



TREE OF LIFE

Sierra Leone

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Tree of Life Introduction

The Tree of Life discipleship training is designed to be a reproducible training that teaches all the foundational, biblical doctrines necessary to make disciples and plant multiplying churches. The goal of this training is to produce trainers; individuals who will go and disciple others while continuing to work to build the Kingdom.

One training is held each month. During this training, one level, generally consisting of four individual lessons, is taught. To maintain reproducibility, we strive to teach the lessons as simple as possible. After each lesson, the trainees are split into pairs and asked to re-teach the lesson to each other. Then one trainee is asked to re-teach the lesson to the class. We stress that our trainings are a time of learning and practice, and we want the trainees to help each other by correcting any errors during the re-teaching of the lessons. It is important to re-teach the vision casting at the beginning of each training. This vision casting is found in Level One: Lesson One - “God’s Task for all believers.”

There are three main expectations for Tree of Life trainees. Each month, we review these expectations as part of the accountability portion of the training. The first expectation is to share the gospel with the lost. In the training, the trainees are taught how to share their testimony, God’s story, and a one-verse gospel presentation. Trainees should be encouraged to continue to practice this method of evangelism throughout the eight-month program. At the beginning of each training, the trainees should report on their sharing from the past month.

The second expectation for the Tree of Life trainees is that they are training other believers each month. There are four weeks between each monthly training. We ask each trainee to re-teach one lesson per week to at least two believers outside of their Tree of Life group. This task can be accomplished easily in one hour each week. The trainees should use the T4T three-thirds format to re-teach to their disciples. The three-thirds format is as follows:

First third (20mins)	Second Third (20mins)	Last Third (20mins)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship • Prayer <p><u>Accountability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory Verse • Have you read your Bible this week? • Have you shared your faith this week? • Have you re-taught the lesson from last week to someone? (if no, reteach old lesson again) <p><u>Vision-casting</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Teach the new lesson</u> • Answer any questions about the new lesson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Practice</u>: Have the trainees re-teach the lesson to each other • Correct any mistakes during the re-teaching • Set goals and pray for them

The last expectation for the Tree of Life trainees is that they seek to plant house churches through finding “good soil” people. Trainees are trained to use their evangelism to find those people who God has prepared to hear the gospel message. Once they find a “good soil” person, they should encourage this new believer to share the gospel within their sphere of influence. The hope is to form

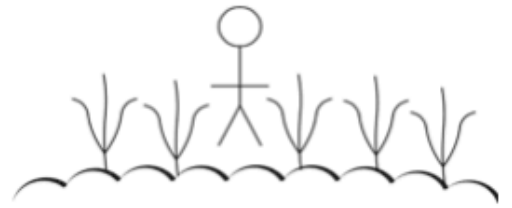
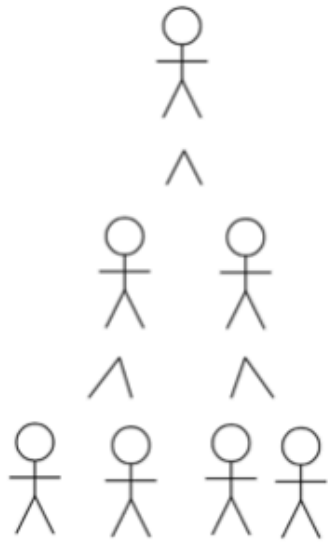
a group of new believers through a “good soil” person. The trainer is responsible to begin teaching the Tree of Life lessons to the new believer. The goal is for these house groups to continue to grow and mature into healthy, reproducing house churches.

We ask that our trainees keep track of what God is doing through recording sheets. These sheets allow us to capture where God is moving and serve as a diagnostic for any deficiencies in the training (i.e. many new believers but no baptisms indicates that we need to revise our teaching on baptism). We also use these recording sheets to teach our trainees to differentiate between house groups and house churches.

At the end of the eight months of teaching, we hold a graduation service for the trainees. A trainee must attend six out of eight meetings to graduate. The graduation service is explained further below.

After Tree of Life graduation

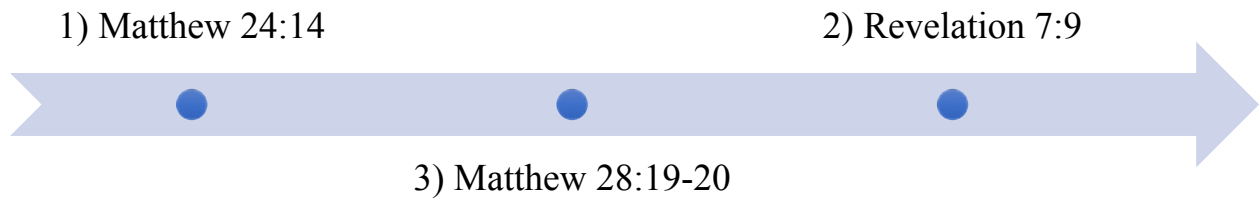
After our trainees have finished teaching the Tree of Life in their house groups, we have given them the sixty topical Bible lessons to continue studying in their groups. These lessons are to be used with a participatory Bible study method, such as the SWORD method. Our hope is that the addition of these lessons will reinforce each house group’s ability to study the Bible on its own and will allow for more time for leaders to be selected as the house groups move towards becoming a house churches.



1	2	3
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Tree of Life Level One: Overview

Lesson 1: God's Task for All Believers



1) In Matthew 24:14, Jesus gave His disciples a job to do. He told them that the gospel must be proclaimed to the whole earth, then the end will come, and He will return.

2) The book of Revelation is the Apostle John's vision of Jesus Christ's future return. These things have not happened yet, but they will come true. In Revelation 7:9, God's gives us a picture of what it will look like when our job is completed. When Christ returns, some people from every nation, tribe, people group, and language will believe in Jesus for their salvation.

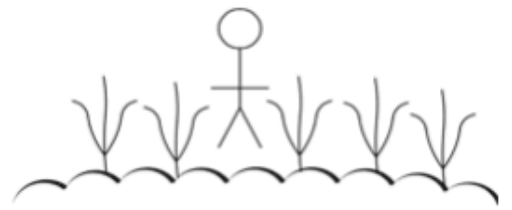
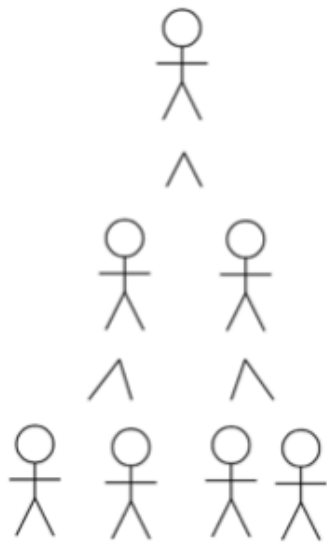
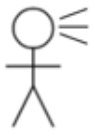
3) Where are we today? Has Christ returned? No! We still have work to do. The command that Jesus has given every believer until He returns is Matthew 28:19-20. We are all responsible for making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all that Christ has commanded. There are only two ways that our job is finished, either Jesus returns or we die.



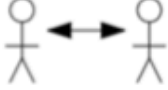
There are about 6 million people who live in Sierra Leone.

About 4% of the people in Sierra Leone are Christians.

Each day, approximately 197 people die in Sierra Leone. 190 are lost and 7 are believers.

When you multiply the percentage of Christians in Sierra Leone by the number of people who die every day, you can see 190 people will die and go to hell every day because they do not believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. Who are these people? They are your friends, your family, your neighbors, and your co-workers. These are your people. Some of these people will have the opportunity to hear the gospel, and they will reject it. But many of these people will never hear the message of the gospel. If we want to reach Sierra Leone with the gospel, then all believers must understand their responsibility to share the gospel with the lost.



1	2	3
		

Tree of Life Level One: Overview

Lesson 2: Three Expectations for all Believers

To complete the job that God has given us, we must change the way that we see the world. Our job requires us to realize that there are two types of people in this world, unbelievers and believers.

- 1) When we meet an unbeliever, we are responsible to share our faith. In this training, we will learn three ways to share: testimony, God's story, and the gospel message using Romans 6:23.
- 2) When we meet a believer, we are responsible to train him to be obedient to the commands of Christ. The goal of this training is to teach you how to train others. You are responsible to re-teach the lessons that I teach you to other believers.
- 3) As we are being obedient to Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20, we are looking for "Good Soil" men and women. These are people who God has prepared to believe the gospel and multiply their faith. The only way to find these people is to share our faith. When we share the gospel with a "Good Soil" person, they believe in Jesus. When they become believers, we are then responsible to train them to be obedient to the commands of Christ. As they multiply their faith, new groups of believers will begin to form and gather together as small churches.

To reach Sierra Leone with the gospel, every believer is responsible to share the gospel, disciple other believers, and find and train "good soil" people to form new groups of believers.

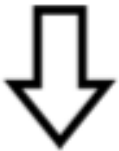


John 8:12
Jesus is the
Light of the World

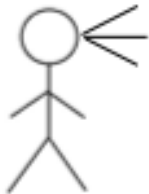
Mankind is
in Darkness
II Corinthians 4:4-6



Matthew 5:14-16
When we Trust in Jesus We
become His Light in the World



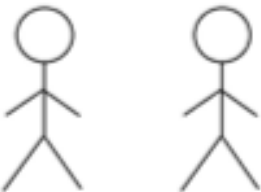
Ambassador



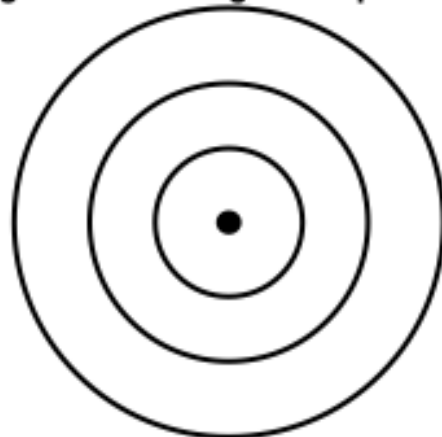
II Corinthians 5:20
Believers are responsible to
proclaim the gospel as God's
ambassadors.



Ambassadors



Acts 1:8
As you make disciples, the
light of Christ begins to spread.



Tree of Life Level One: Overview

Lesson 3: God's Plan Light of the World

This is a big task that God has given us. How do we accomplish it? God has a plan so that we can reach all peoples with the gospel. We must be lights in the darkness. The good news is that we are not alone.

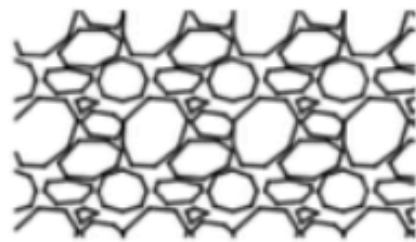
- 1) Jesus is the light of the world. **John 8:12**
 - a) Jesus came to defeat sin and death through his perfect life, death, and resurrection. Believing the gospel, or the message of Christ, is the only way for people to receive forgiveness for their sins. Satan has blinded men to gospel with sin, but God opens some men's heart to receive the light (II Corinthians 4:4-6)
- 2) When we believe in Jesus, we become lights of the world. **Matthew 5:14-16**
 - a) As lights of the world, we share the gospel message with the lost by our words and our actions. We must not hide our light under a basket. The lost must first hear the gospel before they can receive salvation (Romans 10:13-17). Each believer is responsible to be a witness for the gospel of Christ.
- 3) Believers are responsible to proclaim the gospel as God's ambassadors. **II Corinthians 5:20**
 - a) Each of us has different people that we see every day. I do not know your family, your friends, or your coworkers, so I do not have the opportunity to share the gospel with them. But you do. Therefore, every believer must be an ambassador of the gospel to be a light in his community.
- 4) As you make disciples, the light of Christ begins to spread. **Acts 1:8**
 - a) In the book of Acts, we see Christ tell His disciples that they would become witnesses for the gospel where they lived, to their surrounding areas, to places that were close to them but with a different cultural background, and to the ends of the Earth. As you make disciples in these places, you create more lights in the darkness. The Holy Spirit empowers all believers to share the gospel and make new disciples of Christ.

By being lights in the darkness, we can reach the whole world and finish the task, but each of us is responsible for sharing the gospel and teaching others to do the same.

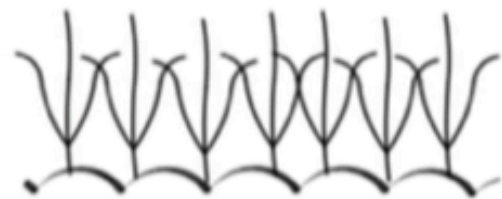
The Path
Matt. 13:4,19



Rocky Soil
Matt. 13:5, 20-21



Thorny Soil
Matt. 13:7, 22



The Good Soil
Matt. 13:8, 23

Tree of Life Level One: Overview

Lesson 4: Finding the Good Soil

The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Four Soils

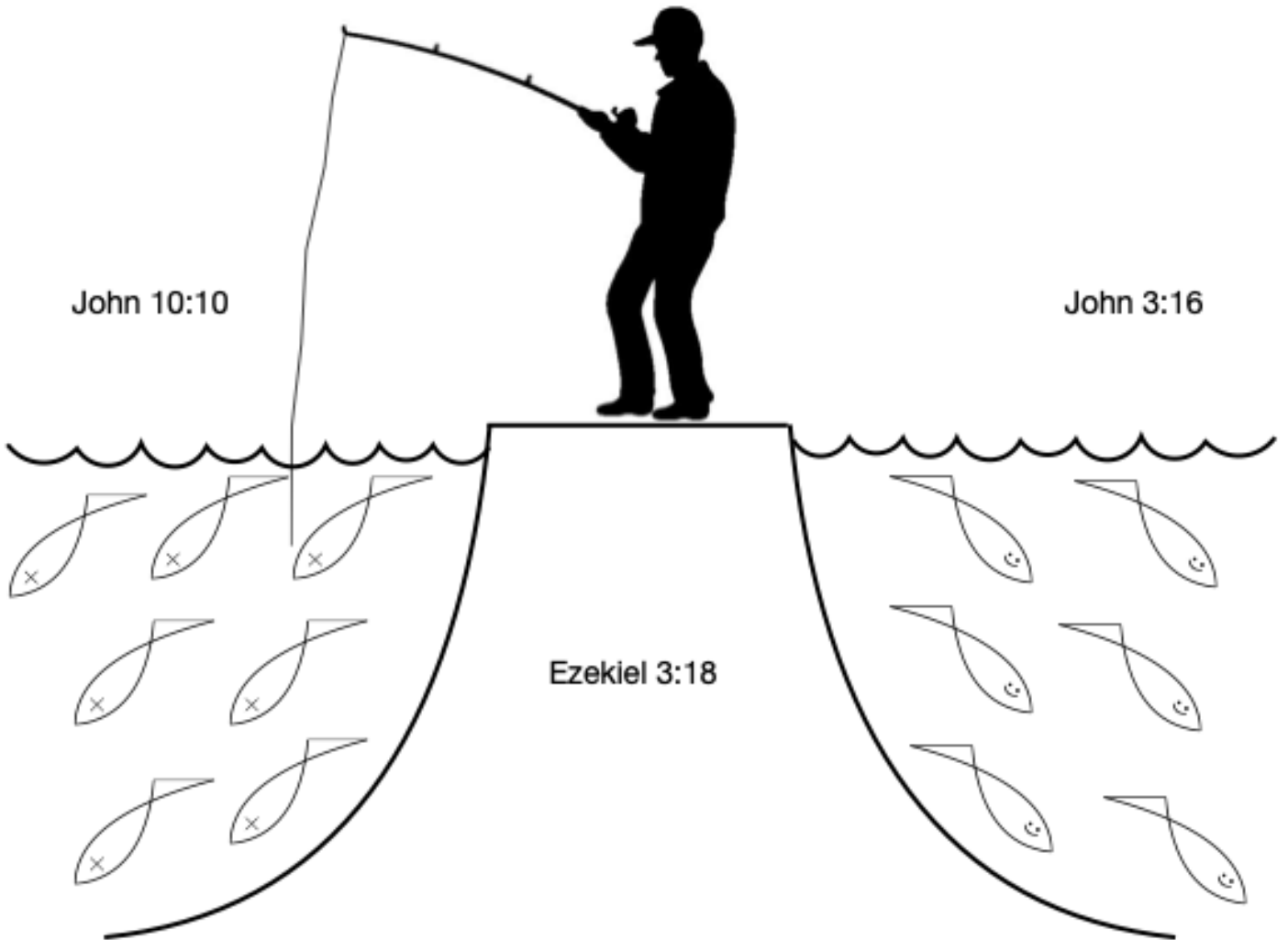
1. The Path (v.4, 19) – People who hear the gospel, but do not understand it. Satan snatches the gospel from their hearts
2. The Rocky Soil (v.5, 20-21) – People who receive the gospel with joy, but turn away from the Word when persecution and problems come.
3. The Thorny Soil (v.7, 22) – People who receive the gospel, but the cares of the world cause them to not be obedient and fruitful.
4. The Good Soil (v.8, 23) – People who receive the Word of God and multiply their faith through obedience.

Through this parable, Jesus teaches his disciples to share the Word of God and to look for “good soil” people. “Good Soil” people understand the Word and are obedient to it. Through their obedience, they multiply their faith by reaching other people for Christ. We must learn to spend our time sharing the gospel broadly and looking for “good soil” people. Jesus modeled this practice in his own ministry. Let’s look at John 6.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand – John 6:1-14

- John 6:10 tells us that there were 5000 men. Many Bible teachers believe there could have been 20,000 people total, including women and children.
- John 6:26 – Jesus tells the crowd that they are only following him because they want food
- John 6:64 – Jesus know our motives and filters for those who will follow Him in obedience
- John 6:66-71 – Jesus filters down to only 11 “good soil” men, but these men changed the world through their faithfulness and obedience to Jesus. We must continue to look for more “good soil” men and women to help us reach the lost.

Matthew 4:19



John 10:10

John 3:16

Ezekiel 3:18

Tree of Life Level Two: Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 1: River of Death and River of Life

Let's begin by reading **Matthew 4:19**. The Bible makes it clear that there are two types of people in the world, those who are dead in their sins and those who are alive in Jesus Christ. Today we are going to talk about two different rivers, the river of death and the river of life. Jesus has called all His disciples to be "fishers of men", but, for us to do this, we must learn to bring people from the river of death to the river of life by sharing the gospel.

1) River of Death – **John 10:10**

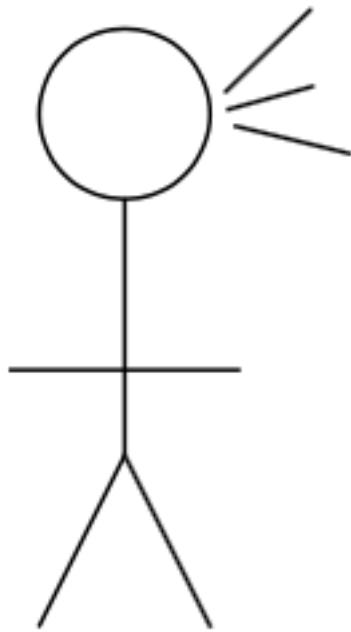
- a) The owner of the river of death is Satan. Satan has come to steal, kill, and destroy by deceiving people to worship him instead of worshiping God. Satan has deceived different people in different ways. Some people worship created things above the Creator, some people worship false prophets, and some people worship themselves above God. Satan uses these ways to blind people to the truth that their sin will lead to death and punishment. Apart from hearing the gospel no one can be saved.

2) River of Life – **John 3:16**

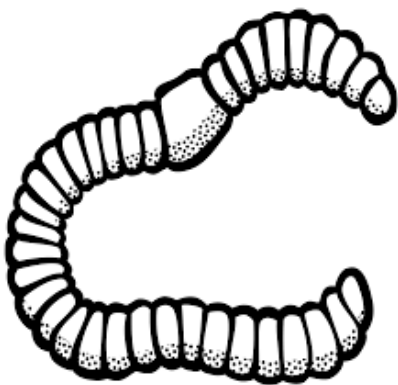
- a) Jesus offers forgiveness for our sins and the free gift of eternal life for anyone who believes in Him as Lord. Jesus' perfect, sinless life and his sacrificial death on the cross have paid for our sins. This is the good news of the gospel; if we believe in Him, we are no longer dead in our sins.

3) Every believer is responsible to be faithful to reach the lost in the river of death.

- a) There are 6 million people in the river of death in Sierra Leone. As believers, you must become fishers of men to reach the lost in your country. Right now, there are many lost in the river of death, but there are few fishers of men. This is why you must disciple all new believers to do all that Jesus has commanded.
- b) Each of us has our own river of death to fish from. No one can fish your river but you. Do I know your family, your friends, your neighbors, or your coworkers? No, it is your responsibility to reach those people with the gospel.



Worm = Testimony



Hook = Gospel



Tree of Life Level Two: Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 2: Sharing Your Testimony

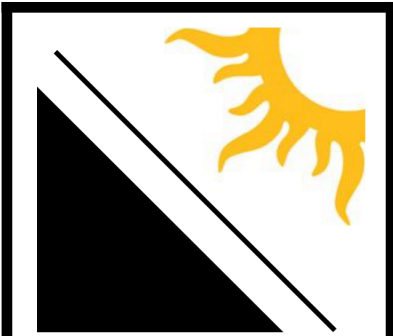
To become fishers of men, we must learn to share our faith with others who have not heard the message of the gospel.

- 1) What is a testimony?
 - a) A testimony can have many different meanings. Sometimes, people will give a testimony of something great that God has done for them, such as a physical healing or an answered prayer. Today, we are talking about the testimony of how God gave you the gift of salvation through the death of Jesus Christ. **Your testimony is your story of salvation.** It is powerful because it happened to you, nobody can argue with it or deny it. We want to learn keep our testimonies short, three to four minutes. This allows us to share our story and the gospel when we only have a short amount of time to talk with someone.

- 2) Why do we need to know how to use a testimony?
 - a) To catch a fish, you need bait and a hook.
 - i) The bait is your testimony. It is what attracts the fish. Why do our testimonies attract people to the gospel? Everybody likes to hear a story. When you tell your testimony, people connect to parts of your story that are similar to their lives. Your testimony shows them how the gospel has changed your life, and they realize that the gospel can change their lives too.
 - ii) The hook is the gospel. It is what catches the fishes. Your testimony cannot save someone. It is only through hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ that someone can be saved. The reason we share our testimony is to give us an opportunity to also be able to share the gospel.
 - iii) Good Testimony + Good News = Good Witness. People will know us by our actions. If you are telling people how the gospel has changed your life, but they see that you are living the same way that you did before, they will not want to listen to you about the gospel. In same way, it is not enough to have a good actions without ever sharing the gospel with those you meet. Both parts are necessary to be effective as a witness.

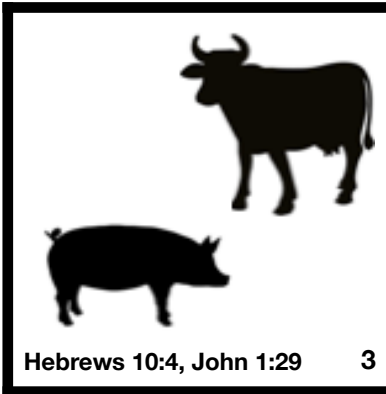
- 3) All testimonies have three main parts. Let's read Paul's testimony in Acts 26:4-23.
 - a) Our life before Christ - Who we were, what we believed, and how we lived before we believed in Jesus. (v.9)
 - b) How we came to believe in Jesus – how you heard the gospel, how you realized that you needed a savior, and how you believed in Jesus. (v.12-16)
 - c) How Jesus has changed our life – what is different about how you live and act. (v. 19)

Now I want everybody to pair up and practice sharing your testimony in under three minutes.



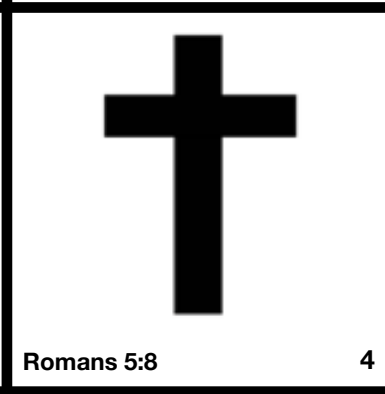
John 3:16, 10:10, 14:6

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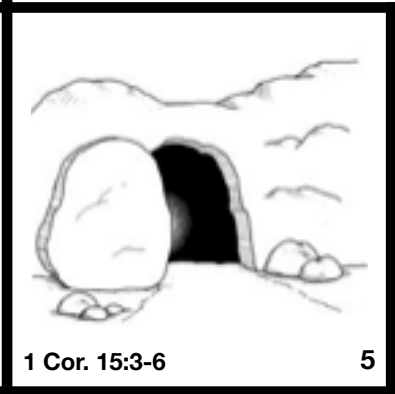
Hebrews 10:4, John 1:29

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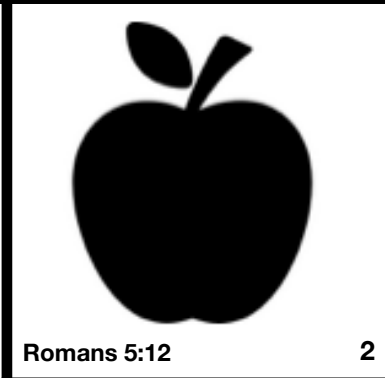
Romans 5:8

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1 Cor. 15:3-6

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Romans 5:12

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Genesis 1:1, 27

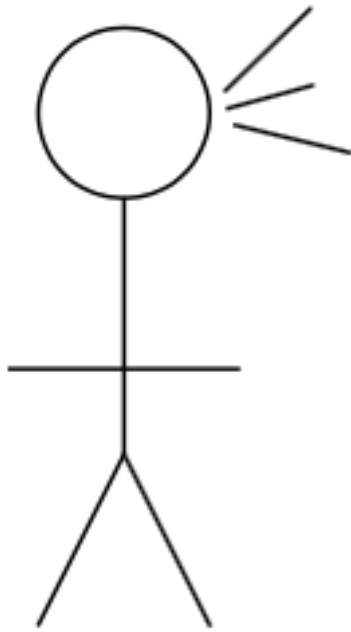
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Tree of Life Level Two: Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 3: Sharing God's Story

In the last lesson, we learned how to share our testimony. Now, I am going to teach you how to share God's story. It is important to be able to share an overview of Scripture to give context to the gospel message. Paul understood that God's plan to come as the Savior was revealed throughout the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3-4), and he shared the story of the Bible before presenting the gospel to both the Jews (Acts 13:16-42) and the Gentiles (Acts 17:22-31).

- 1) Creation – in the beginning, God created everything to be perfect.
 - i) In the beginning, the one true God created the whole universe. When He was finished, He created man and woman in His own image.
 - ii) Everything that He created was perfect. There was no sickness, sadness, pain or death.
 - iii) God placed the first man and woman, named Adam and Eve, in a beautiful garden to live. God told them that they could eat the fruit of any tree except one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told them if they ate from this tree, they would die.
- 2) The Fall – Man disobeyed God and believed Satan's lie. Sin entered the world and into every human heart. All of creation was broken by sin.
 - i) One day a snake came into the garden and questioned Eve about God's command. Eve did not know it, but this snake was an angel who had disobeyed God. His name was Satan. Satan told Eve that they would not die if they ate from the tree, but they would become like God.
 - ii) Adam and Eve saw that the fruit of the tree was good, so they ate it and disobeyed God's command. As soon as they ate the fruit, they realized that they were naked and they were ashamed.
 - iii) When they disobeyed, all of creation was separated from God and it was no longer perfect. With their sin came sickness, sadness, pain, and death. Man's relationship with God was broken. From this point forward, every man and woman would be born with the desire to disobey God by sinning against Him.
- 3) Man Working His Way to God – Man's sacrificial system (animals, etc.) is never enough to appease God and restore the relationship broken by sin.
- 4) The Savior – Jesus, who is God, came to rescue people by His death and resurrection. By faith alone in Him, all those who are separated from God can have their sins forgiven and eternal life in Him.
 - i) God made Adam and Eve leave the garden, but He left them with a promise of hope. He told them that one of their descendants would someday come and save mankind from their sins.
 - ii) After many years, the promised Savior was born. God himself had become human and came as the person Jesus Christ. Jesus' life was full of miracles that proved he was God. His mother was a virgin when He was born, he healed all kinds of sickness, and he even raised people from the dead. He also lived the only perfect life, free of all sin.
 - iii) The religious teachers in that time hated Jesus because he claimed to be God. So they plotted to kill him. Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins by being hung on a cross. After His death, He was buried, but three days later He rose from the grave. His death and resurrection paid for sins of all who believe in Him.
- 5) Made new – God will restore everything to the way it was supposed to be and those who believe in Jesus will enjoy eternal life with Him in the new heaven and earth.
 - i) After forty days, Jesus returned to heaven, but He promised his disciples that He would someday come again. He told His disciples that when he returns He will separate people who believe in Him from those who do not believe in Him. For those that believe in Jesus, God will make creation perfect again, and they will be with him for eternity. There will be no more sickness, sadness, pain, or death. But those who do not believe in Him will forever be separated from Him in a place called Hell, where they will be punished for their sins.



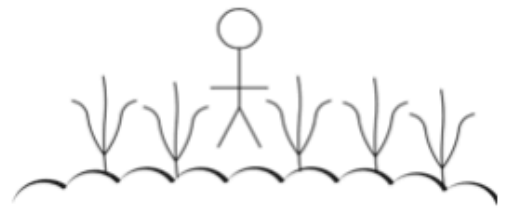
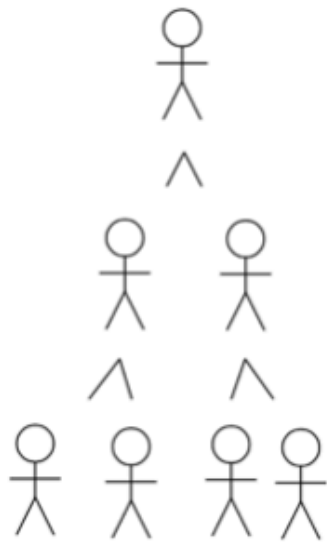
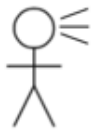
Tree of Life Level Two: Sharing Your Faith



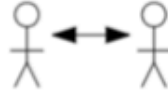
Lesson 4: Sharing the Gospel

We are going to learn to share the gospel by breaking Romans 6:23 into three parts.

- 1) For the wages of sin is death – With any job that we do, when we do work, we expect a payment. If you do one day's work, you expect to be paid one day's pay. In the same way, when we do the work of sin the payment is death. But, this isn't just a physical death; it is a spiritual death. Because of our sin, we will be separated from God and punished. But there is good news!
- 2) The free gift of God is eternal life – This is a free gift from God. We do not have to work for this gift; God gives it to us because he loves us.
- 3) In Christ Jesus our Lord – To accept this gift of eternal life, the Bible tells us that we must confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead.
 - i) By confessing Jesus is Lord, we acknowledge that we are His servants. A servant obeys the commands of his Lord. We must learn to obey Jesus' commands.
 - ii) Jesus lived a perfect sinless life and died to pay for our sins. God raised Him from the dead to show that He accepted Jesus' sacrifice. By believing that God raised Jesus from the dead, we understand that Jesus' sacrifice has paid for all our sin and allows us to have a relationship with God.

After you share the gospel, it is important to always give an invitation for the person to accept Jesus as his savior. Testimony + God's Story + Gospel Message = Full Gospel Presentation



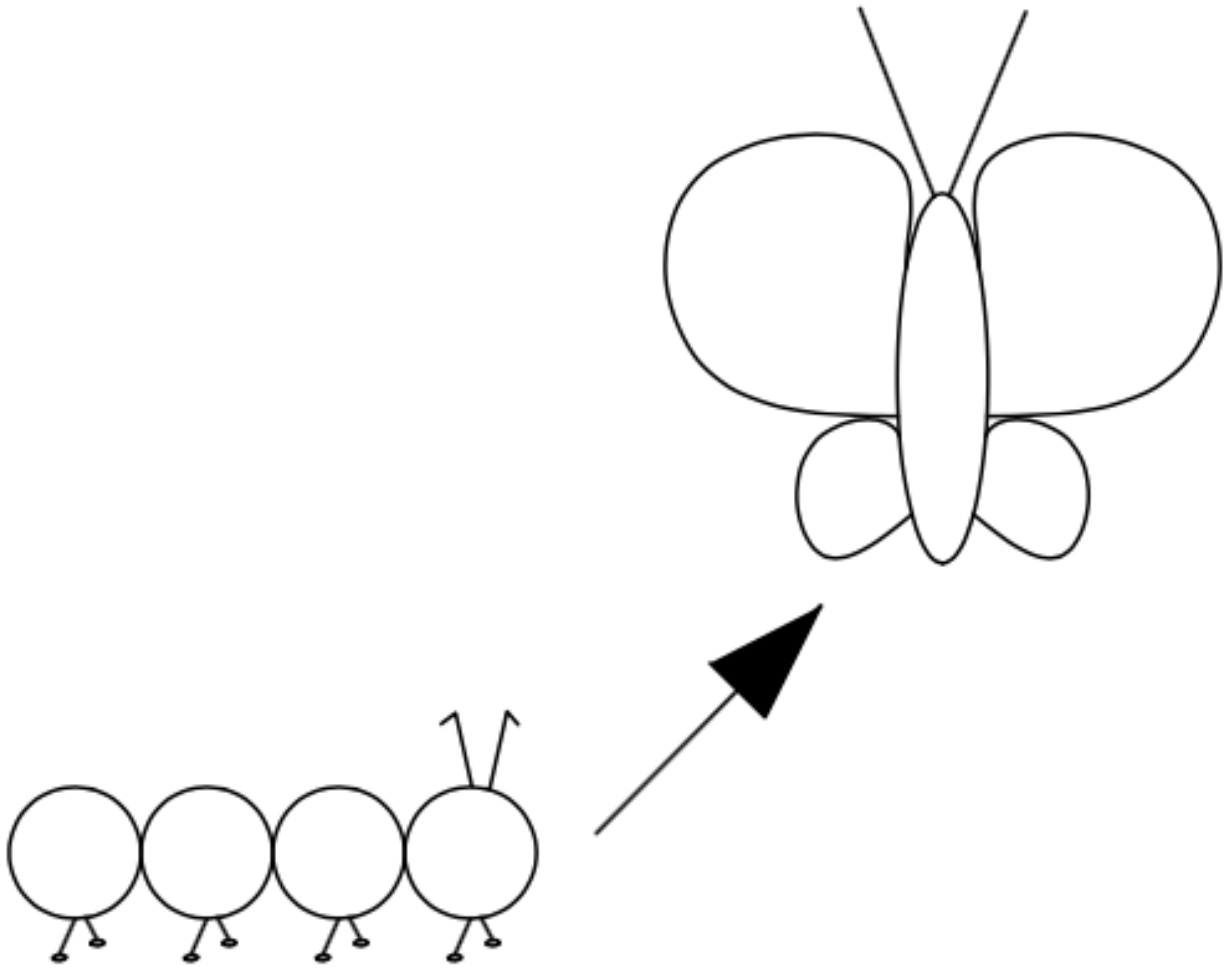
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Tree of Life Level Three: Practical Application

This will take a full training day. Here are two ways that you can have them practically apply what they have learned:

- a) Review and Send
 - a. Review their testimony, God's Story, and one verse Gospel
 - b. Send them out for an hour and a half to share: their testimony, God's Story, and one verse Gospel presentation.
- b) Review and Adopt an area
 - a. Review their testimony, God's Story, and one verse Gospel
 - b. Have each trainee adopt a specific village or area over the next month. Have them prepare to report back next time on the following goals: 1) find a good soil person, 2) form a group of believers, 3) begin training Tree of Life discipleship lessons

The best practice is to use both practicums together, but often it is not possible to send the trainees out on the day of the training because of location or level of persecution in the surrounding area.



Tree of Life Level Three: New Creation in Christ

Lesson 1: Caterpillar to Butterfly

Last time we met, we learned about worshiping God in spirit and in truth. Our worship transforms us into new creations in Christ. Let's begin by reading **II Corinthians 5:17-20**.

1. What does it mean to be a new creation?
 - A. The example we use for a new creation is a life of a caterpillar. A caterpillar spends its life crawling on the ground, eating whatever plants it finds. It is an unattractive insect that is only concerned only about itself. But one day, the caterpillar builds a cocoon around itself. After some time, the caterpillar pushes itself out of the cocoon, but it is no longer the same as before. The caterpillar is now a butterfly. Butterflies are beautiful creatures. They serve a purpose by pollinating flowers so they can produce fruit. It is a completely new creation. Can a butterfly return to being a caterpillar? No! In the same way, as believers we are new creations in Christ (v.17). At our salvation, we repent and are forgiven of our sins, but our sin nature remains. We must work, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be killing our sins every day. We are not alone; God has given us the Holy Spirit as a Helper.
2. How are our lives changed as new creations?
 - A. God has given us a ministry. (v. 18-19)
 - I. Each of us have family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who are lost and are living in a broken relationship with God. Our ministry is to bring these people back into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
 - B. God has given us a message. (v. 20)
 - I. The gospel message has the power to restore broken relationships with God. We have been called to be ambassadors (messengers) of the gospel. It is our job to share the gospel with everyone around us.
3. Relational Mapping
 - A. Have each trainee create a map of lost people in their life who need to hear the gospel. Also, help them to think how the gospel could spread from the people they plan to share with.

Acts 19:8-10 How did Paul reach "all of Asia" during his two-year stay in Ephesus? By training disciples who make more disciples, Paul was able to reach a larger area than he could by himself and the gospel spread all over Asia minor (Turkey). Bible teachers believe there were 8 million people who lived in Asia Minor during the time Paul was in Ephesus. By training others using the Tree of Life discipleship lessons to become trainers, you can help bring the gospel to all of Sierra Leone so that every people group has the opportunity to call on the name of Jesus to be saved.

God's Eternal Security



Man's Assurance
of Salvation

Tree of Life Level Four: Discipleship

Lesson 1: Assurance of Salvation

As we continue to share the gospel, we expect that there will be people who accept salvation through Jesus Christ. We must be able to disciple new believers for them to become mature Christians who become spiritual fruit. The first step in the discipleship process is to teach Assurance of Salvation.

Two believers are at a bus stand talking. One man tells the other a lie. A bus driver is driving very fast, and he does not see the two men at the bus stand. There is an accident and the man who told the lie dies. Will he go to heaven or hell?

1) What is Assurance of Salvation?

a) It is the teaching of Jesus that shows once a person truly accepts Christ and repents of his sin, he cannot lose his salvation.

2) To teach Assurance of Salvation, we must first understand what the Bible says is necessary for true salvation.

a) All men have sinned and are separated from God.

Romans 3:23

b) The payment for our sin is death.

Romans 6:23

c) God loves man and He sent Jesus to die for our sins.

Romans 5:8

d) Salvation comes when we confess Jesus is Lord and believe that He rose from the dead. By confessing Jesus is Lord, we must repent of our sins and follow His teachings. By believing that He was raised from the dead, we understand that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Romans 10:9

Believing that Jesus' sacrifice is the only way to pay for our sins, faithfully trusting him as Lord, and repentance are all necessary for true salvation.

3) Characteristics of a true believer (how to test our lives against what the Bible says)

a) A changed life

II Corinthians 5:17

b) Holy Spirit is a witness of our salvation

Romans 8:14-17

c) Lifestyle of repentance

I John 1:8-10

4) What does Jesus say about people who are truly saved?

a) No one can take a true believe from the hand of God. John 10:27-30

b) True believers are sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14

c) Some people will fall away from the faith, but these people were never truly saved. I John 2:19

We must teach new believers that they cannot lose their salvation if they truly believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This is important because there will be sin and times of difficulty in the life of all believers. They need to be able to look back to their salvation to draw them to repentance.

There is a lot of confusion and bad teaching within the church in Sierra Leone on Assurance of Salvation. You may receive questions, so here are some additional verses that may be helpful.

John 5:24

Romans 8:31-39

Hebrews 7:25

John 6:37-40

I Corinthians 1:4-9

Hebrew 13:5

John 10:27-30

Ephesians 4:30

I Peter 1:4-5

Romans 5:9-10

Philippians 1:6

Jude 24

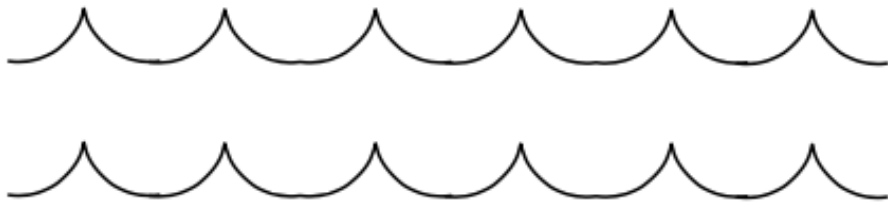
As you teach this biblical truth there is a good chance that you will be told "You are telling people they can sin", but the Scripture clearly teaches us that as born again believers we will not use our liberty in Christ to sin. Here are some verses to help you as you teach.

Romans 6:1-2

Galatians 5:13

Romans 6:15-22

Titus 2:11-14



Tree of Life Level Four: Discipleship

Lesson 2: Baptism

After we teach a new believer about assurance of salvation, we must teach the importance of baptism.

- 1) What is baptism?
 - a) Baptism is publicly identifying with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. Believers are submerged under water as a symbolic way to show that they have died to their old, sinful life and come up out of the water to show their new life in Jesus Christ. Romans 6:1-12

- 2) What baptism cannot do
 - a) Baptism cannot save us from our sins. Example: The thief on the cross. Luke 23:39-43
 - b) Baptism cannot give believers the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is received at salvation through faith and repentance. Acts 10:44-48

- 3) Why do we baptize?
 - a) Jesus commanded us to baptize. Matthew 28:19-20
 - b) Jesus began His own ministry by being baptized. Matthew 3:16
 - c) Baptism unites us as believers. Ephesians 4:4-7

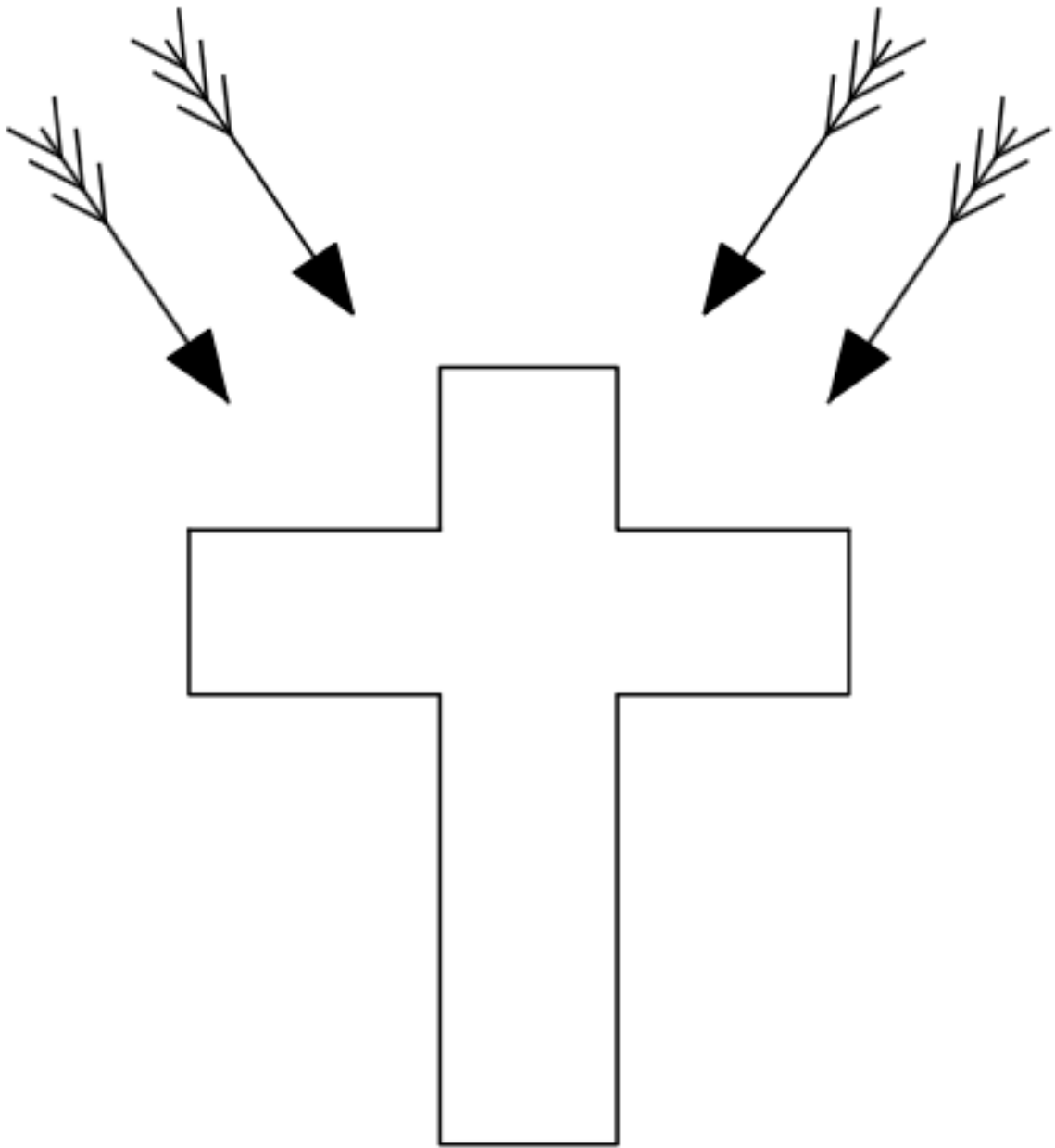
- 4) Who can baptize?
 - a) Any disciple of Jesus can baptize a new believer. It is a good practice to allow the person who brought the new believer to Christ to also baptize them. Matthew 28:19-20

- 5) How do we baptize?
 - a) We baptize believers by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:9-11, Matthew 28:19-20

- 6) When do we baptize?
 - a) Baptism is the next step in obedience after faith and repentance. It is an outward expression of an inward change in a believer's life. Throughout the book of Acts, baptism immediately follows receiving Jesus Christ as Lord through faith and repentance. We must teach new believers to take baptism as soon as possible after they believe in Jesus to be obedient to the Scriptures. Acts 2:41, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16:33

Throughout West Africa, there is a great amount idolatry. Before baptism we should insure that all idols have been thrown out if it is within their control. Some Scriptures dealing with idols that may be helpful to the trainer.

I Corinthians 10:14, 19-20, II Corinthians 6:15-16, I Thessalonians 1:9-10, and I John 5:21



Tree of Life Level Four: Discipleship

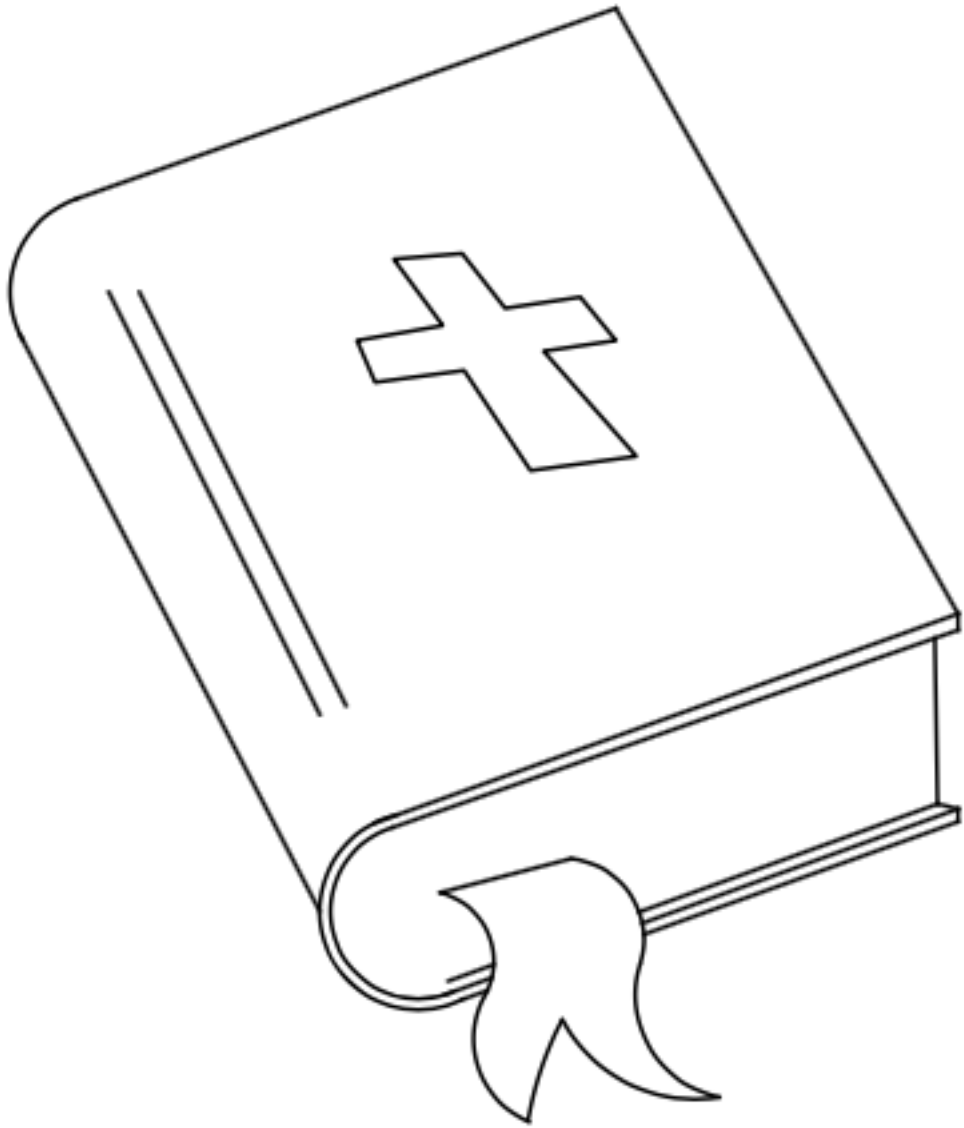
Lesson 3: Persecution

As we continue to boldly share the gospel and to seek out “good soil” people, we will face persecution for our beliefs. One of the main reasons believers do not share their faith is fear of persecution. In this lesson, we will learn what God’s Word teaches about persecution and how we should react to it.

- 1) What God’s Word teaches about persecution:
 - a) All believers who follow Christ will be persecuted. II Timothy 3:12
 - b) Believers are persecuted because they are different from the world. John 15:18-21
 - c) Following Christ can cause persecution from our own families. Matt 10:34-39
 - d) Believers are blessed when they are persecuted because their reward is in heaven. Matt 5:11-12

- 2) Four attitudes to be victorious in persecution: I Peter 4:12-19
 - a) Expect persecution (v.12)
 - b) Rejoice in persecution (v.13-14)
 - c) Evaluate its cause (v.15-18)
 - d) Entrust it to God (v.19)

God is sovereign over all things, including persecution. If God allows persecution in our lives, then it will be for His glory and our good. We must trust that God loves us even in difficult times. In Acts 7, we read that Stephen was murdered because of persecution towards Christians at that time. However, this persecution led to believers being scattered away from Jerusalem to share the gospel in new places. From these believers, the church of Antioch was planted. Years later, the church of Antioch would send Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary trip, and they would take the gospel to all the Gentiles in the surrounding areas. From the book of Acts, we can see how, in God’s sovereignty, persecution led to the spread of the gospel and the building of God’s kingdom.



Tree of Life Level Five: Worship in Spirit and Truth

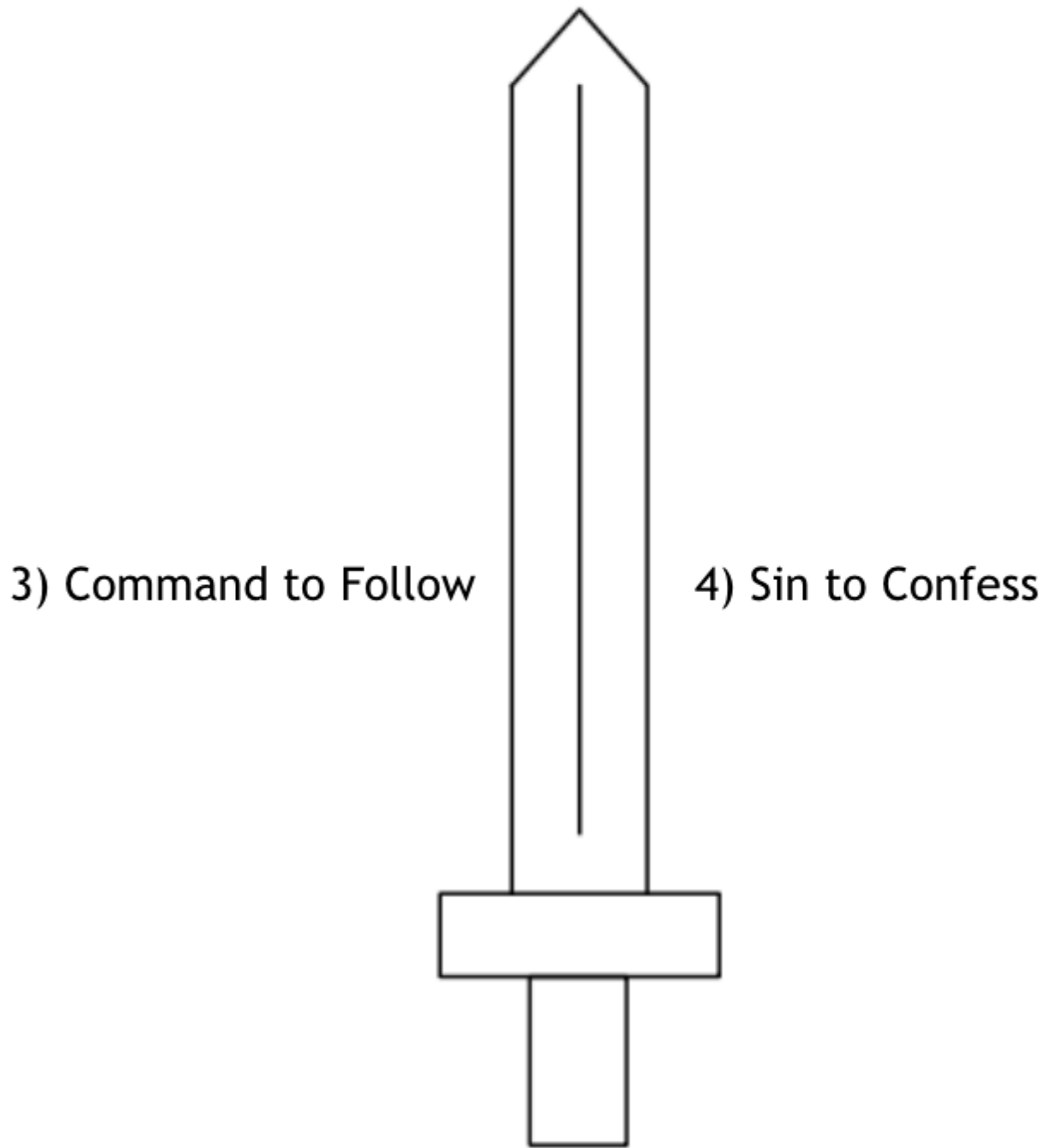
Lesson 1: Changed by the Word

To worship God in truth we must have a lifestyle of building knowledge through the Word of God and living in obedience to those commands. The truth of the Word of God changes our hearts and minds to be like that of Christ Jesus, but this is the internal evidence of our faith. How our actions are changed is the external evidence of our faith. For our actions to be changed, we must first be internally changed by the Word of God.

- 1) Five ways the Word of God produces an internal change (with hand motions)
 - a) Hearing (hand to ear) – we must hear the gospel before we can believe. Romans 10:17
 - b) Reading (hands like Bible) – God has revealed Himself through the Bible. To know Him, we must know His Word. II Timothy 3:14-17
 - c) Studying (pointing to hand) – we must learn to study God’s Word to understand it’s truths. Acts 17:11
 - d) Memorizing (hands like Bible then point to head) – memorizing the Word allows us to remember it in times of need. Psalm 119:11
 - e) Meditating (hands over heart) – we must learn to think about the Word of God throughout our day to draw us close to God. Psalm 1:2-3

- 2) Five ways the Word of God produces an external change
 - a) Worshipping (hands in air) – the truth of the Word causes us to worship Him with singing and praises. Colossians 3:16
 - b) Doers of the Word (fingers walking on hand) – hearing the Word causes us to desire to be obedient with our actions. James 2:26
 - c) Preaching (hand from mouth) – knowing the Word of God allows us to explain it to others. II Timothy 4:2
 - d) Teaching (pointing from mouth) – understanding the Word allows us to train others to be obedient to God’s commands. II Timothy 2:2
 - e) Disciple Making (hand sowing seed) – believing the Word of God causes us to share with others. Matthew 28:19

1) About God



2) About Man

Tree of Life Level Five: Worship in Spirit and Truth

Lesson 2: How to Study the Word of God

Now that we have learned how the Word of God changes us both internally and externally, we must begin to understand how to study the Bible in a way that helps us to understand and apply its truths. Today, I am going to teach you a simple way to study God's Word. Let's read Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God is like a two-edged sword. It is used to correct the believer's life. When we learn God's Word, we must apply what God revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Every time we study a passage from the Word of God, there are four main questions that we should ask ourselves.

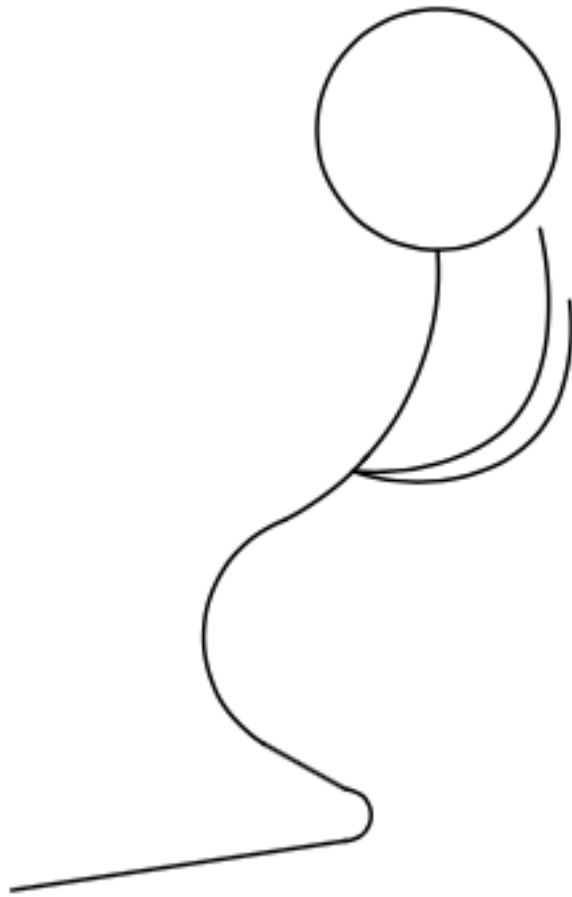
- 1) What does this passage say about God?
 - a) The Bible is one way that God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind. To know about God, we must know the Scriptures. When studying a passage, we should be looking for God's characteristics, His actions, and His promises.

- 2) What does this passage say about man?
 - a) Truths about mankind are revealed throughout the Scriptures. To understand who we are, we must search the Bible for the answers to our questions.

- 3) Is there a command or example to follow?
 - a) In John 14:15, Jesus told His disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." For us to be obedient to God, we must look for the commands that He has given to us through the Word. It is not enough just to know God's commands, but our study of the Scriptures should lead us to obedience by being "doers of the Word." God has also given us examples to follow throughout Scripture. We should be searching for these examples in our studies.

- 4) Is there a sin to confess?
 - a) All men and women have been born with a sin nature, a desire to disobey God. Through reading the Word of God, the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. We must be obedient to confess our sin and repent to maintain our right relationship with God. This question is tied to question 3. As you find commands and examples, you should think, "Am I obeying the commands and examples that God has given in the Scriptures?" If the answer is no, you need to confess that sin and change your actions.

Today, we are going to practice studying God's Word by using these four questions. I want you to break up into groups and each group will practice by studying II Timothy 3:10-17.



Tree of Life Level Five: Worship in Spirit and Truth

Lesson 3: Worship in Spirit through Prayer

To worship God in spirit we must have a lifestyle of prayer and praise. Through prayer, we acknowledge our need for God. Today we are going to learn a simple model for prayer that Jesus taught in Matthew 6:9-13.

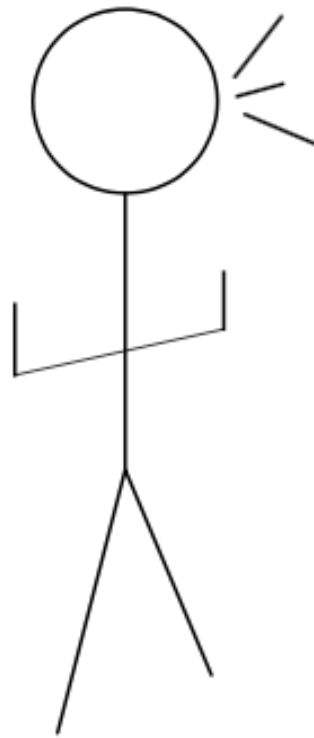
1) The Lord's Prayer Model

- a) Worship – We should begin by worshipping God for who He is. Matthew 6:9-10
- b) Provision – We must ask God to meet our needs. Matthew 6:11
- c) Confession – We must confess our sins daily. Matthew 6:12
- d) Intercession – We should remember to pray for others. Matthew 6:12
- e) Protection – We need the Holy Spirit's help to fight temptation and protect us from evil. Matthew 6:13

2) Barriers to Prayer

- a) Unconfessed sin toward God Isaiah 59:1-2
- b) Lack of forgiveness Matthew 6:14-15
- c) Selfish requests James 4:3-4
- d) Pride Luke 18:9-14
- e) Lack of faith James 1:5-8

3) Practical Exercise: Have the group find quiet place to examine themselves for barriers to their prayer life and to practice the Lord's Prayer Model.



Tree of Life Level Five: Worship in Spirit and Truth

Lesson 4: Worship in Spirit through Praise

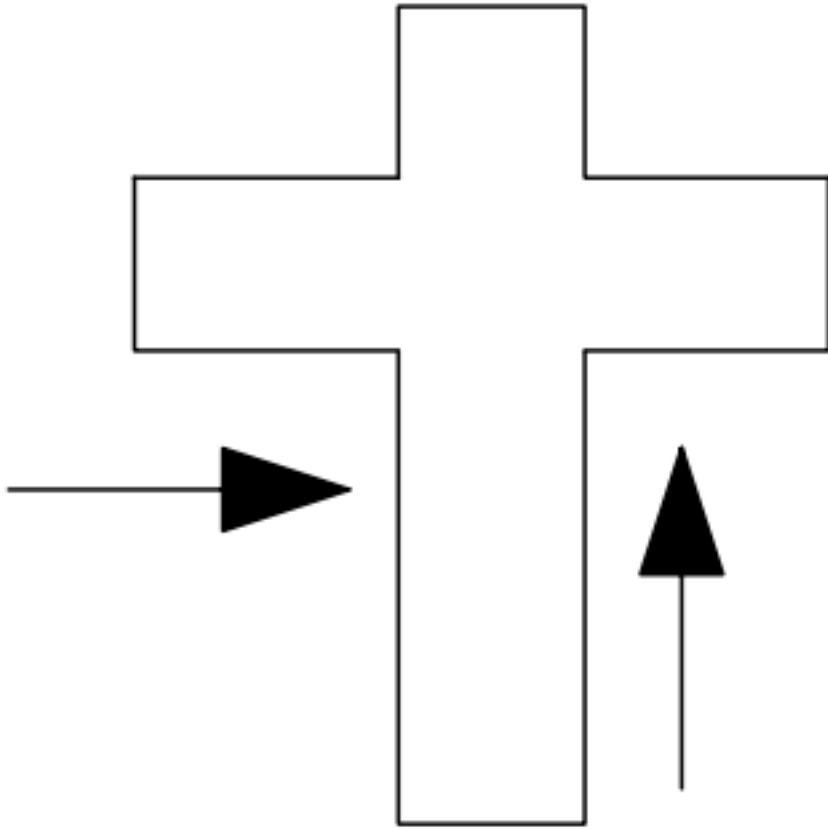
The second way that we worship God in spirit is through a lifestyle of praise. We need to praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He has done. We praise God with our lives by submitting to Him in obedience and by having faith that with God all things are possible.

1) Praise God for who He is

- a) Eternal Psalm 90:1-2
- b) Creator Colossians 1:16
- c) All powerful Psalm 135:6
- d) All knowing Psalm 147:5
- e) All present Psalm 139:7-12
- f) Holy Hebrews 7:26
- g) Loving I John 4:8-10

2) Praise God for what He does

- a) He has created us to have a relationship with Him.
- b) He loves us even though we have sinned against Him. Romans 5:8
- c) He has died to give us forgiveness of our sins. Romans 10:9
- d) He abides in us to guarantee our salvation and eternal life. Ephesians 1:13-14



Tree of Life Level Six: New Creation in Christ

Lesson 2: Right Relationships with God and Man

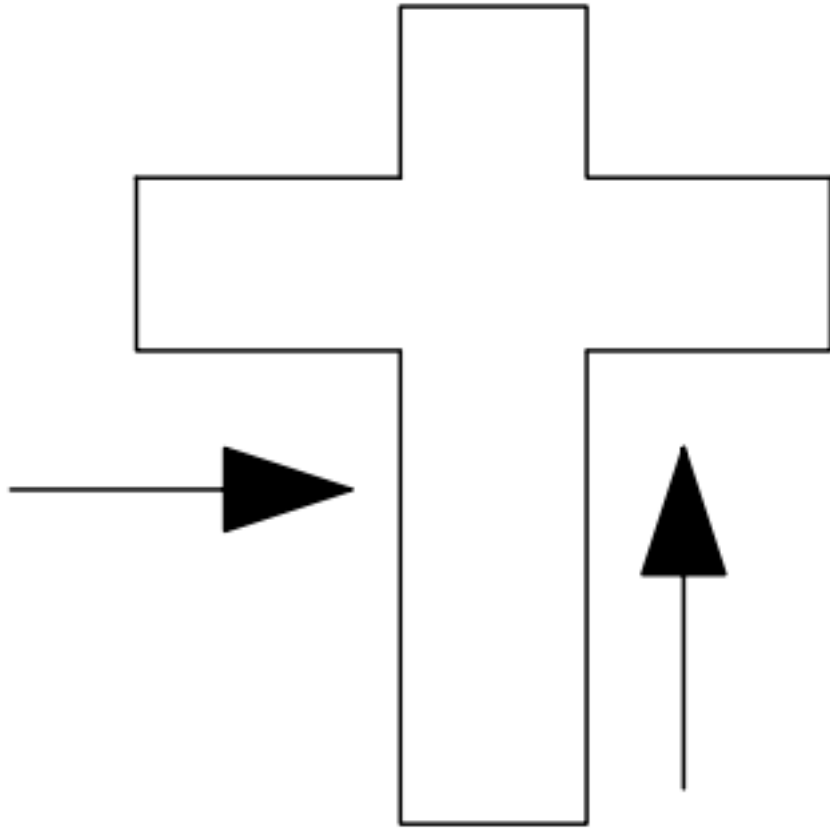
As new creations in Christ, we must seek right relationships with both God and man. Let's read **Matthew 22:37-39**.

1) Keeping a right relationship with God. Let's read Matthew 22:37.

- a) We must confess our sins to God. I John 1:9
- b) We must not love the world. I John 2:15-17
- c) We must love God more than we love ourselves. Matthew 16:24

2) Keeping a right relationship with man. Let's read Matthew 22:39.

Husbands – Love	Wives – Respect	Ephesians 5:33
Parents – Not Provoke	Children – Obey	Ephesians 6:1-4
Employers – Be Fair	Employees – Serve God	Colossians 3:23-4:1
Believers – Love	Believers – Love	John 13:34-35
Believers – Share Gospel and Good Works	Unbelievers	Matthew 5:16
Believers – Submit	Authorities	Romans 13:1-7



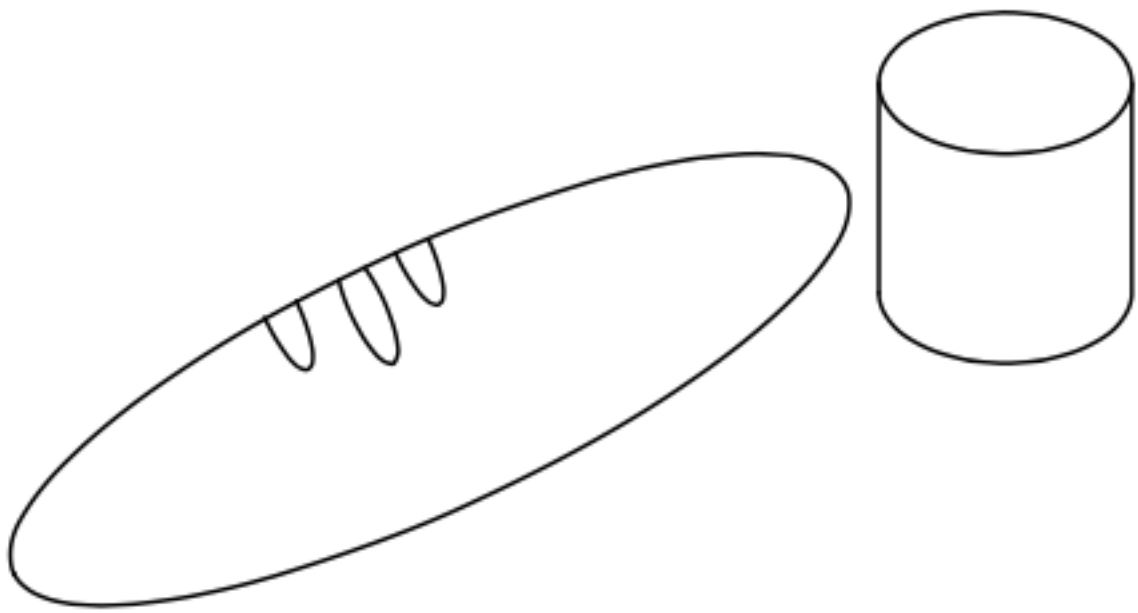
Tree of Life Level Six: New Creation in Christ

Lesson 3: Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Our relationship with Jesus transforms our relationships with God and man. To maintain these relationships, we must acknowledge our sin every day, repent when we have done wrong, and seek forgiveness from those that we have hurt. Let's read **Romans 12:18-21**.

- 1) Three Steps for Forgiveness:
 - a) Confession – Clearly communicate what you have done wrong. Example, “I committed this wrong against you, please forgive me.” James 5:16
 - b) Repentance – Change your actions so that you do not continue to commit the same wrong. II Corinthians 7:9-10
 - c) Atonement – Do whatever is in your power to correct the wrong that you have committed so that forgiveness can be received. You cannot pay for your sin by doing good works, but a change in your actions can show a repentant heart. Luke 19:1-10

- 2) Four Steps to Reconciliation if Believer Sins Against You: Matthew 18:15-17
 - a) Go alone to the person who sinned against you and try to make things right. Matthew 18:15
 - b) If the person does not listen, bring one or more neutral people with you to resolve that problem. Matthew 18:16
 - c) If the problem is still unresolved, take it before the church. Matthew 18:17
 - d) If the person still will not repent, treat that person as an unbeliever. Matthew 18:17

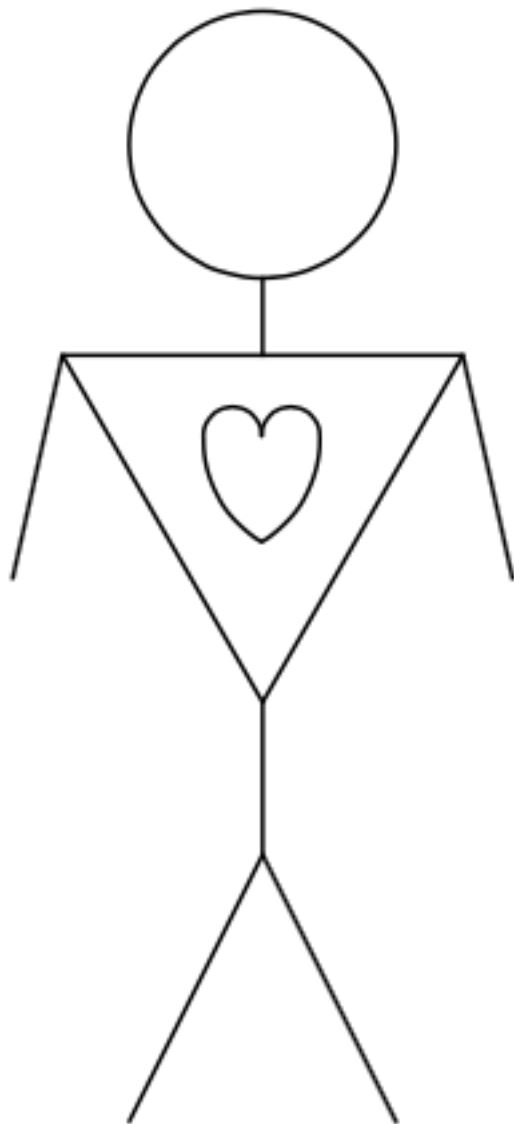


Tree of Life Level Six: New Creation in Christ

Lesson 4: The Lord's Supper

We celebrate being a new creation in Christ by taking the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus' death that paid for our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a time for believers to examine themselves to make sure that they have right relationships with God and man. Let's read **Luke 22:17-22**.

- 1) What is the Lord's Supper?
 - a) The Lord's Supper is a symbolic way to remember Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins for all who would believe in Him. I Corinthians 11:26
- 2) How often should we do the Lord's Supper?
 - a) There are no commands for how often the Lord's Supper must be taken, but the Lord's Supper should be a regular practice when the Body of Christ gathers together until Jesus returns.
- 3) We are called to examine ourselves for sin before we participate in the Lord's Supper or we will bring judgment on ourselves. Let's read I Corinthians 11:27-32. To examine ourselves, we must ask these questions each time before taking the Lord's Supper:
 - a) Am I a believer? The Lord's Supper is only for people who have believed in Jesus' death and resurrection for salvation.
 - b) Am I an obedient, baptized disciple? Baptism is a public display that believers are united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, and it is the first step in obedience after faith and repentance. We must be walking in obedience before taking the Lord's Supper.
 - c) Do I have right relationships with other people in my life? Matthew 6-14-15
 - d) Do I have a right relationship with God? We must confess our sin before God before taking the Lord's Supper. I John 1:9
- 4) Who can administer the Lord's Supper?
 - a) The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church. To administer it, you must be an obedient, baptized believer in right standing before man and God. In a meeting with both men and women, we should follow the biblical example of male leadership in the church and allow a man to administer the Lord's Supper. In a meeting of believing women, a woman can administer the Lord's Supper. It is the person's responsibility that administers the Lord's Supper to remind the church of the requirements necessary for taking it in a biblical way.



Tree of Life Level Seven: Body of Christ

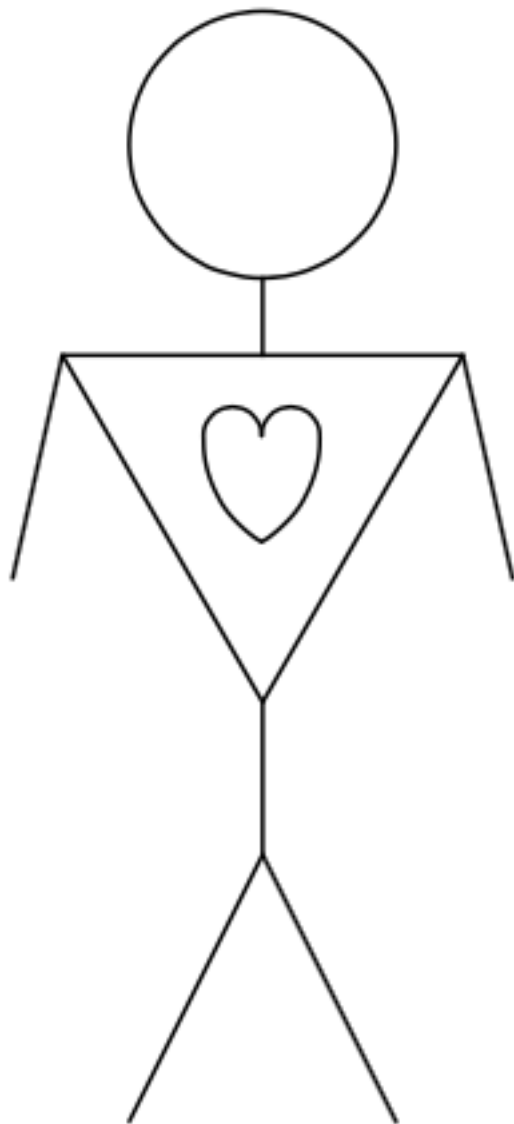
Lesson 1: Head

The goal for today is to understand our role inside the Body of Christ. We will begin by talking about the head of the Body of Christ. Let's read **Romans 12:4-5**.

- 1) Jesus is the head of the Church. Let's read **Colossians 1:18-22**. Every believer in the body is under the authority of Jesus Christ. We follow His authority by obeying the commands in the Word of God. Anyone who is teaching something contrary to the Word of God is in sin. It is our job as believers to test all teaching by the Word of God.
- 2) To lead His church, Jesus has appointed two types of leaders for the church:
 - a) Pastor/Elder – the shepherd under Christ
 - i) A pastor's focus should be on teaching and encouraging the church. **I Peter 5:1-4**
 - ii) The Bible gives us qualifications for choosing a pastor. **I Timothy 3:1-7**
 - b) Deacons – Ministers to the church through serving
 - i) A deacon's focus should be to serve the needs of the church so that a pastor can focus on teaching. **Acts 6:1-8**
 - ii) The Bible gives us qualifications for choosing a deacon. **I Timothy 3:8-13**

I Timothy 2:12 prohibits women from teaching or exercising authority over men inside the church. Because the pastor/elder is position of authority responsible for teaching, women should be excluded from this role. Throughout the Bible, there is a theme of male leadership. Men and women are both created equally in God's image, but they are also created to be different. God has given man the responsibility to lead both the church and his family.

I want to give you some practical advice for accountability in church leadership. Always let two or more faithful men share responsibility for all jobs inside the church, especially when money is involved. Giving all the power to one man allows for problems that can affect the whole church. Remember, Satan wants us to fail and he attacks our leadership. **I Peter 5:8**

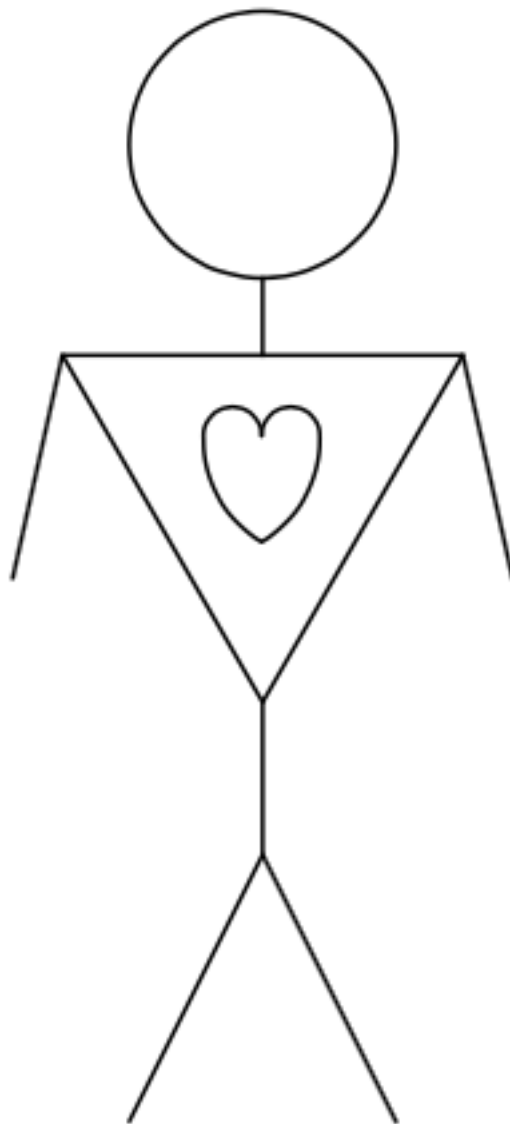


Tree of Life Level Seven: Body of Christ

Lesson 2: Heart

The heart of the Body of Christ is the Holy Spirit, who empowers believers to glorify God through spiritual gifts. To better understand spiritual gifts, let's begin by reading **I Corinthians 12:1-20**.

- 1) What are spiritual gifts?
 - a) Spiritual gifts are gifts from the Holy Spirit that are always used edify the Body of Christ and bring glory to God. **I Corinthians 12:4-7**
- 2) Who gives the spiritual gifts to all believers?
 - a) The Holy Spirit. **I Corinthians 12:11**
- 3) When do believers receive the Holy Spirit?
 - a) Believers receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. **Ephesians 1:13-14**
 - b) There is only one account in the Bible where the Holy Spirit is delayed after salvation and given through the Apostles laying their hands on new believers. It is found in Acts 8:17. This event should be seen as a special circumstance because it was the first time that the gospel had been received outside Jewish religion by the Samaritans. This sign through the Apostles was to show that the Samaritans had received the same salvation that the Jewish believers had received.
- 4) Do we all have the same spiritual gifts?
 - a) No, each person has different gifts to build up the church in different ways. Any teaching that says that you must have all the spiritual gifts to truly be saved goes against the teaching of the Bible. **I Corinthians 12:11, 14, 27-30**
- 5) What spiritual gifts are listed in the Bible? (**Rom. 12:6-8, I Cor. 12:8-11, 27-28**)
 - a) Apostle – gifted at sharing the gospel and planting church cross culturally
 - b) Prophet – gifted to share messages revealed by Holy Spirit that are profitable for the church
 - c) Teacher – gifted at teaching the Word of God in a way that people can easily understand and use.
 - d) Miracles – gifted with various miracles and signs that demonstrate God's power and glory
 - e) Healing – gifted with acts of healing that cause God to be glorified and praised
 - f) Service – gifted at seeing needs and tasks that need to be done
 - g) Administration – gifted at organization
 - h) Giving – gifted at handling money well and giving sacrificially
 - i) Encouragement – gifted at encouraging others to do what God has called them to do
 - j) Distinguishing Spirits – gifted with discernment
 - k) Evangelist – gifted at boldly sharing the gospel
 - l) Various Tongues – gifted at speaking known languages to proclaim the gospel to others or prayer languages that glorifies God. Requires an interpreter to be used publically. Must be used in order, one at a time. **I Corinthians 14:26-28, 33, 39-40**



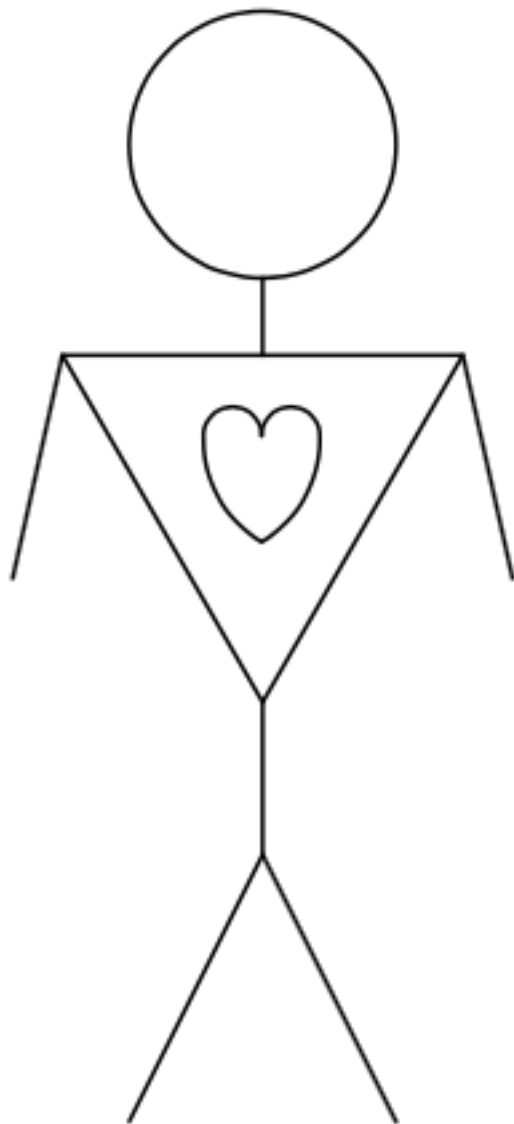
Tree of Life Level Seven: Body of Christ

Lesson 3: Hand of Giving

Our giving allows the church to function properly, and it enables us to advance the gospel to new places. We must understand what the New Testament teaches about giving, so that we can faithfully use our resources to help build to the Kingdom of God. Let's read **II Corinthians 9:6-15**.

Eight New Testament Principles for Giving from II Corinthians 9:6-15

- 1) Our generosity determines how much we reap. (v.6)
- 2) Each of us must decide how much to give. (v.7)
- 3) We must give out of joy. (v.7)
- 4) God's grace is enough in every circumstance, which allows us to do good works. (v.8)
- 5) Giving is an eternal investment. (v.9)
- 6) God gives us our resources so that we can produce spiritual fruit. (v.10)
- 7) Giving produces thanksgiving and glory to God. (v.11-12)
- 8) We give because Christ gave His life for us. (v.13-15)



Tree of Life Level Seven: Body of Christ

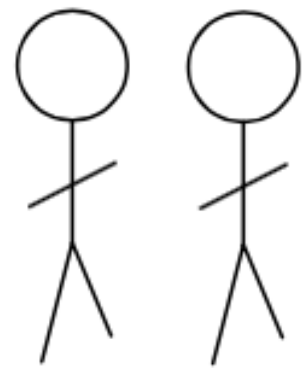
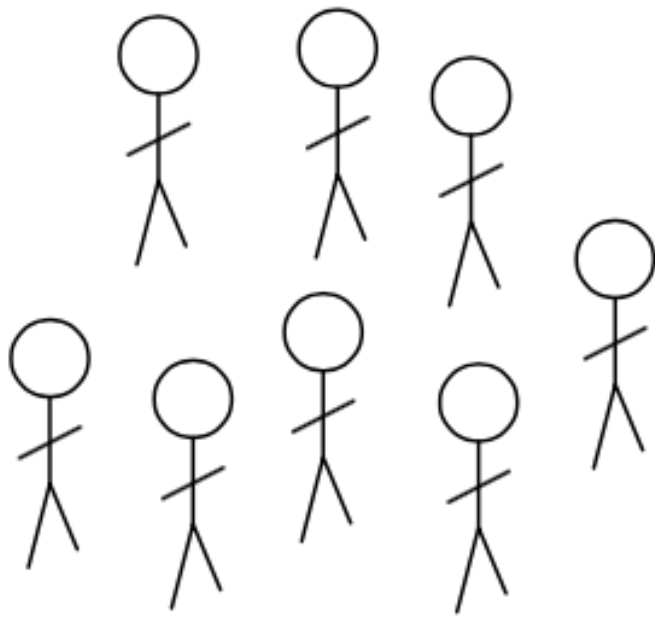
Lesson 4: Hand of Healthy Churches

In this lesson, we are going to learn the five main purposes of a healthy church. These purposes are taken from Jesus' teaching of the Greatest Commandments in Matthew 22:37-39 and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20.

Five Purposes of a Healthy Church – Matthew 22:37-39, 28:19-20

- 1) Worship – the act of loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind
- 2) Fellowship – the act of loving your neighbor (believers) as yourself
- 3) Ministry – the act of loving your neighbor (non-believers) as yourself
- 4) Discipleship – teaching other believers to obey all that Christ has commanded
- 5) Evangelism/Missions – making disciples of all peoples through sharing the gospel

For our churches to be healthy, the whole body of Christ must work together to fulfill these five purposes. Each believer must learn use his or her gifts, skills, and resources to serve the church in obedience to the Word of God.



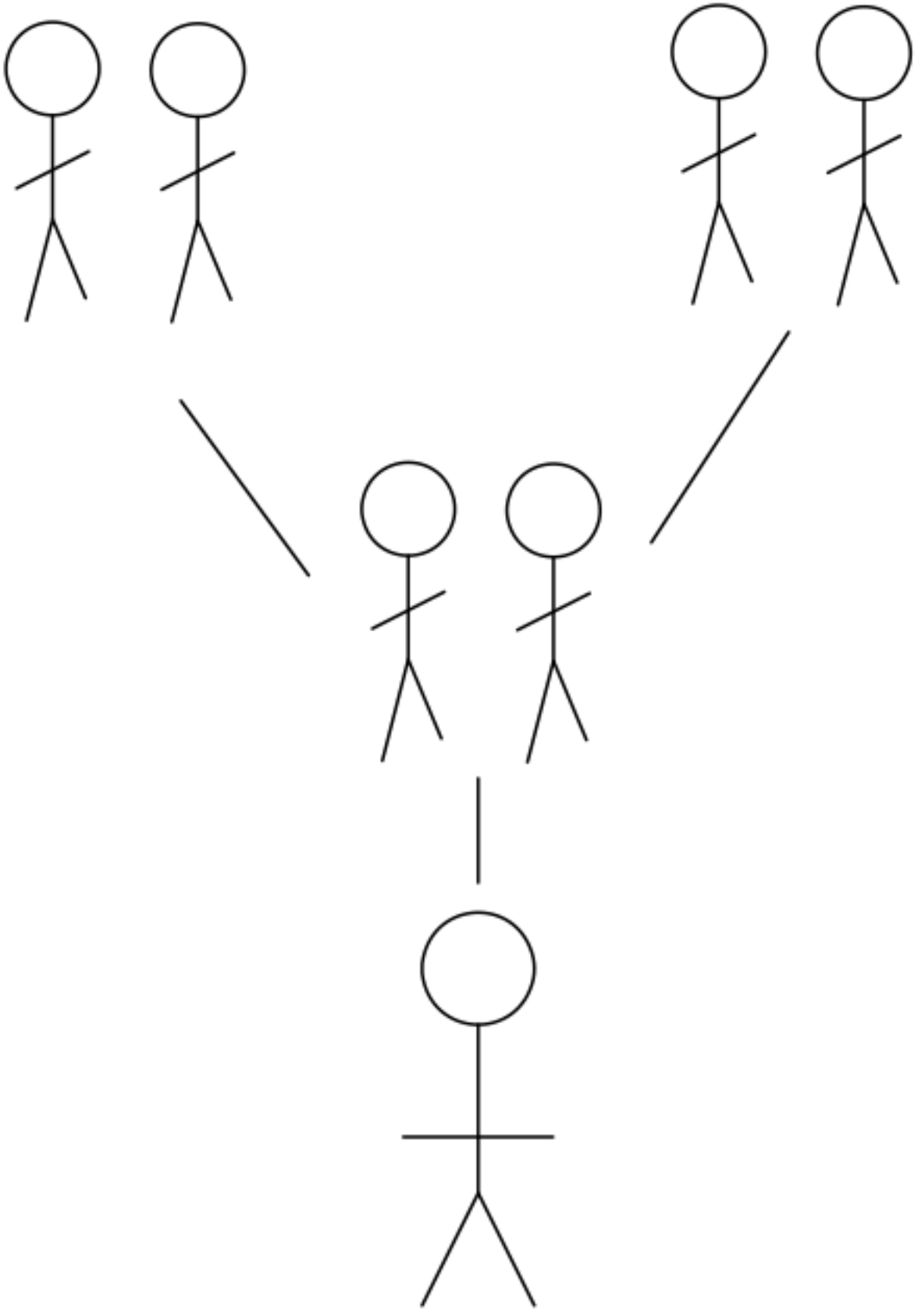
Tree of Life Level Eight: Multiplying Leaders to Finish the Task

Lesson 1: Selecting New Leaders

For us to finish the task that God has given us, we must learn to how to prepare others to lead. Once you have planted a House of Peace, you will need to select people to lead the new believers so that you can leave to plant more groups in new places.

- 1) What do you look for in a potential leader?
 - a) A “Good Soil” person who multiplies his faith
 - b) A trained disciple that has been obedient in everything that you have taught him
 - c) Faith that has been tested **Matthew 13:20-21**
 - d) A person who has been found worthy of teaching and leading others. The qualifications for church leadership are found in **I Timothy 3**

- 2) A Biblical example of choosing a leader. Break up in groups and read these verses. **Acts 17:1-9, I Thessalonians 1:2-10, II Thessalonians 1:3-4**
 - a) How long was Paul in Thessalonica? Why did he have to leave?
 - b) Who was arrested and why?
 - c) Was Jason faithful under persecution?
 - d) What happened after Paul left Thessalonica?
 - e) How long had these leaders been believers?
 - f) What qualified Jason for leadership? Was how long Jason had been a believer a key factor in his becoming a leader?



Tree of Life Level Eight: Multiplying Leaders to Finish the Task

Lesson 2: Leading by Example

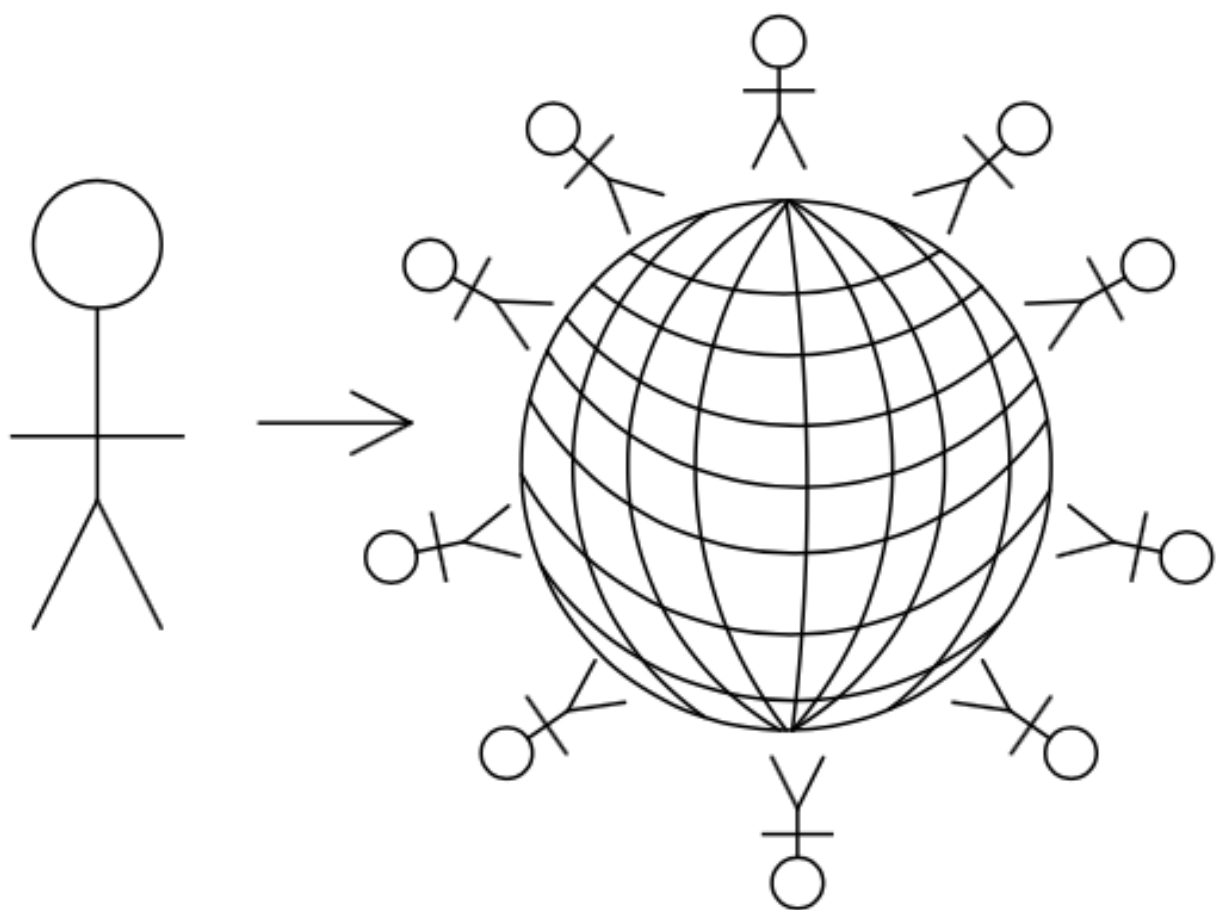
As you make new disciples and plant new groups, you will need more leaders to help you. To make new leaders, we must learn to lead by example. If you are a good leader, you can train others to become good leaders. If you are a bad leader, you will train others to be bad leaders.

I Peter 5:1-5 tells the qualities found in good leaders of the church. We must practice these qualities as an example for others under us.

- 1) Good leaders willingly lead their churches.
- 2) Good leaders lead because they want to build the Kingdom of God, not because they have a desire for personal gain.
- 3) Good leaders do not abuse the power given to them.
- 4) If we do not exhibit these qualities, our new leaders will not exhibit these qualities.

Good leaders also prepare and empower others to lead. These four steps help us to prepare new leaders and send them out:

- 1) Model – Allow others to watch as you lead and teach
- 2) Assist – Help them do what you have taught them
- 3) Watch – Observe them as they do it alone and gently correct them if there is a problem
- 4) Let them go –Release them so they can train other potential leaders

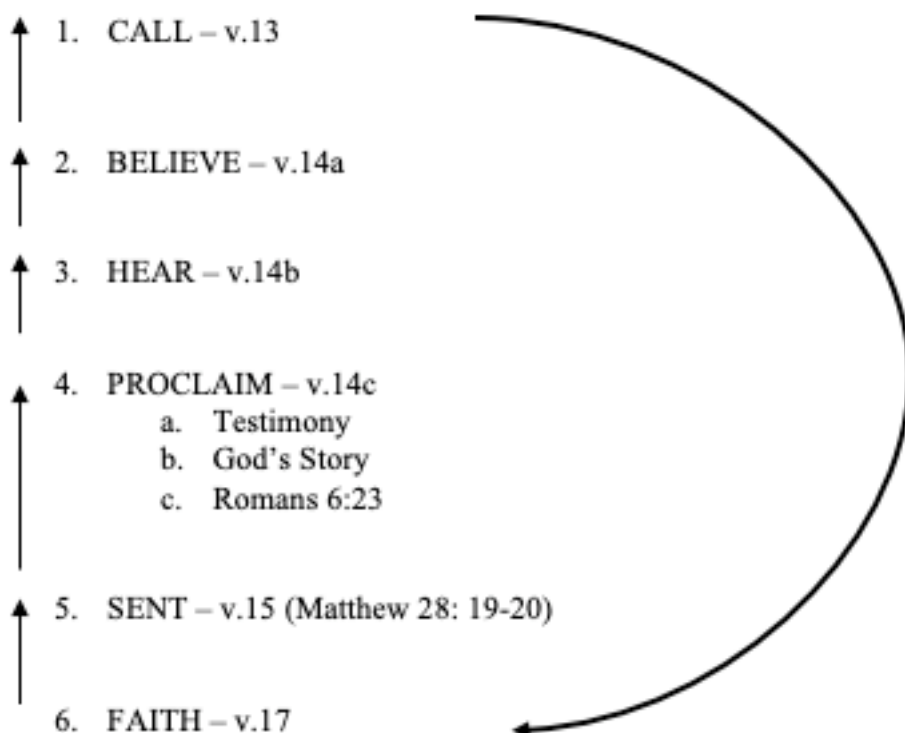


Tree of Life Level Eight: Multiplying Leaders to Finish the Task

Lesson 3: Taking the Gospel to the Unreached

Most believers only share the gospel with people from their own people group. It is natural to feel comfortable around your own people. You understand your people group's culture, their beliefs, and their language. However, the God's Word commands us to take the gospel to the whole world. The focus of the Tree of Life training is to reach all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages with the gospel. Let's read **Romans 10:13-17**.

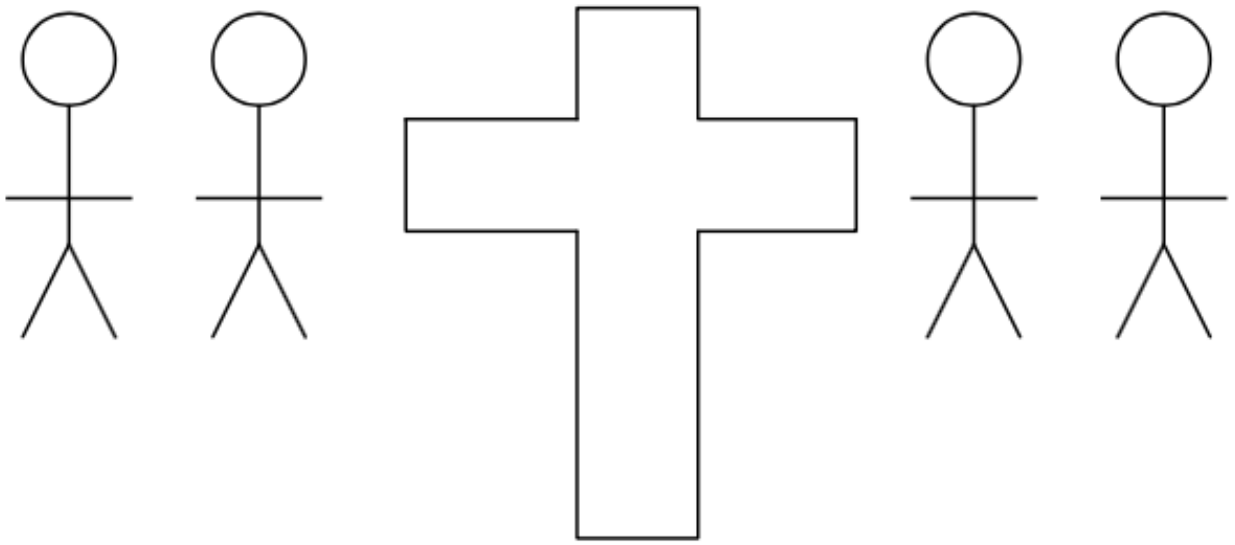
EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (v. 13)



We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. We are SENT to Proclaim the Gospel to the lost, that they may HEAR the saving name of Jesus and BELIEVE. Then they can CALL on the name of Jesus and be saved.

We have been sent as ambassadors to proclaim the gospel to people groups who have not heard. We have a great responsibility to share the gospel so that others can believe in Jesus for their salvation. If we do not take the gospel message to unreached people groups, we are allowing them to die and go to hell without knowing about Jesus' sacrifice for them. It is not enough to share the gospel with others, we must also train new believers to do the same. Paul realized that he had to train others in order to reach larger areas with the gospel. Let's look at an example:

Acts 19:8-10 How did Paul reach "all of Asia" during his two-year stay in Ephesus? By training disciples who make more disciples, Paul was able to reach a larger area than he could by himself and the gospel spread all over Asia minor (Turkey). Bible teachers believe there were 8 million people who lived in Asia Minor during the time Paul was in Ephesus. By training others using the Tree of Life discipleship lessons to become trainers, you can help bring the gospel to all of Sierra Leone so that every people group has the opportunity to call on the name of Jesus to be saved.



Tree of Life Level Eight: Multiplying Leaders to Finish the Task

Lesson 4: Unity in Christ

Once we begin to reach new people groups with the gospel, we must learn to maintain unity in Christ by accepting the differences between our cultures.

- 1) We must teach new believers to be obedient to the commands of Jesus. **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - a) We need to be careful not to impose our own legalistic rules on new groups of believers. They should have freedom in Christ to follow their own culture and customs if they do not violate the Word of God. Remember, every unique culture has been created by God to worship Him.
- 2) We must not show partiality to any one particular people group's customs and culture if it hinders the gospel. **Galatians 2:11-14**
 - a) It is easy for us to favor our own culture and customs, but Christ has called us to unity with all believers. In the book of Galatians, we read that Peter was eating with both Jewish and Gentile believers, but, when Jewish men came from James, he separated himself from the Gentiles and went back to following the Jewish dietary restrictions. Because of his actions, Paul rebukes Peter for making the Gentiles feel like second-class believers. The relationship between the Jewish and Gentile believers was no longer based on their unity in Christ; it was based on following cultural requirements.
- 3) How are we able to maintain our unity with different cultures? Let's read **Ephesians 4:1-6**.
 - a) As believers, we are all called into the same body by the same Spirit. Despite our cultural differences, we can be unified by our faith in Jesus Christ. We still must work to maintain our unity by practicing humility, gentleness, patience, and love.

Three easy questions that can help deal with cultural issues in Biblical manner:

- 1) Do my actions violate the Word of God?
- 2) Do they violate my conscience?
- 3) Do they make my brother stumble?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then we should not do it.

Graduation

The graduation service is an important component of Tree of Life training program. The service is used as a time to celebrate what God has been doing throughout the training and as an opportunity to encourage the trainees to continue to do the work that Christ has commanded all believers to do. It is important to capture the names and information of all the graduates at this time so they can receive further training in a discipleship group. Also, at this service, we give some small gifts to each of our graduates. Each person receives a Tree of Life graduate certificate, a training manual, and some language specific micro-SD cards preloaded with gospel resources.

Let's begin by reading **Matthew 25:14-30**. God has given all believers talents and abilities to use for His glory. We are responsible to be obedient to use what God has given to us. In this parable, we see the first two servants were obedient to their master. Each one, according to his own ability, faithfully multiplied what the master had given to him. However, the third servant did not use what the master had given to him. Which servant do you want to be? Now, you have been given a strong foundation for your faith through the Word of God. There is a greater responsibility for those who have been given more. You must continue to be obedient to use what God has given to you. Remember, this is only the beginning of your work, not the end. You are now the trainer. It is your responsibility to share the gospel, to disciple other believers, and to plant new house churches.

As part of our graduation ceremony, we want to follow Christ example by washing your feet. Let's read **John 13:1-17**. In this passage, Jesus shows that He came to serve His disciples. Although He is God, He came to humble Himself so that our sins could be made clean. Jesus has given this as an example to us. Everyone who desires to lead well must humble himself and become a servant. Today, we wash your feet to show that we are here to serve you. We are so proud of each of you for the work and obedience that you have shown throughout this training. Remember, we need you. We cannot reach the whole world with the gospel without you. All believers must be working together to finish this job that God has given to us. We are willing to help you in any way so that the gospel can reach those who have not heard. You have now become the trainers. You have been given a way to spread the light of the gospel with those around you. As trainers, you will have disciples who are learning from you. We encourage you also to follow Christ's example and become a servant to them. Again, we are so proud of you, but your work is not finished. Continue to make disciples, to train other believers, and to plant new house churches so that all people can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Next Steps: Discipleship Scripture Sets

#	Scripture Reference	Story/Theme
1	Luke 5:1-11	Fishers of Men/Following Christ
2	John 15:1-11	Vine and Branches/Abiding in Christ
3	Psalms 119:1-16	Meditating on God's Word
4	Luke 11:1-13 & Luke 18:1-8	Prayer
5	Luke 17:11-19	Lepers Healed/Worship
6	John 4:3-42	Woman at the Well/Worship
7	Matthew 3:1-17	John the Baptist/Holy Spirit
8	John 14:16-17, John 16:5-15	Holy Spirit's Role
9	Genesis 1-2	Creation
10	Genesis 3	Sin
11	Acts 2:37-47	Fellowship
12	Colossians 1:13-23	Jesus
13	Philippians 2:3-11	Service/Jesus
14	Exodus 20:1-17	10 Commandments
15	1 Corinthians 15:1-19	Resurrection of Jesus
16	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	Our Resurrection
17	John 14:1-15	Heaven and Jesus is God
18	Luke 7:36-50	Forgiveness
19	Luke 10:25-37	Great Commandment
20	Matthew 18:21-35	Forgiving others
21	Luke 8:4-15	Evangelism/Parable of the Sower
22	Luke 15	Grace
23	Luke 17:1-10	Causing others to sin
24	Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-20	Jesus' birth
25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Justification
26	Galatians 5:16-25	Fruit of the Spirit
27	1 Corinthians 12:1-13	Spiritual Gifts
28	1 Corinthians 12:14-31	Unity/Church
29	1 Corinthians 13	Love
30	Hebrews 11	Trust
31	Romans 4	Faith
32	John 13:1-20	Service
33	Acts 4:1-31	Evangelism

Next Steps: Discipleship Scripture Sets Continued

#	Scripture Reference	Story/Theme
34	Matthew 25:31-46	Justice
35	Luke 12:15-34	Coveting/Greed
36	Luke 14:25-35	Discipleship/Counting Cost
37	Mark 7:14-23	Internal Cleanliness
38	1 Kings 18:20-40	Idols weak
39	Matthew 5:21-48	Relationships
40	Matthew 6:1-24	Real Religion
41	Daniel 6	Obedience through Persecution
42	Psalms 23	Comfort from the Lord
43	Matthew 24:42-25:13	2 nd Coming Believer
44	John 3:1-21	New Birth
45	John 5:18-30	Jesus is God/Resurrection
46	Luke 8:26-39	Jesus power over Demons
47	Luke 8:22-25	Jesus power over nature
48	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus meets needs
49	Matthew 14:22-36	Jesus can do miracles
50	Matthew 16:13-28	Who is Jesus
51	Acts 5:1-11	Don't lie to God
52	Acts 17:16-34	Paul at Athens
53	Acts 19:11-20	If you don't know Jesus
54	1 Timothy 3:1-15	Overseers and Deacons
55	James 2:1-13	How to treat others
56	James 3:1-12	The tongue
57	1 John 1:5-2:6	Sin and Light: Darkness
58	1 John 4	Testing the Spirits/Love
59	Revelation 20:11-21:8	End times
60	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Sanctification