**Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day**

**12 June 2021**

**Come, See the Savior of the World**

Sermon prepared by South American Division Women’s Ministries

Written by Pastor Davi França

Includes seminar

**Seven Steps for Sharing Jesus**

Seminar prepared by South American Division Women’s Ministries

Written by Pastors Davi França and Herbert Boger, Jr.



Resource Packet prepared by the Department of Women’s Ministries

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GENERAL CONFERENCE

WORLD HEADQUARTERS



WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

Dear Sister-Leaders,

Joyful greetings. We live in a world that is different from what we used to know. The way we socialize has changed, and we are more cautious with our health and cleanliness all because of Covid-19. Does this mean we can no longer share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others? Most certainly not! The times in which we live call for creative evangelistic methods, and I thank God for giving you my sisters many new ways to reach out to others while keeping safe.

Our theme for Women’s Ministries around the world is “I Will Go Reach My World” and our Women’s Ministries Emphasis Day (WMED) packet is focused on sharing Jesus. The sermon and seminar for WMED encourages us to keep reaching out to others no matter what the world may look like, or what our limitations may be, God will show us creative ways to reach others for Him. Our sermon and seminar writers, Pastor Davi França and Pastor Herbert Boger, Jr., have done an excellent job in both motivating us to share Jesus and showing us ways to share to do so.

Our prayer is that you will continue to make your relationship with Jesus your number one priority, and that out of that relationship you will have a testimony to share and the love of Jesus to give.

With love and joy,



Heather-Dawn Small

Women’s Ministries Director

“I thank God for you…” Philippians 1:3-6

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# Scripture References

**Sermon** references are quoted from New International Version (NIV).

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**Seminar references are quoted from New King James Version (NKJV).**

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# Program Notes

Please feel free to translate, adjust, and edit the resource packet according to your division’s needs, including the best Bible version for your use. Also, you are free to adapt the packet according to your cultural audience. When your division has translated the assigned packet for French, Portuguese, and Spanish, please send us a digital file to share with our sister who need it.

# Children’s Story

GC Women’s Ministries suggests adapting the narrative of the captive maid and Naaman recorded in 2 Kings 5:2, 3 for the children’s story. Although she was young, in a foreign land, and a slave, the captive maid didn’t hesitate to tell others about her God and His power.

This brief narrative illustrates the main points of the sermon by her CAN DO attitude. 1) She didn’t need to be a perfect witness. 2) She didn’t need to know much. 3) She didn’t need to go far. She just needed to start telling about the God of Israel.

Her story also illustrates three points for showing HOW TO share the gospel. 1) She made it her priority. 2) She shared her personal testimony. 3) She focused on the Lord’s power by telling what she knew about the prophet Elisha and his miracles.

# Women in the Bible . . . and Me, Lesson 8

**Peace and Mercy, The Captive Maid and Me**

We have included in the packet the PDF lesson about the little captive girl from *Women in the Bible . . . and Me* and its accompanying PowerPoint presentation. You may find it useful in preparing your children’s story. You could use it as a “warm-up” activity with the seminar, *Seven Steps for Sharing Jesus.* The young girls in your congregation might also enjoy it. Please feel free to adapt it in whatever way is best for you and your congregation.

# Bookmarks

**13 Ministries**

As a reference tool for the many ways we can share Jesus with others, the 13Ministries bookmarks (in two layouts and colors) are included in this packet. We urge you to make it a priorty to invite others to “Come, see the Savior of the World.”

# Outline of Divine Service

**Suggested Order of Service**

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 12:3-6, NIV

**3With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation**.

4In that day you will say:
“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

 **Make known among the nations** **what he has done,**

 And **proclaim** that his name is exalted.

5Sing to the Lord, for he has done **glorious things**;

 **Let this** **be known to all the world**.

6Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

 For **great is the Holy One of Israel** among you.”

**Hymn of Praise:** 423, “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Children’s Offering and Story:** Suggested, the story of the captive maid from 2 Kings 5:2, 3

**Call for the Offering**

**Special Music or Hymn**

**Sermon:** “Come, See the Savior of the World”

**Hymn of Response:** 511, “I Know Whom I Have Believed,” *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

**Closing Prayer**

# Sermon

**Come, See the Savior of the World**

Sermon prepared by South American Divison WM department

Written by Pastor Davi França

**Scripture passage:** John 4:28-30, 39-42

**INTRODUCTION**

 The Gospel of John, chapter 1, records that when two of John the Baptist’s disciples heard him say, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36, NIV), the disciples followed the man John pointed out. When Jesus turned around and saw two men following him, He asked, “What do you want?” (v. 38).

What did these two men want? Did they ask Him to preach His best evangelistic sermon or to give them a Bible study? Did they ask to see His ministerial credentials, or His seminary degree, or even His genealogical tree? No!

They wanted to get to know Him, so they answered, “Where are you staying?” (v. 38). The disciples understood the best way to get to know aa person is to spend time with that person, to ask questions, to hear stories, to be present with him in his own environment.

“Come,” He replied, “and you will see” (v. 39).

The encounter changed the men. Immediately, Andrew invited his brother to meet the Messiah. He didn’t give Simon directions and send him off alone in search of Jesus. Andrew himself brought Simon to Jesus.

The next passage of John 1 records the story of Philip meeting Jesus. Immediately, Philip found his friend Nathaniel and told him, “We have found [Messiah]...Jesus of Nazareth” (v. 45). Then, Philip himself took Nathaniel to Jesus by inviting his friend to “come and see” (vs. 46).

Recorded in John 4 is a story about a woman of Samaria who met Jesus at a well, and she also was changed by the encounter. Although she was an uneducated woman living in sin and had just then been introduced to Truth, she ran to the people she knew and invited them to come, see a man. Then she herself brought the people to Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Today as we emphasize and celebrate women and their ministry, we will learn lessons through the story of the Samaritan woman—a marvelous woman whose name is not even recorded. We will discover that every one of us—man, woman, and child—can do what the woman of Samaria did, what Philip did, what Andrew did, and what Jesus did. No matter where we live, we can invite family, friends, and neighbors to **COME, SEE** Jesus!

**THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

This is a familiar story, and we will only read a portion from the passage in John 4. I am reading verses 28-30, and 39-42 from New International Version.

 *28Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” 30They came out of the town and made their way toward him.*

*39Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.” 40So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two more days. 41And because of his words, many more became believers.*

*42They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”*

The Samaritan woman went to Jacob’s well at noontime to draw water for her household tasks. She expected to be alone, but when she arrived there, she found a man sitting by the well. Usually everything about her day went as she expected it to go. But this wasn’t just another trip to the well. That man wasn’t any other man. That day wasn’t like any other day. From the moment of her encounter with Jesus, the woman was not the same woman.

Like the Samaritan woman, when we meet Jesus, we become changed. When He sends us on a mission, “Go, call your husband” (John 4:16), or “Go, tell your family, your friends, and everyone you meet,” we can do what the Samaritan woman did. We can share how Jesus has transformed us.

One might ask, “Me? How?” Another might argue, “But I didn’t study theology.” Others might claim, “But I can’t go as a missionary.” Many might privately think, “But I have so many problems in my life I have nothing to share.” A few might confess, “But I’m not consecrated enough.” Some might even refuse, “I don’t believe God called me to fulfill a mission.”

The story of the woman at the well shows us that to share the good news about Jesus, we don’t need to be perfect, we don’t need to know everything, we don’t need to go to distant lands.

**WE CAN GO**

1. **TO REACH OUR WORLD, WE DON’T NEED . . . TO BE PERFECT**

The Samaritan woman wasn’t perfect. The fact that she was going to the well to draw water at a time when she would not meet other women tells us that she knew she was far from perfect. Jesus’ statement about her married life reveals she wasn’t perfectly keeping the law. But the greatest evidence of something missing in her heart was the cry of her thirsty soul.

“Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water” (v. 15)

The Samaritan woman was living in sin. Guilt oppressed her heart. Her conscience constrained her mind. Prejudiced looks cut her soul. Going to the well when others were there was more than an embarrassing experience, it was humiliating. Day after day she couldn’t make sense of her existence. She was thirsty for something that water couldn’t quench. She was thirsty for love, for peace, for freedom, for joyous living!

If we were to choose a missionary to go to a region where the gospel had not yet been preached, we would not choose this woman. Indeed, she herself would not even think to join her own congregation in an outreach project. However, she began sharing her experience as soon as she met Jesus. The people to whom she spoke did not yet know Jesus; they only knew her. Her life did not become perfect, but when she met the perfect man, she became a different woman.

Instead of her imperfect life being the excuse, her imperfect life became the very substance of her message.

“Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did!” (v. 29).

To reach our world, we don’t need to **be perfect.**

1. **TO REACH OUR WORLD, WE DON’T NEED . . . TO KNOW EVERYTHING**

The Samaritan woman didn’t know everything about religion. She had just met this Rabbi, and she had questions about the Bible. She was confused about how to worship God correctly. And although she was expecting the coming of Messiah, she wasn’t ready for today’s rendezvous with Him.

“I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us” (v. 25).

In addition to our imperfect lives being an excuse not to go reach our world, lack of knowledge or ability is also an excuse. “I don’t know how to give Bible studies!” “I’m shy, and I don’t like talking to people!” “I don’t know the Bible well!” “I’m too old for that!” “I’m too young for that!” How many of us have heard or said phrases like these? We use our limitations as a limiter to our involvement in ministry.

All we need to know about Jesus is this, He knows everything about us—and loves us still. What matters is not how much we know, but how much of what we know impacts our lives.

We don’t need to know everything about Jesus, we only need to make Jesus known to others.

 “Come, see a man . . . Could this be the Christ?” (v. 29).

To reach our world, we don’t need to **know everything**.

1. **TO REACH OUR WORLD, WE DON’T NEED . . . TO GO FAR**

The impact of the message and the presence of Jesus caused the Samaritan woman to drop her burden at His feet. She left her water jar and immediately returned home. Did she run away in fear? No! She ran away in freedom. She ran to her home and neighborhood freed from her burden and urged people to come with her to the well.

First, she shared Jesus at home by going to get her “husband.” Then she talked about Jesus to her neighbors. Finally, she gave her testimony to her entire city.

The Samaritan woman’s greatest concern was bringing people to Jesus. The disciples’ greatest concern was bringing bread to Jesus, the Bread of Life.

“They came out of the town and made their way toward him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something’” (vs. 30, 31).

 Brothers and sisters, the greatest center of influence for each one of us is with our family and neighbors. They watch us. They know us. The way we live—we preach. They can understand that if Jesus has power to transform our messy lives, He also has power to transform their messy lives.

Our greatest difficulty in going to an unreached region is giving the same excuse we often use to avoid becoming involved in local ministry. “Doors aren’t opening.” “Too many stony hearts are there.” “Everyone has a secularized mind.” These obstacles are presented as barriers for sharing the gospel.

But we must allow Jesus to use our transformed lives to transform the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors.

“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman’s testimony” v. 39.

To reach our world, we don’t need to **go** **far.**

We have learned that we CAN go reach our world, but we do not need to be perfect, we do not need to know everything, and we do not need to go far. The Samaritan woman’s story also shows us that we can make a difference by HOW we invite others to come, see the Savior. We need to prioritize what is most important, we need to share our testimony, and we need to focus on Jesus, not ourselves.

**HOW WE GO**

1. **TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WE NEED . . . TO PRIORITIZE**

The impact of meeting Jesus totally changed the scales of values for the Samaritan woman. Her day’s priority list immediately changed. Despite being important, the water she went to draw was not needed that afternoon because household tasks weren’t as important as sharing the good news. The abandoned water jug is a powerful external symbol of what happened inside the woman’s heart.

When we leave our burden at the feet of Jesus, our priority list transforms from carrying burdens to carrying the good news.

The woman adopted Jesus’ priority list. For Jesus, the harvesting of hearts was more important than eating and drinking. For the Samaritan woman, the saving of souls was more important than drawing water or eating her noonday meal.

If ministry is more important than any other area of our lives, ministry will be part of every other area of our lives.

“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to town” (v. 28).

To reach our world, we need to **prioritize.**

1. **TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WE NEED . . . TO SHARE OUR TESTIMONY**

The woman didn’t preach a sermon; she presented her argument. “He told me everything that I ever did.” The logic is this: the people of the city suspected her lifestyle and judged her. Although Jesus knew everything she had ever done, He loved her still. Despite being simple, her testimony was powerful.

People who knew the Samaritan woman could not deny the sudden transformation they witnessed. Sad eyes that never looked into the eyes of others because of her shame now sparkled because of hope that ignited the fire of her heart.

Although she returned from the well empty-handed, her heart was full, brimming over with joy! By offering living water, Jesus was offering His grace to her. Everyone in town could see that she was, in fact, different.

There is no way to deny the power of a life touched by Christ’s grace. If your life has been transformed by God’s power, you need to share that truth! You need to allow people to see the difference that Christ makes in your life. People need to know that Jesus accepts and offers His grace to them also.

When a person is evangelized, the person becomes an evangelist.

“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves and we know . . . (v. 42).

To reach our world, we need to share our **testimony.**

1. **TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WE NEED . . . TO FOCUS ON JESUS**

The Samaritan woman didn’t say, “I have just had the most incredible personal experience of my life.” She simply said, “Come, see a man.” This is one of the best ways to present a personal testimony. Her testimony aroused curiosity, but the focus of her message was the person of Jesus.

Our mission is to show the Savior to the world. Even when using our—testimony, or various resources and strategies to attract people’s attention, the center of our message is Christ. We must talk about His life, death, and resurrection, His ministry and soon return to take us home.

We ourselves must see Jesus and focus on His Word before we ask others to come and see Him.We must live out God’s Word.

“And because of His words, many more became believers” (v. 41).

 To reach our world, we need to **focus on Jesus**.

**THE WORKING OF A PRACTICAL FAITH**

Ellen G. White writes about the experience and ministry of the Samaritan woman.

As soon as she had found the Saviour the Samaritan woman brought others to Him. She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. The disciples saw nothing in Samaria to indicate that it was an encouraging field. Their thoughts were fixed upon a great work to be done in the future. They did not see that right around them was a harvest to be gathered. But through the woman whom they despised, a whole cityful were brought to hear the Saviour. She carried the light at once to her countrymen.

This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages.,* p. 195.1,2).

In our day, God is still using women who are willing to go reach the world. Everywhere, people are finding Jesus through women who rise up and say, “’Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did’ and loves me still.”

Listen to this story of a woman who demonstrates the impact a woman makes when God empowers her for nurture and outreach. She said, “I will go reach my world,” and it allowed her to make a difference in South America.

**I WILL GO REACH MY WORLD: Ana Stahl**

[You may replace for a local story.]

Ana Cristina Carlson Stahl was born in Switzerland in 1870 and immigrated with her family to the United States at age sixteen.

She married Fernando Stahl in 1892, and the following year, they read the book, *The Great Controversy,* by Ellen G. White, purchased from a missionary bookseller. He also gave them Bible studies. Through the bookseller’s influence, the Stahls began keeping the Sabbath and Fernando stopped smoking.

When Fernando was fired from his job, he and Ana realized they wanted to work in an environment with opportunity to introduce people to Jesus. The transformation of their own lives was reason enough to say to others, “Come, see the Savior of the world. He saved us, and He can save you.” They began to pray, asking God to help them fulfill their dream. They took a step of faith and enrolled in nursing school together.

In 1909 while working as nurses in Ohio, they heard Pastor Joseph W. Westphal, the president of the Church for South America, appealing to people to become missionaries to the continent. This was the answer to their prayer! They would go as evangelizing nurses, or perhaps nurse evangelists! The Stahls traveled by boat to Peru to share the gospel even though they didn’t know a single word of Spanish*.*

Ana and her husband offered medical assistance and established schools and churches. They gave instructions for better agricultural and sanitation practices. They obtained government aid for the Indians. They mediated tribal conflicts and helped other missionaries and humanitarian workers. They carried out many other deeds during their work in South America. Tens of thousands of people were brought to Christ through their effort. Ana and her husband Fernando Stahl are still remembered by Adventists and non-Adventists alike for their effective ministry.

Even today, 110 years after they arrived in Peru, the Andes Range community sing songs about the Stahls. Many children are named Ana and Fernando in Peru and Bolivia. Churches, schools, and missions are also named after Ana Stahl, such as Ana Stahl Clinic, in Iquitos, Peru, and the Stahl Center for World Missions, at La Sierra University in California. Books are written about Ana, keeping her story alive, inspiring women from generation to generation to go reach the world.

Many women make a difference every day at home in the lives of their families and churches. They change neighborhoods, cities, regions, and even nations by their work and influence. When we invite others to come, see the Savior of the world, we make a difference.

**WE ARE CALLED TO GO REACH OUR WORLD**

No matter who we are, we **CAN** invite others to come, see the Savior of the world. **HOW** we share Jesus with others is made effective by our own personal experience with Him.

You and I have received the call to go reach our world. Don’t let your imperfections, lack of knowledge or skills, or impossibilities stop you. Prioritize your mission, share your testimony, focus on Jesus, and be a living reminder of Jesus wherever you go! Without a doubt, when you do this, others will believe in Jesus because of your transformation!

Do you, women and men, desire to leave this sacred assembly today declaring the same words as the Samaritan woman? **“Come, see** a man who told me everything I ever did” (v. 29). Do you long to introduce your family, friends, and neighbors to Jesus because of what He’s done for you? Will your loved ones have opportunity to say, “Now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is **the Savior of the world”** (v. 42)?

Let us stand and pray that God gives us opportunities and courage to respond, “Here I am. Send Me. I will go reach my world.”

# Seminar

**Seven Steps for Sharing Jesus**

Seminar prepared by South American Division WM department

Written by Pastors Davi França and Herbert Boger, Jr.

Objective: Train participants for Personal Ministries.

Scripture passage: John 4:28-30, 39-42

Opening Prayer

**COME, SEE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**

The woman at the well began bringing people to Jesus the moment she realized He must be Messiah. She invited everyone, family, friends, and enemies to come with her to see her Savior. She was certain everyone would feel the same way as she did.

We will learn seven specific steps for sharing Jesus with others. These steps will help your congregation grow. But first, consider this question.

How do churches grow? The answer is twofold.

* Churches grow when a planned process satisfies the physical, mental, social and spiritual needs of the community.
* Churches grow when members discover that outreach satisfies their own needs for spiritual, social, mental, and physical growth.

Not only does outreach grow the church, but—outreach also grows the members.

“As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with the quickening influence of God’s grace; our own affections will glow with more divine fervor; our whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful” (*Christ’s Object Lessons,* p. 354.2).

**SEVEN STEPS FOR SHARING JESUS**

1. **INTERCESSION**

Paul’s Prayer of Intercession

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:2-6, NKJV).

Look at individual phrases in the intercessory prayer modeled by Paul.

* “Continue earnestly”
	+ praying for someone with whom to study the Bible
	+ praying in vigilance with thanksgiving
* “That God would open to us a door”
	+ requesting the opportunity to share the word
* “To speak of Christ”
	+ teaching Bible studies
* “In wisdom”
	+ calling people
* “With grace”
	+ making disciples

If we do not pray for someone this year, next year could be too late for that person.

1. Praying is the foundation and makes all the difference.
2. Prepare a list of known and unknown people who may be interested.
3. Believe that, in answer to the prayer of intercession, God will open the door for the Word.
4. **FELLOWSHIP**

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23, NJKV).

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’” (*The Ministry of Healing,* p. 143.3).

Following the Savior’s example, the New Testament Church met the needs of the people, in the name of Jesus. These first disciples showed interest in people as a whole person: physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually (see Acts 3:6; Acts 6:1-4).

Remember these three procedures in ministering to the whole person.

1. Use the infallible Christ’s method (desire their good, mingle with them, minister to them with compassionate sympathy, win their confidence).
2. Fulfill the 11th Commandment (love them).
3. Keep an eye on the perceived needs and on the real needs.
4. **BIBLE STUDIES**

“It is very hard to get any hold of the people. The only way that we find to be successful is in holding Bible readings, and in this way the interest is started with one or two or three; then these visit others and try to Interest others, and thus the work moves slowly as it has done in Lausanne” (*Evangelism,* p. 410.2).

1. The Approach – Give personal testimony about the power of the Bible in your life:
* MY TESTIMONY—How my life was before knowing Jesus
* MY LIFE LESSONS—How I realized I needed Jesus
* MY BIBLICAL HAPPINESS—How I commit my life to Jesus
* GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION—How Jesus makes a difference in my life every day
1. The Content – Center it in Christ
* “Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:11, NKJV).
* “The very first and the most important thing is to melt and subdue the soul by presenting our Lord Jesus Christ as the Sin Bearer, the sin-pardoning Savior,” (White, *Temperance,* p. 105.4).
* “Christ is the center of all true doctrine. All true religion is found in His word” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students,* p. 453.3).
* “’Jesus only’—in these words is contained the secret of the life and power that marked the history of the early church” (*Acts of the Apostles,* p. 64.3).
* “Every soul united to Christ will be a living missionary to all around him” (*Evangelism,* p. 319.1).
* “If the truth could have been presented in a different manner, […] would have been charmed by its clearness and would have taken hold upon it” (*Testimonies for the Church,* v. 3, p. 426.4).
1. The Objective – Lead to a decision

Leadership Network interviewed 104 leader pastors of the most innovative churches of the North American continent. When the study finished, it was asked to Warren Bird, the researcher, what his conclusions of these conversations had been. He said, “the most significant is this: the leaders of these churches are seeking a new type of result, a way to find out what winning means, especially when making disciples” (*Formadores de Heróis*, p. 172).

1. **DISCIPLESHIP**

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2, NKJV).

Five stages of learning:

* I do it. You watch. We talk.
* I do it. You help. We talk.
* You do it. I help. We talk.
* You do it. I watch. We talk.
* You do it. Someone watches.

Discipleship must fulfill these three needs:

1. To stay connected – Communion
2. To grow – Relationship
3. To give fruits – Ministry (spiritual gifts)
4. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

“There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together, and unite with earnestness their petitions to God. In these small companies Jesus is present, the love of souls is deepened in the heart, and the Spirit puts forth its mighty energies, that human agents may be exercised in regard to saving those who are lost.” (*Lift Him Up*, p. 358.5).

Spiritual growth occurs in fellowship with other believers. Sabbath school groups provide discipline for growth:

1. Spiritual strengthening
2. Feeling of belonging
3. Emotional support
4. **BAPTISM**

Baptism is a public commitment.

1. It fulfills the Master’s command.
2. It is an opportunity for testimony.
3. It is a high point in the road of discipleship.

Encourage these four steps as a new believer prepares for baptism.

1. On the day of your decision, pray for five friends to invite to your baptism.
2. On the day of your baptism, offer to give them Bible studies.
3. Form a two-person team with your Bible instructor in order to study the Bible with one or more of your friends.
4. Replicate the same cycle with new friends… multiplying disciples.
5. **MULTIPLYING BELIEVERS**

Jesus commissioned His twelve apostles to make disciples. The same commission to multiply believers is for us today. Practice these three steps as you follow your commitment:

1. Provide mentorship.
2. Give the challenge for outreach.
3. Celebrate new disciples.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and eaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Teach the following discipleship practices during each Bible study:

* Spiritual – Put God first; prayer and Bible study (Sabbath School lessons).
* Healthful – Practice the eight natural remedies.
* Financial – Include planning and personal/family budget.
* Evangelistic – Train in two-person teams to give Bible studies to others.

**CONCLUSION**

* Pray until you find someone to whom to teach the Bible.
* Request wisdom to make disciples.
* Pray and ask to lead them to baptism.
* Form a new two-person team with the new convert.

**CHARGE**

* The only visits that God can bless are those we make.
* The only literature that God can bless is those we give.
* The only prayers that God can answer in favor of others are those we pray.
* The only Bible studies that God can bless are those we give.
* The only evangelism seminars that God can bless are those we teach.
* The only kindness acts that God can bless are those we practice.

**COMMITMENT PRAYER**

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