

# WELCOME



## Welcome to a year of walking with another and walking with our heavenly Father

Welcome to a worthy and biblical undertaking. I can not express to you enough the level of excitement that I have for you as you prepare to take part in this journey together. I know that God will bless your sacrifice and commitment. I want to begin your journey through this year by challenging you to stay true to program. There will be many moments this year where it will be easier to not meet together. I want to encourage you to make an extra effort to meet during these times. These will often be the most impactful times that you will spend together all year. I also want to challenge you to make a schedule of when you will meet together. Try to keep that schedule as regular as possible. Protect your meeting time as you would any other appointment. If you are

willing to commit to these things, I know that your sacrifice this year will be a blessed time of growth in your walk with Christ. Finally, I have some words of encouragement for you before you begin this year together. This is an imperfect process being executed by imperfect people. No one knows all of the answers. So with this in mind, be honest with one another. Your growth together and your growth in the Lord will be hindered if you try to put up a facade. Commit to be real with one another from the beginning. Our desire is to grow and that growth begins with trust. Please know that we will be praying for you daily. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to let me know.

**ONE YEAR OF WALKING TOGETHER**

ONE YEAR	GROWTH	SERVICE	FELLOWSHIP	LIFE
	Meeting together once a week to grow in our walk with one another and God.	Partnering once a month to serve alongside one another in service to God.	Socializing with one another that we might learn from one another who we are in Christ.	Committing to do life together for a year. Through the good and the bad, the ups and downs.

# 10 WEEK: 1



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK ONE

Congratulations, we are so excited for your walk together to begin. We are excited that you are committing to walk with one another and God over the next year. We hope and pray that these first ten weeks will be a meaningful start to your journey!

### Getting Started

You probably are still wondering what you got yourself into as you have agreed to walk with this other person for an entire year. Well don't worry, before long you will find that this journey will be the avenue through which God creates memories, lessons, growth and relationship that will last for the rest of your life. As we get this journey started, there are a few things that you need to know to make it through the next ten weeks:

- Each week, you will meet and go through this packet together. There may be activities to do during the week, but each week, there will be specific things to get together and discuss or do during your weekly meeting.
- Make sure that you strive to follow the instructions each day. The interaction will hopefully become the most meaningful portion of your time together. Don't let one person take

over the conversation, unless the instructions tell them to.

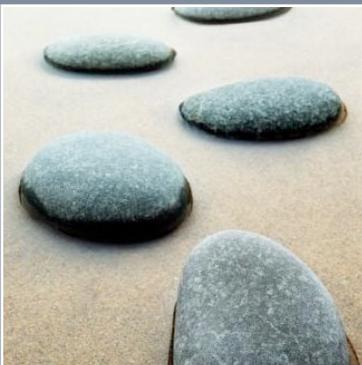
- Call or email Paul @ 575-749-0636 or [pallen@cbc-clovis.com](mailto:pallen@cbc-clovis.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

### Kicking It Off

Now that you are ready and kind of know what to expect, let's get to know one another. Provided on the next page is a quick quiz that you are to give the other person. Don't just hand your paper to the other person and have them fill it out. Ask each other each question and write down their answer. Remember that you are preparing to journey together for the next year so honesty must be the foundation of your relationship. As we are honest with ourselves and one another, we open the door to being able to grow in our relationship with one another and our walk with God. Good luck and get to know one another!

## Getting to Know You

### WEEK: 1 (CONT)



For I know the plans  
I have for you,  
declares the Lord,  
plans for welfare and  
not for evil, to give  
you a future and a  
hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

1. What's an accomplishment that you are proud of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your most embarrassing moment?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What famous person would you most like to meet?  
Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If you could get a \$50 gift card to a store, which store would it be to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe to me the moment that you chose to surrender to Christ your heart.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How often do you read your Bible?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. In what ways do you grow in your walk with the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How often do you pray to the Lord?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who have been a few of the most influential people in your spiritual growth?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Describe a time in your life where you called out to God the most?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Where do you feel that God is leading you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

I pray that these questions will be just the beginning to how much you will know about one another in the months to come. Take a moment and close your time together in prayer. Pray for one another and specifically where God is leading each of you. Pray for your journey together that God will be the center of it. Finally, pray for one another's personal walks with God. May our quiet time with the Lord convict our hearts to mirror his.

So after each week's session, there will be a homework assignment to work on for the next week. Please commit today to be faithful to fulfill the assignments each week.

### WEEK 1 ASSIGNMENT

This week, read Psalm 119 at least twice. As you read, spend some time thinking about what David is saying. It is a long Psalm, but take the time this week to really wrestle with it. Next week when you meet, your discussion will revolve around David's words.



## WEEK: 1 (CONT)



Give me understanding that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.  
Psalm 119:34

# 10 WEEK: 2



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK TWO

Well, week one is in the bag and journey continues. As each week goes by, we are praying that the barriers and roadblocks to honest open communication will come tumbling down! Keep on keepin' on!

### The Book

When God revealed His Word to us through the Bible, he gave us more than just a book of rules or a series of stories or even a history of a group of people in the Middle East. The Bible is one of the main ways we connect with God. In Psalm 119, David describes the purpose and the usefulness of the Bible. Take a moment and look through Psalm 119. Write down the verse number of each verse that contains a reference to the Word of God (ie: commandment, law, statue, etc.).

Think of the different names for the Bible you found in the passage. It is referred to as 'the word', 'the law', 'precepts', 'statutes', 'commands', 'decrees', and more. The psalmist goes even deeper than that by describing what the Bible should be to us. In this Psalm, the Bible is held in the highest of regard.

Take a moment and discuss the following verses together.

#### Read Psalm 119:103

What is your favorite dessert? Describe it (make one another's mouths water). David says that God's Word was sweeter than honey to him. Imagine David sitting down about to dip some fresh baked bread into a big bowl of honey. As he gets ready to take a bite, he remembers that he

hadn't read the Word yet. So he puts down his bread and opens the Book. Would you stop eating dessert to read the Bible? What would your attitude towards the Bible look like if God's Word were sweeter to you than dessert?

#### Read Psalm 119:72

Think about your most valued material possession and describe it to one another. How would your life change if God's Word were more precious to you than that possession?

#### Read Psalm 119:105

Have you ever fallen in the dark? Have you ever been walking at night and slipped or stubbed your toe? A good light helps you keep your way at night. The Word is like a night light that keeps you from stumbling (falling prey to temptation; sinning). How can you use the Bible to keep you from stumbling? (Check out 1 Corinthians 10:13 as an example).

#### Read Psalm 119:24

Everyone needs advice at some point in their lives. Who do you go to for advice? Friends, parents, internet, self, etc. Why?

The Bible is a great source of advice. How and when would you use the Bible as a counselor?

# 10 WEEK: 2

## Read Psalm 119:54

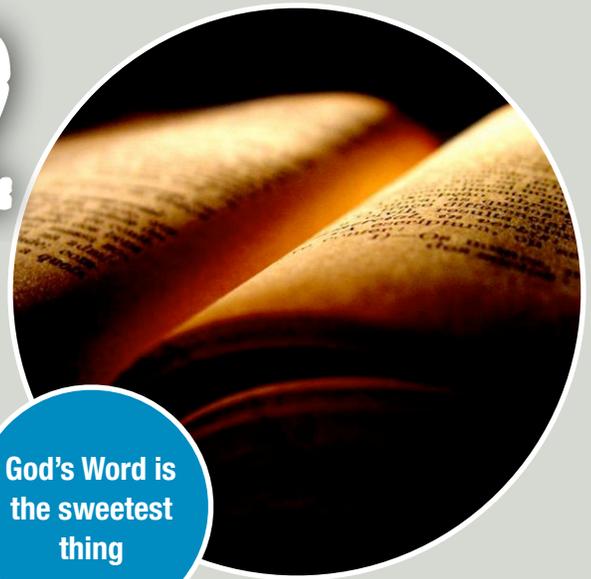
If you had a theme song that would play every time that you walked into the living room, what would it be? How about every time that you walked into school or work?

Seriously though, God want His Word to be in your hearts at all times. One way to reflect on God's Word is through song. Can you think of any songs that use the Word of God in the lyrics?

## Read Psalm 119:41-48

This is a great picture of what happens when we fully submit to God's law. Notice the blessings that result from obeying it. What does the Word do for you personally? How can you take action to make God's Word a more central part of your life?

As you have looked at God's Word and how David viewed it, I pray that it has strengthened and even possibly enhanced your view of the importance of God's Word in our everyday lives. Close this week's time together in prayer. Pray that God will convict your heart to be in His Word each day. May the things that you read about him be on your hearts throughout the day.



God's Word is  
the sweetest  
thing

## WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENT

This week, we are going to continue to look at the importance that David puts upon God's Word. With your packet, you should have received a CD that included 2 messages. These are sermons given by Pastor Joseph Castaneda. In this message, Pastor Joe will challenge you to think about the Word like most people think about food. So this week, listen to the message a few times and meditate upon the importance of God's Word. Be ready to discuss what stood out to you the most this week as you listened to the message. Also, re-read Psalm 119 this week. What new or deeper insights stuck out to you this week from last week. Be ready to share these next week.



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In an age when life's complexities cause complicating controversy, God's Word calms confusion by illuminating truth and wisdom for living holy. God's Word is a standard for study and meditation providing foundational principles for life. God's Word as the Psalmist declares, is "a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) The Psalmist further extols that reading the Word yields illumination of insight and comprehension of understanding. (Psalm 119:130) Therefore, God's Word remains a timely source of instruction, enlightenment, and direction for humanity.

# 10 WEEK: 3



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK THREE

Over the last week, you were challenged to listen to a sermon by a dear friend, Pastor Joe Castaneda. If you have time today, I would challenge you to listen to it together. If not, be ready to discuss it with one another.

If you have the time, take about fifteen minutes and listen to the sermon by Pastor Joe Castaneda together. This is a sermon that Pastor Joe wrote specifically for families that were walking on a 10 day journey together. In the message though, Joe discusses specifically the idea that the Word of God is like the food that we eat. After listening to the message, take some time to discuss with one another the following questions.

1. David's words in Psalm 119:104 are a pretty vivid picture of his love for God's Word. What's the most boring part of reading God's Word to you?
2. What's the most exciting part of God's Word to you?
3. What is the biggest obstacle to overcome in order for you to spend more time in God's Word?
4. In the message, Pastor Joe talked about four things that keep us from reading and obeying God's Word. They were:
  - a. a heart closed by sin
  - b. a superficial approach
  - c. a busy mind
  - d. a lack of appreciation.

Which of these presents the biggest difficulty for you?

After discussing these questions, take some time to pray for one another. Pray that you will have a hunger for God's Word like you do food. Pray for the area that causes the most difficulty for one another in keeping in God's Word that God will help us to overcome this obstacle.

### WEEK 3 ASSIGNMENT

This week, the goal is to spend time in God's Word everyday. Commit this week to read the book of Galatians. Take one chapter each day and read through the book. As you read, take note of different ways that God is speaking to you through his Word.

If you misplaced your CD or would prefer a digital copy of the message, please feel free to download it from the Central Baptist Church website, [cbc-clovis.com](http://cbc-clovis.com). You can find them under the Bridge tab found in the top menu bar. You can also find it under the 10 Week Journey tab on the Bridge Clovis app on the Itunes and Google Play networks.



# 10 WEEK: 4

## WEEK FOUR

As we continue our look at the importance of God's Word, think about what you need to do if you want to improve your commitment to the Word and your time in the Word.



### THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

#### God's Love Letter

Sometimes I hear people say, "God's Word is HIS love letter to us". I think that's a great picture of what the Bible is. When you think of a love letter (whether you have ever had one or written one or not) you probably think of a few key qualities. Take a few minutes to write down some qualities of a love letter.

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Now, take a few minutes to write down the qualities of God's love letter to us. What kinds of things does HE include in HIS love letter?

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God is our perfect Heavenly Father and of course, HIS perfect love letter to us has everything we need in this life. This letter guides us into our relationship with HIM and helps us to understand HIS plan for our lives.

As we have looked at God's Word these last few weeks and as we think now about it in terms of being God's love letter, how often are you

reading it? How often are you taking time to process the great things he has written to you? Take some time and talk about how important God's Word is to you and how often you read it. Then take a moment to pray through making a commitment concerning God's Word.

1. I already read God's Word \_\_\_ times a week.
2. I'm ready to start reading at least three times a week.
3. I want to read at least five times a week.
4. I want to read seven days a week.

Close with a time of prayer for God to support and encourage your decision to spend time with him in his Word. Commit also to encourage one another as you walk on this new path this week.

#### WEEK 4 ASSIGNMENT

This week, stay true to the commitment that you made to be in God's Word. If you made a commitment to be in his Word a certain number of days, write down which days those will be. I want to encourage you to start strong in this commitment. There will likely be good excuses to miss a day, but don't let those deter you. Spend time in his Word this week and read the depth of his love for you!



# THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

## WEEK FIVE

Can you believe we are almost half way done with the first 10 Weeks? Already we hope that your relationships are growing with one another and with God. May your time together be spilling over into the other areas of your life!

### “The Prayer”

This week, we are going to take some time to look at an example of prayer that Jesus gave us. Use the next few minutes to read together Matthew 6:5-15. After reading, take some time to discuss the following questions:

1. Where does Jesus say to pray in verse 6? Why? (see verse 5)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In verse 7, what does Jesus say not to do when you pray?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have a time or place you pray? If not, can you think of one?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. According to verse 9, to whom do we pray?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Before Jesus asks for anything in verses 11-13, what does he ask for first in verse 10? Why is this important? (See Matt. 26:42)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Jesus ask for in verse 11?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Since bread or clothing are not daily issues for most of us today, what are examples of daily needs we ask for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. According to verse 12, what is the only criteria we need to meet before we can ask forgiveness of sins from the Father? (see verses 14-15)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is Jesus asking for in verse 13?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 10 Week Journey

# 10 WEEK: 5

# WEEK: 5 (CONT')

10. Take a moment to read James 1:13-15. Think about this passage and Matthew 6:13. What are some of the temptations that you see in your life?

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So you can see from the example of prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 that there are certain principles that should be included when we pray. Jesus praised and worshipped God for HIS holiness and knowledge; Jesus asked for daily provisions; Jesus gave an example by seeking forgiveness and of course, when we pray, we should pray with thankfulness and gratitude! Take some time right now to develop a plan to implement prayer in your daily lives. When can you find time for personal prayer? Are there any ideal places to pray, places free from distraction and

interruption?

End this week by praying for one another. Try to pray in accordance with the pattern we find in Matthew 6.



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## WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENT

This week, stand firm upon your prayer commitment. Find that quiet place and talk with your Heavenly Father. Your faithfulness to spend time with Him will help your relationship grow in amazing ways. It is like any other relationship that we have. Time is necessary to see the

Communication  
is key in all  
relationships

relationship grow and strengthen. Also, take time this week to re-read and meditate upon Matthew 6:5-15. As Jesus said, this is our example to how we should pray, Allow the different parts to really stick in the way that you communicate to God. Enjoy your time with Him this week!



# 10 WEEK: 6

## WEEK SIX

Jesus gave us a great example of what prayer should look like. But ultimately, prayer boils down to this one truth: It is communicating with God. And the best way to learn how to pray is to PRAY!



### THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

#### Practice

Practice, practice, practice. That is what all my coaches and teachers used to tell me all throughout my school career. In band, my music teacher would constantly say that when I had difficulty playing a piece. The issue was not whether or not I could play the notes -- I could. The issue was not weather or not I could read the music -- I could. The issue was, could I put it all together into something that sounded good? Not if I did not practice.

I think prayer works the same way. Too often we are afraid to pray because it might not "sound good." It might not sound polished like when other people pray. We are worried we might sound silly or stupid and we do not want that, especially when we are talking to God! But the reality is that we can not improve our praying, if we never pray. If we do not work on articulating our thoughts to God, we will never improve in our praying.

This week, we are going to look at prayer and the challenge that we have with praying, both in private and in public. Take some time to discuss the following questions.

1. What words or phrases do you hear people use a lot when they pray?

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2. What words do you use often when you pray?

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#### Read Philippians 4:6

3. How many different commands are listed in this verse?

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4. What things are we supposed to talk to God about in prayer?

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5. What attitude are we supposed to have when we talk to God about these things?

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6. Why do you think people are afraid to talk to God about "anything and everything?"

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**Read Colossians 4:2**

7. What commands are given in this verse?

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8. How can we devote ourselves to prayer? Is there a connection between the two verses we just read?

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Learning to pray is hard work. But as we learn to take anything that causes us anxiety to the Lord, or as we learn to be devoted and to pray with thanksgiving, we'll start to be more comfortable in communicating with our Heavenly Father.

**WEEK 6 ASSIGNMENT**

Take some time this week and really think about if you take everything to God? Are you devoted to prayer? How might you make prayer a bigger priority in your life? As you answer these questions, make a commitment to how your answers might be lived out this week. Be prepared to share your commitment with one another next week when you meet. Also, for next week's meeting, bring a camera or some art supplies to your meeting time.



**WEEK: 6 (CONT)**



Persevering in prayer is like rowing a boat upstream, if you do not persevere, you will be carried downstream by the current.

# 10 WEEK: 7



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK SEVEN

So many of David's great prayers in the Psalms were truly prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation. This week, don't miss the opportunity to capture the beauty that God has placed all around us!

#### Prayers of Praise

David spent a lot of time praising God in his prayers in the Psalms. Today, take a few minutes to read two of these prayers out loud and meditate on God's Word.

#### Read Psalm 19 and Psalm 97

A chunk of our prayers should be made as thoughtful reflections on all that God has done. From the families that he has given us to the creation that surrounds us, we have much to be thankful for and much to reflect on.

Take some time today to go outside and capture some of the beauty that God has given you. Take a camera with you or take your paints and together find some aspect of God's creation that you are thankful for. Take a picture. Paint a picture. Pick a flower. What ever you do, just make sure it reflects something of your thankfulness and praise to God.

As a final part of your day, write out a Psalm, your own prayer of praise and thanksgiving. Thank God like David did, and rejoice in the greatness of God as it is displayed in the world all around and in the aspects of nature that you saw and captured today. Make sure that you both take part in this exercise.

#### WEEK 7 ASSIGNMENT

This week, continue in what you have already done this week in capturing and reflecting upon the amazing creation that God has surrounded us with. Take some pictures and post them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or even in your room. Every time you see these pictures, take a moment to rejoice about the splendor of God.



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## WEEK EIGHT

Our walk with God is not all about us; there is an external component, too. A lot of Christians read and pray every day but then miss the point and never have any kind of outward expression to that internal transformation. Growing Christians point others to Christ.



# THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### The Early Church

The book of Acts paints an interesting picture of the Early Church and gives us some unique insights into its explosive growth. Of course, we must keep in mind that at the the birth of the Church, God had poured out HIS Spirit in a mighty way and many unique events took place as a mark of God's true work.

But the example of the Early Church gives us much to build on. And by examining the ways the Church grew we'll learn some powerful lessons for our day. So open your Bibles to the book of Acts and dive in!

Take some time to look up the following passages and make a note of how many people were getting saved:

Acts 2:41 // Acts 2:47

Acts 4:4 // Acts 5:14

Acts 6:7 // Acts 8:13

Acts 8:34-38 // Acts 9:17

Acts 9:31 // Acts 9:35

Acts 9:42 // Acts 10:45

Acts 11:21 // Acts 11:24

It is amazing, but as the Word kept going out, more and more people were coming to Christ.

Let's turn our attention, in particular, to Acts 8. Take a moment to read the first four verses and then answer these questions:

1. Why was the church scattered?
2. Who, in particular, was scattered?
3. Who was not scattered?
4. According to verse 4, who was spreading the Gospel?

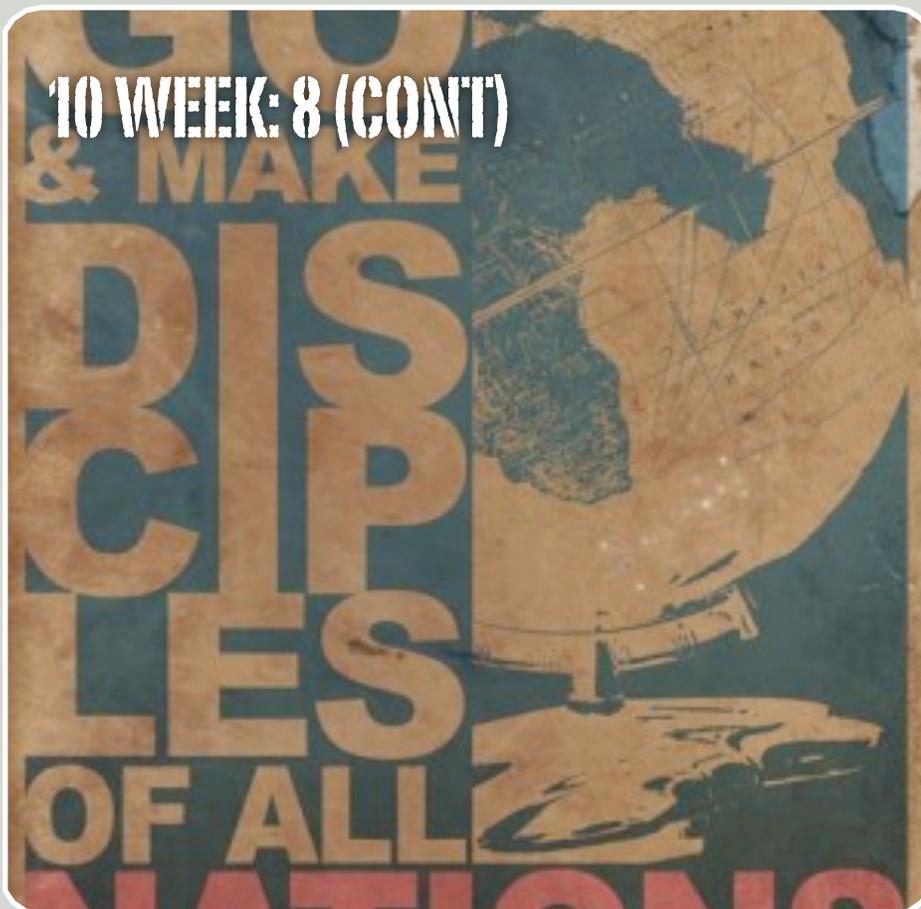
It's interesting that Dr. Luke (the author of Acts) gives us this important insight: During the persecution and scattering of the Believers, the Apostles primarily stayed put, but the rest of the church split AND THEN, "PREACHED THE WORD WHERE EVER THEY WENT." Without hesitation, these new believers shared the Gospel with others.

The believers of the Early Church did not believe that the Apostles/Pastors were the main evangelists -- they all took it on themselves to preach the Word. God was doing great things in Acts, but HE was growing HIS church through the members of the Body, not just the Apostles!

Who are the unsaved people in your circle of influence? Are you reaching out to them? Take a moment and pray for one person on your list. Pray that you will have a heart for him/her and that you will take advantage of any opportunity to share the love of God with them. Pray that they will come to Christ and that God will use you to lead them.

## 10 Week Journey

# 10 WEEK: 8



Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4

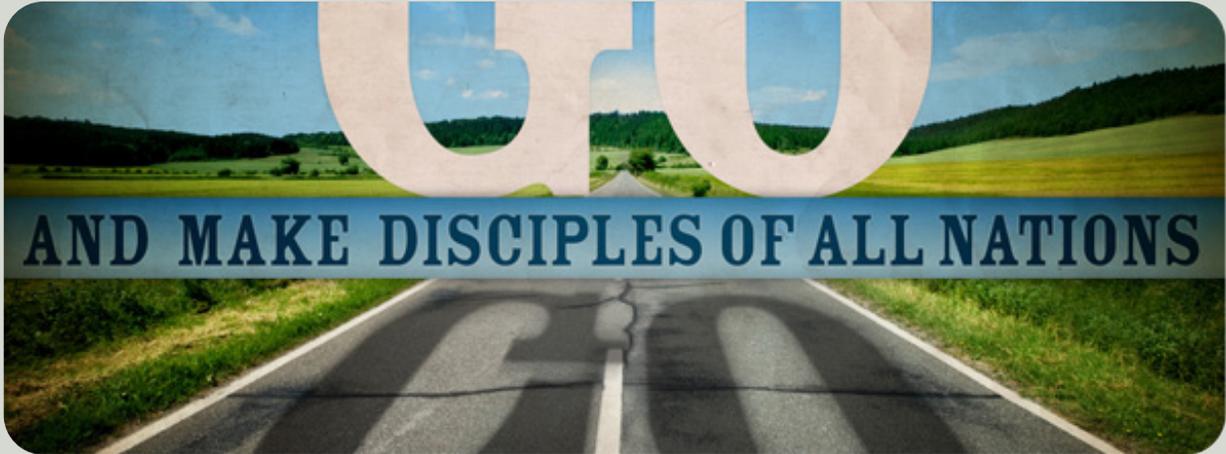


**WEEK 8 ASSIGNMENT**

Continue to pray for that person this week. Go out of your way this week to let that person know that you are praying for them. Make an intentional effort to go and share the Gospel with this person. Invite them to church with you.

Go and make disciples of all nations

Also, this week take some time to listen to the next message from Pastor Joe Castaneda on the CD provided. Take time to reflect on the importance of reaching out to the world around us.



# 10 WEEK: 9



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK NINE

The first 10 weeks are almost over. Keep studying, listening and talking together as we finish up these first 10 weeks. Today, in particular, I hope that you will be challenged to pray for lost loved ones who need Christ!

#### The Lost

Last week, we walked through the book of Acts to see the explosion of growth that took place during the birthing days of the Church. At least in part, we realize that much of the growth that took place, took place because the members of the Body, NOT the church founders, were leading the way in reaching out.

If you have about fifteen minutes today, listen to the second message from Pastor Joe and reflect on the importance of reaching out to the world around us. Think about the people in your life who need Christ and then prepare a prayer list and commit to pray for them.

After listening to the message, spend some time discussing the following questions together. Really think hard about what prevents us from sharing Christ and then begin brainstorming ways to make it happen!

1. Have you shared your hope in Christ with someone lately? If so, share the experience.
2. Do you have any fears about sharing your faith with others? If so, what are they?
3. If you could pick just one, what would be the biggest reason you do not share your faith?
4. What do you think would be the best way to overcome this reason?

Sharing your faith is not easy, but it is not ok to just “skip” that part of the Christian life. You can not just say to God, “I will read my Bible and pray, but it is up to the pastor to witness to people!” God wants you to step out in faith to share your faith.

Before you end you time together today, take a moment and write down the name of three people you know and have contact with that do not know the Lord. Today, begin praying for these people.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### WEEK 9 ASSIGNMENT

This week, pray each day for these three people. Pray specifically:

- for God to give you an opportunity to share your faith with them
- for God to give you the courage to invite them to church even if they say “no” the first 20 times
- for God to begin working in their lives to soften them for the Gospel

# 10 WEEK: 10



## THE 10 WEEK JOURNEY

### WEEK TEN

I pray that these last 10 weeks have been a great time of growth in your relationship with one another and the Lord. This is just the start though. I know that God has much more in store for you this year!

#### Putting it All Together

Start your time today by reading, Acts 2:42-47. Here you find all the components of a great walk with God, in action, in the church. These new believers studied the Bible and listened to godly preaching (42). They prayed (42). They gave selflessly (44, 45). They fellowshiped (46). They witnessed (47). Clearly they were in the Word. Clearly they prayed. And daily, the Lord was adding to their number, so someone had to be out their sharing the Good News!

So how then do we put all that we have looked at the past nine weeks together? Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions:

1. What has been the most powerful lesson that you learned during this 10 week journey?
2. What would you like your discipleship group to do as a result of this 10 week journey?
3. What are one or two changes that you need to make in order to grow in your walk with God?

As you prepare for where God will lead you next in this year long adventure together, take a moment and pray for one another and the changes that you are committing to make in your walks with God.

#### Where to Next?

Our prayer is that as you have grown together over these past 10 weeks that you have seen areas that God is working in both of your lives. So we want to provide you the opportunity to take control of where God is leading you next. As a discipleship group, take some time and discuss where God is leading you to grow next. It may be in a specific area like prayer, manhood/ womanhood, understanding his calling, etc. or it could be to a specific book of the Bible. Where ever you feel God's leading, we would like to resource you to help you continue your growth. So pick an area together that you feel God is leading and then contact me and let me know. I will then get you the resources to continue with next week. May God continue to bless your journey together.

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