%20Evangelism>.

You may also order the booklet, *One-Verse Evangelism* (© 2000 Randy D. Raysbrook and Steve Walker. Dawson Media, a ministry of The Navigators. All rights reserved) from NavPress, <http://www.navpress.com/>, or by calling (800) 366-7788.

Appendix 10a: Trust Lean Instructions

For Trust Lean instructions, go to <http://wilderdom.com/games/descriptions/TrustLean.html>

You will need a large area, preferably with soft ground (e.g. grass or carpet) to do this activity. Allow 20-30 minutes.

Appendix 13a: Parable of the Elephant and the Rabbit

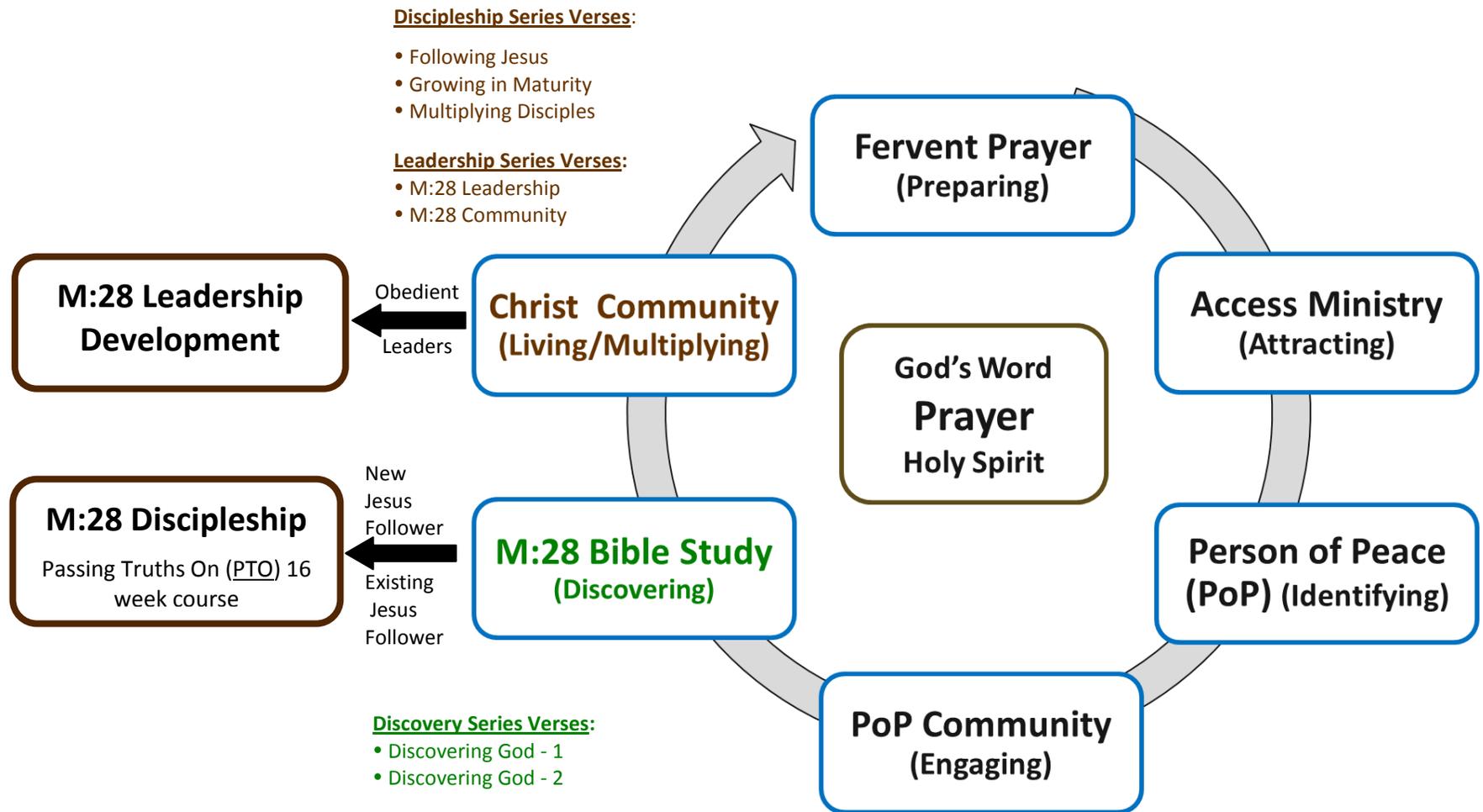
To view the parable of the elephant and the rabbit, go to <http://www.cmaresources.org/files/TheRabbitSample.pdf> .

Also available in book format:

Tony & Felicity Dale and George Barna, The Rabbit and the Elephant: Why Small is the New Big, (Ventura, CA: BarnaBooks:2009), p. xi & xii

Neil Cole, “What about the Lifespan of Organic Churches?”, from <http://www.cmaresources.org/files/OrganicChurchLifespan-NCole.pdf>

M:28 Ministry Cycle

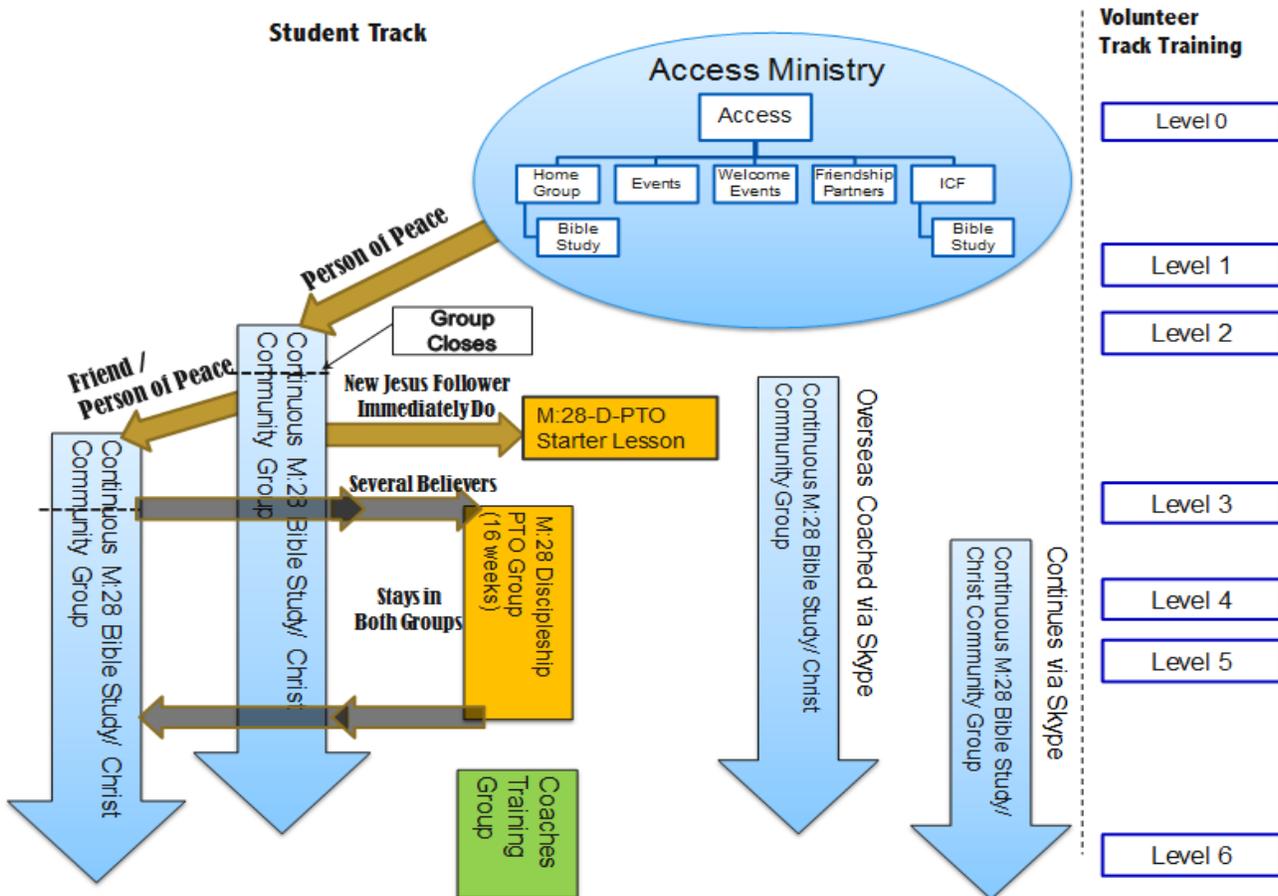


M:28 Ministry Cycle

Step:	Purpose:	Description:	Scripture:	Principle:	Actions:
Pray	Staying dependent on God	Staying dependent on the Holy Spirit's initiative and work – through prevailing prayer, which results in God's provision, protection, power, and purposes being revealed and supplied	Eph 6:18-20 Col 2:2-4 Lk 6:12-16	Prayer is the main work	Pray for: - Open doors/heart - Wisdom - Boldness - Conviction - Repentance
Bless	Expressing the Gospel through words and actions	Providing opportunities for international students to experience the love of Christ in action and hear witness of the life-transforming power of God's Word	Lk 8:1-15 1 Pet 1:22-23	Seed knows what to do	<u>Care:</u> - Listen for needs - Meet needs <u>Share:</u> - God's Word - God's Work - God's Ways
Find	Identifying People of Peace (spiritual seekers)	Following the model of Jesus Christ, identifying and engaging with those who are authentic spiritual seekers ("People of Peace")	Lk 10:1-11,16	Work where God is working	Ask Questions: - Influences? - Perspectives? - Hopes/desires? - Goals/ambitions? - Opportunity?
Engage	Engaging PoP community	Discovering ways to engage with the PoP's community (circle of influence) in authentic relationship	Lk 10:8-11	Reach communities	Engage friends: - Their interests - Their needs - Their hopes - Their opportunity
Explore	Facilitating Truth Discovery	Providing spiritual seekers (PoP's) and their communities the opportunity to engage in truth discovery (God's Truth) and be introduced to	Mt 10:5-8 Heb 4:12 Acts 6:7, 13:16-41	God's truth transforms	Explain: - God's design - Our need - God's provision

		the life-giving message of Jesus Christ			- Our response
Experience	Modeling Christ's redemptive community	Providing an environment and relationships where spiritual seekers can experience authentic redemptive community	Jn 17:18-23 Acts 2:42-47	Authentic community attracts	Exemplify: - Prayer - For them - With them - Care - Hear needs - Meet needs - Share - God's Word - God's Work - God's Ways
Empower	Casting vision and equipping believers to be disciple-makers	Imprinting the DNA of disciple-making throughout the M:28 process	Mt 28:18-20 Mk 4:20 Jn 15:8,16	Obedient disciples bear fruit	Imprinting: - Worship - Prayer - Fellowship - Discovery - Obedience - Witness - Service/Care
Multiply	Sending out disciple-makers	Equipping and sending out ambassadors who will find other seekers (PoP's), engage with their communities, lead them in truth discovery, and equip them to be disciple-makers	Mk 16:15 2 Cor 5:17-20 2 Tim 2:2	Trained disciples multiply disciples	Training: - Calling (identity) - Mission (purpose) - Vision (potential) - Mentoring (follow up)

The Model Implemented In an International Student Campus Ministry



Appendix 14a: Potential Script for Teaching the 5-4-3-2-1's

Five Core Purposes

The five fingers of our hand remind us of the five purposes upon which all healthy churches are built: 1) **Worship**, 2) **Fellowship**, 3) **Ministry/Service**, 4) **Discipleship**, and 5) **Evangelism/Missions**.

The church's five purposes grow out of Christ's core teachings in the "Great Commandment" (Matthew 22:32-40) and the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20).

In the "Great Commandment" Christ teaches us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. The expression of this love is called **worship**. This is often done through prayer, devotion, action and singing. Jesus says the second commandment is "love your neighbor as yourselves." This commandment produces two purposes for the church. If our neighbor is a fellow believer and follower of Christ, then loving that neighbor translates into **fellowship**. This is expressed in spending time together, helping one another, encouraging one another, and in so many other ways. (Study the 40 places where "one another" is used in the New Testament) If, on the other hand, that neighbor is a non-believer, then loving that neighbor as we love ourselves expresses itself as **ministry/service** and as evangelism/missions.

From our Lord's Great Commission we derive the final two core purposes of the church – **discipleship** and **evangelism/missions**. Discipleship is teaching people to obey all that Jesus commanded. It is helping people learn how to follow Jesus. Expressions of it are found in discovering and obeying God's Word together. Evangelism is here defined as the proclamation of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, the essence of God's story. In other words evangelism is helping people discover a relationship with the God who created them and loves them. When this message of salvation and relationship is taken beyond the immediate culture of a church it is called "missions." A missionary is one who is "sent with the message" of the gospel across cultural barriers (cultural, socio-economic, language, etc.).

Four Marks of Maturity

The four fingers of our "handy" guide remind us of the four marks of maturity. A mature local church should be 1) **Self-Governing**, 2) **Self-Supporting**, 3) **Self-Propagating**, and 4) **Self-Correcting/Feeding**. These first three marks of maturity have been prominent in mission circles since the late 19th century.

The fourth mark of maturity is too often missed. A mature and healthy church must be able to correct itself when it goes astray. It also needs to be able to feed itself spiritually so that it can grow in grace and Christlikeness rather than remain dependent on an outside person. This challenge is not new. It was faced for the first time as the apostles began to pass from the scene, and the inexperienced New Testament churches were no longer able to sit at the apostles' feet for feeding and for correction. This is why in M:28 Bible Studies we ask people to share if they "would say something differently" or if they "would add something" in the section where people retell the passage in their own words.

The Apostle Paul presented a resource for self-correction in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be fully equipped for every good work." Paul writes that the people of God should use the Word of God to teach, rebuke, correct, and train one another in righteousness. If used in this manner, they would become mature and "fully equipped for every good work." Churches should teach and model the use of the Word of God regularly to teach us, rebuke us, correct us, and train us in righteousness. The result is that its members find themselves transformed into the fullness of their identity in Christ.

Three biblical offices

Three fingers help us to remember three biblical roles of servant leadership that a church needs to function properly as a body of Christ.

The first finger is the church's **pastor/elder/overseer** (1 Timothy 3:1; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9). In our healthy church model, this church leader or group of church leaders are where final decisions are made in regards to

spiritual oversight of the church. But pastors/elders/overseers are not bosses or CEO's like a corporate executive for the church. (Matthew 20:25-28)

The second finger points to the **church's deacons** (Romans 16:1; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13). As early as Acts 6, the church's leadership recognized the need for deacons to provide additional leadership, guidance and service within the church. The deacon's role is to serve the people in practical areas.

The third finger recalls an office that is too often neglected in the local church. The third office is that of the **treasury**. Every church in the world that functions well has a well-functioning treasury. Conversely, many dysfunctional churches can trace their dysfunction to a poorly administered treasury. Either the members of the church do not trust the management of its finances and so refuse to tithe, or equally bad, the members do tithe only to find that the financial affairs of the church are poorly administered leading to questions of misappropriation of funds. No church can afford to overlook the office of treasury if it is to function as more than a group of individuals each doing their own thing.

Two Sources of Authority

These are the same as in the 1-2-7's. What are the two authorities? 1) God's Holy Word the Bible and 2) God is first and I am second. What is true for individuals also holds true for bodies of followers of Jesus.

One Holy Purpose

Again, this is the same as the 1-2-7's. Often churches forget our one holy purpose. While God's kingdom will not be fully realized until Jesus returns, how we live, how we work together as a church should reflect the kingdom that partially already exists in us and that will fully be realized when Christ returns.

Appendix 14b - Values found in a Rabbit church – POUCH⁴

P-O-U-C-H

Draw a hand on a piece of paper. In the palm of the hand draw the five letters P-O-U-C-H to remind us of the kinds of churches we see in healthy Church Planting Movements.

- The **P** reminds us that healthy CPM churches engage in participative Bible study and worship, rather than **Passive** listening only to a pastor/preacher.
- The **O** recalls the mark of success for the CPM church. It is not size or wealth or style; it is **Obedience** to the Lord Jesus Christ and His word, the Bible.
- The **U** points to the fact that in healthy reproducing CPM churches, there are multiple **Unpaid leaders**. Unpaid leaders are only realistic when the church size remains small and leadership responsibility is shared.
- The **C** points to the importance of keeping the church gatherings small. **Cell** groups should remain small enough to meet in homes.
- The **H** represents **Homes**, where these CPM churches meet. Meeting in homes lowers expenses, increases contextualization, and deepens discipleship.

⁴ Adapted from “A Handy Guide to Healthy Churches, Part 2” by David Garrison, October 6, 2010, *Used with permission.* http://www.churchplantingmovements.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117:a-handy-guide-to-healthy-churches-part-2&catid=36:the-big-picture&Itemid=78

