

Welcome to our “Go & Make Disciples” series.

-Please take notes...we are recording this, but the more you are actively taking notes...the more you will learn and be equipped to help others.

-Tonight will cover the following in our first lesson:

- God’s plan for us to be His ambassadors
- The Goal of studying the Bible
- Important things to keep in mind
- The first Bible Study

-Then we will have a Q&A time.

**\*Let’s get started.**

**[God’s Plan for Us to be His Ambassadors](#)**

It is an incredible honor and privilege to be a disciple of Jesus.

-God worked powerfully through another person or a group of people to help you become a Christian.

-God taught each of you through the Bible Studies and through the relationship you built with him during your personal bible reading and prayer life.

-You were also loved and shown how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

This is God’s plan...Disciples Make Disciples

Mark 3:14 “Jesus appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.”

-Jesus was concerned with his disciples seeing his life and having a relationship with him. It wasn’t all about the knowledge. His plan was always that disciples make disciples.

Matt 28:18-20 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**MELISSA:** As you are going, make disciples. Reach out to the people you are around.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 20 “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again...We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

-We are Christ’s ambassadors! God is making his appeal to others through you and me.

**MELISSA:** This fired me up that I could go and make disciples. We are all ambassadors

### **The Goal of Studying the Bible:**

Q: What is the goal of studying the Bible with someone?

A: To teach them how to have a biblical relationship with God

What it is NOT:

- Simply teaching them biblical knowledge
- Not Going through all the studies
- Not making sure they DO all the right things

The Goal is to find out where they are currently in their relationship with God and then help them align their spiritual journey with the Bible by spending time with them, teaching them the scriptures, and answering any questions they may have.

That is what my friends Ted, Joe, and Jim did for me

We don't have all the answers and we are not perfect...we are just trying to help others to live their lives as disciples of Jesus like someone helped us.

### **MELISSA:**

Every single person has a unique journey

- Culture, Family, Religious Exposure, Age all play a factor and role.
- I have been teaching people about God for 23 years...never met 2 people the same.

\*It is both an Art and Science, no one way to do it. You will need to get advice from others more experienced at it than you.

### **Important Things to Keep in Mind**

These are some general helpful tips

In the Bible Study:

- 1) Where you have the Bible Study
  - In your home: see your life as a disciple meet family or roommates
  - In their home: learn about their family or where they live
  - In a public space: atmosphere where you can really talk
  - On Zoom: make sure you don't have distractions
- 2) Have other disciples join you in the study
  - Helps them to build more relationships
  - Other perspectives and experiences
- 3) Teach them to Pray
  - Open and Close in prayer
  - Set an example of prayer in the beginning
  - Have them pray at the end.

### **The 1st Bible Study: Seeking God**

GOAL: To learn about the person's spiritual journey to this point in their life and to get them interested in seeking an intimate relationship with God.

There are two parts to this study:

- 1) Learning about their spiritual journey
- 2) Sharing a few scriptures about seeking God

\*For this example we will assume there are 3 people in this study. 2 Disciples and a person you want to help on their spiritual journey

Have some small talk as everyone arrives and gets settled. Have fun and laugh...let it be a light and inviting environment...relax.

Start with an opening prayer (one of the disciples should pray)

Next, start off the study by letting them know that you want to help them anyway you can in their spiritual journey, but first you want to share with them about your spiritual journey. Every person is on a unique spiritual journey and before you share yours, we would like to share ours.

\*Share your spiritual journey (testimony) in 2 minutes

- As the one leading the study you should go first
- Be brief...keep it to 2 minutes...this is very important
- Your sharing sets an example for others to share
- Plus the study isn't about you.

\*In your 2 minute testimony share the following:

- Where you grew up
- Your spiritual experience as a kid (type of churches you attended)
- How you met the church and started studying the Bible
- What made you realize you needed to get baptized and become a disciple of Jesus

\*Have the second disciple share their 2 minute testimony

Next, ask the person studying to share about how they grew up spiritually. Don't give them a time frame...just let them talk.

- I usually tell them, as you can see each person has a unique spiritual journey. In order for us to help you on your spiritual journey like someone helped us I would love to hear about how you grew up spiritually. Is that ok?
- I also ask, is it ok if I write this down? It will help me to remember what we talk about and come up with a good plan.

\*It is very important for you to write it down. I will help determine the topics you need to cover.

Let them share and prompt them with a few questions if they need it (some examples):

- What faith or religion, if any, were you raised in?
- Did you go to church growing up? Which one?
- What do you believe about Jesus? The Bible? God?
- Do you see yourself as a Christian?
- Do you believe that your sins are forgiven?
- If so, how did you get them forgiven?
- Have you read the Bible on your own? If so when did you start?
- Were you ever baptized? If so, when? What did it mean to you?

Thank them for sharing and say, “let’s look at some scriptures”

Today we will look at 2 ways to approach it

#### MIKE’s WAY:

##### **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

-I start off with this scripture, because I want them to realize that no matter where they are or how far they think they are from God, he has a plan and a future for them.

-I usually ask the following:

Q: What does God promise us in this passage?

Q: What stipulation does he give to his promise that we will find him?

-Then I focus on seeking God wholeheartedly and what that looks like

Q: What does it mean to seek after something with all your heart?

Q: What would seeking after God with all your heart look like for you?

##### **Matt 7:7-11**

-I share this scripture next (if time allows) to show that Jesus also wants us to ask, seek, and knock.

-I will then ask: Q: What is Jesus’ point about the whole bread/stone and fish/snake part.

-A: We know how to give good gifts to others...so if we listen to other’s requests and we are evil in nature...then God will definitely not ignore us when we seek him and ask him for a relationship with God.

##### **Acts 17:10-12**

-I then close out with this scripture. I first explain the context that Paul was traveling from city to city sharing the gospel and starting churches.

-Here he just left Thessalonica and is in Berea.

-Q: Why did Paul consider the the Bereans to have more NOBLE character?

-A: They eagerly, examined the scriptures, everyday to see if what Paul said was true

-Q: Why does that make someone NOBLE?

-Q: Why do you think Paul wasn’t offended that they checked to make sure his words were true?

-A: Because he wanted their belief to be based on God not man.

-I will then end, by asking them...do you want to be wholehearted seek God like the Bereans?

-If they say yes, then I encourage them to start reading the Bible. I will usually give them a gospel to start reading.

#### MELISSA’s WAY:

I like to whet their appetite with Jesus. I love to paint a picture of how Jesus loved and celebrated and lifted up women, despite their social status. We were basically considered property, being totally dependent on our husbands or fathers. We had no voice, no advocate, no independence, no vision of what life could be like outside of our label. Here comes Jesus and talks to us! (No man would talk to ANY women that wasn’t his wife, mother or sister.) He allowed women to follow him, sit at his feet and learn, which was usually reserved for the men following a rabbi. He was the first women’s libber, and this is MONUMENTAL b/c it’s just so against the society’s norm. He turned the world upside down by his love, devotion, sensitivity to women and their needs, and relatability. No wonder women were the ones to care for his needs, be there when he died, be the first to believe that he rose from the dead.

My goal is for the woman I'm studying with to fall head over heels in love with Jesus. If he was this RADICAL in displaying his love to women in that time, how much more does he want to minister us to us now!

I start with the woman at the well in **John 4:1-30, 39-42**

I break it up in sections (don't read it all at once)

I emphasize how Jews HATED Samaritans and would avoid traveling through Samaria at all cost. What does that say about Jesus that he travels through it? What does it say about Jesus that he reaches out to the woman and TALKS to her, a Samaritan woman? (Double stigma) And then we find out from the story that she has a jaded past, so she has a triple stigma! 3 strikes against her, and yet Jesus compassionately and lovingly reaches out to her and COUNTS on her to go back into her village to tell the whole town. She left the very thing she came for; water. She got living water instead. B/c of ONE ENCOUNTER with Jesus, she was able to influence the whole town. If Jesus used her, how much more will he use you in your circle of influence? But first you need to get to know him, let him into your life like she did.

Then I go to **John 8:1-11**. The woman caught in the act of adultery.

There's not a woman I know, even if they haven't lived a "sinful, promiscuous life" who hasn't felt objectified. There's not a woman I know who hasn't felt singled out and ashamed by something from her past. So this story really resonates with most women.

Once again, I go bit by bit. Take the story apart.

I want the woman who's studying to walk away feeling like "Wow. Jesus has compassion on me and gives me a second (or third, or millionth) chance to walk away from that sin/lifestyle/past that's haunted by shame in order to give me a new life.

That's powerful!

Lastly, if we have time, I'll conclude with **Jeremiah 29:11-13**. Just like Jesus had a plan with these women. So God has a plan for your life. He wants to give you a hope and a future. It's all in here.

#### CLOSING:

-You have just seen 2 different ways to approach the study. The specific scriptures and the questions are not what is most important.

-What is most important is the goal of the study:

GOAL: To learn about the person's spiritual journey to this point in their life and to get them interested in seeking an intimate relationship with God.

#### **Q&A on Zoom**

#### **Homework:**

-Review notes

-Practice your 2 minute testimony

-Read the scriptures for the study

-Pray for God to give you someone to study the Bible with