



# Following Jesus Fishing for people

*Getting Started*

# INTRODUCTION

*Follow me, and I will teach you how to fish for people.*

Jesus (Mark 1:17)

When Jesus gathered his first group of disciples together he gave them a command and a promise. He commanded them to follow him. A follower is someone who has put their full trust in Jesus and surrendered to him as their king.

Jesus also promised to teach his disciples to fish for people — to make new disciples of others.

These studies are for people who want to follow Jesus and fish for people.

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# 7 Commands

# 1. SHARE THE GOSPEL

*And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.*

Jesus (Mark 16:15)

## 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: Skip this if it's your first meeting.
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.* What does it mean?

## 2. Look up

New Lesson:

- Read or tell the story of the Demoniac: Mark 5:1-20
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the Story from Mark 5:1-20.
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?
- **Alternate/Additional story for this command – John 4:4-42**

## 3. Look forward

- Practice: Learn the **One-One-One** method of sharing your story. See instructions on page 12.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share your story with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

## 2. PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM

*If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'*

Jesus (Luke 10:8-9)

### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go..."* What does "Therefore, go" mean?

### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from Mark 1:14-20
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from Mark 1:14-20
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Make a Relational Map. Learn to add the **Bridge** diagram to your one-minute story. See instructions on page 13.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share your story with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

### 3. REMAIN IN JESUS

*Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

Jesus (John 15:5)

#### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations"* What does "make disciples" mean?

#### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from John 15:1-11
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from John 15:1-11
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

#### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Reading and obeying God's word is a vital part of remaining in Jesus. See Page 14.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

## 4. PRAY

*Jesus said, "This is how you should pray:  
"Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon.  
Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation."*

Jesus (Luke 11:2-4)

### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations"* What does "make disciples" mean?

### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from Luke 11:1-13
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from Luke 11:1-13
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Disciples need to learn to pray. Write out Luke 11:2-4 in your own words. Use the chart on page 15.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

## 5. BECOMING CHURCH

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.*

Luke (Acts 2:42)

### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.* What does it mean?

### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from Acts 2:36-47
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from Acts 2:36-47
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Becoming church. Work through the Church Circles exercise on page 16.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).



## 6. LOVE

*Jesus replied, “‘You must love the lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

Jesus (Matthew 22:37-39)

### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Read Matthew 28:18-20. *And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.* What does it mean?

### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from Luke 10: 25-37
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from Luke 10:25-37
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Find Persons/Houses of Peace. Complete worksheet on page 17.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, “What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you’ve learned? Who do you think he wants you to share with this week?”
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

## 7. STICKING THROUGH SUFFERING

*But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard."*

Luke (Acts 4:19-20)

### 1. Look back

- Mutual Care: Is there something you can thank God for from this past week? What problem, challenge or stresses have you faced? (Share in two's or three's and then pray for each other)
- Worship: Read a Psalm, sing a song/s, or pray prayers of praise
- Loving Accountability: How did you go putting into practice what you learned last week? Were you able to share the gospel with anyone?
- Vision Casting: Who can recite the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20? What are the six parts of the Great Commission we have talked about over the last six lessons? What part has impacted you most?

### 2. Look up

- Read or tell the story from Acts 4:1-31
- Retell the story in pairs.
- Read/re-read the story from Acts 4:1-31
- What does this story teach us about Jesus and God?
- What do we learn from the people in this story?
- Is there an example to follow or a command to obey?
- How will you put into practice what you have learned from this story?
- Do you know someone who needs to hear this story?

### 3. Look forward

- Practice: Read over the Three-Thirds Discipleship on Pages 18-19. Practice writing it out.
- Goal Setting: Take time to pray. Ask, "What do you think God wants you to do as a result of what you've learned? Who do you think he wants you to share with this week?"
- Prayer: Record your response in your progress book. Share your response with someone else and pray for each other (in two's or three's).

# 7 Skills

# 1. SHARING YOUR STORY

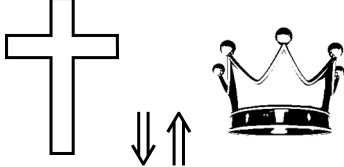
*But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.*  
Jesus (Mark 5:19-20)

Now that you have started following Jesus, it's time to tell others about your new life. Here is an easy way to tell your story in one minute. It should include what your life was like before you started following Jesus, how you were introduced to Him, and what life became like after you surrendered your life to Him. Your story should end with a question that would lead to further discussion on how they can receive Christ as Lord and Saviour.

**One story:** Instructions below...

**One minute:** Share your story in one minute or less.

**One question:** Ask the person you're sharing with this question: ***Have you ever received God's forgiveness and made Jesus King of your life?*** This gives them the opportunity to surrender their life to Jesus.

Before	How	After
<p>Think of two words that describe your life before Christ. Use these two words in two or three sentences to talk about your life before Christ.</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost</li> <li>Angry</li> <li>Confused</li> <li>Purposeless</li> <li>Lonely</li> <li>Afraid</li> <li>Drugs</li> <li>Apathetic</li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Tell how you were introduced to Jesus and started following him. Include these essential elements of the gospel in your story: Jesus lived a perfect life, he died on a cross to forgive me, he was buried, and he rose from the dead. I surrendered my life to him and started following him.</p>	<p>Think of two words that describe your life after you started following Jesus. Use these two words in two or three sentences to talk about your life with Jesus now.</p> <p>Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direction</li> <li>Courage</li> <li>Peace</li> <li>Hope</li> <li>Purpose</li> <li>Freedom</li> <li>Passion</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question:</b> Would you like to receive God's forgiveness and make Jesus king of your life? Or, Have you ever received God's forgiveness and made Jesus king of your life?</p>		

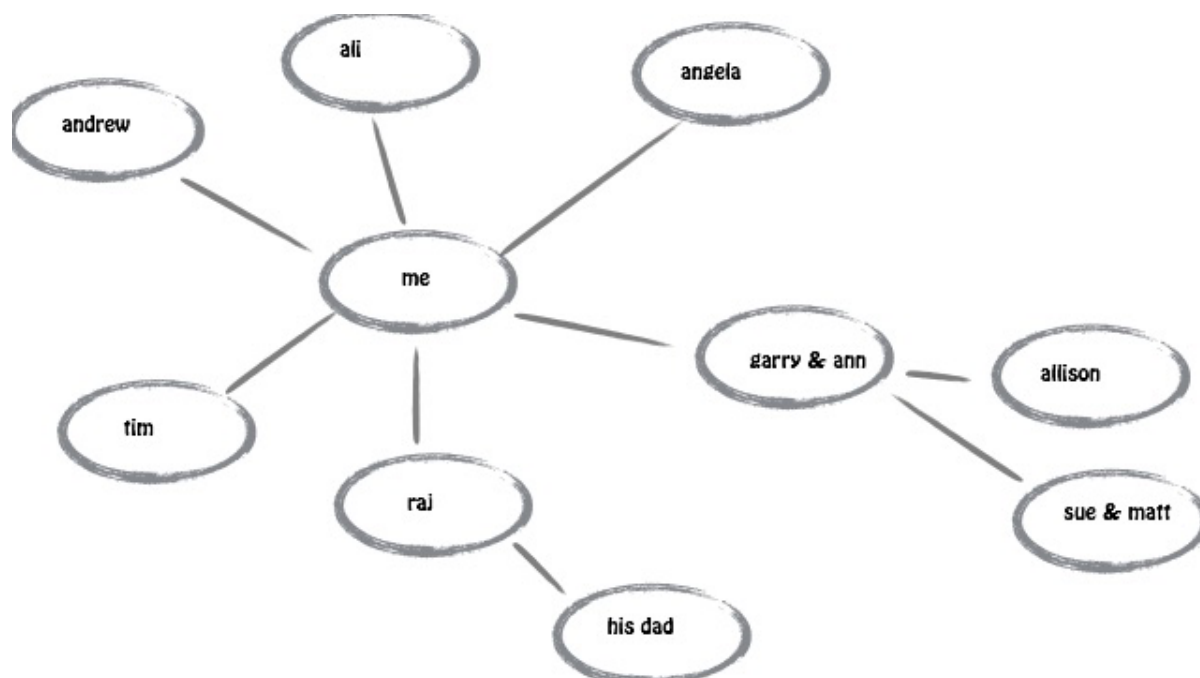
Practice, practice, practice...

Who will you share your one minute story with this week?

## 2. MAPPING YOUR WORLD

A good place to begin sharing your story and God's story is with the people you know — your circle of relationships including family, friends, coworkers, and neighbours.

1. Write your name in the centre of a piece of paper and draw a circle around it.
2. Add the names of people you know and love that are far from God and draw a circle around their names and a connecting line to you for each one.
3. Add the names of people they are related to who are also far from God.
4. List five people you can pray for every day for a total of at least five minutes. Place that list where you will see it every day — on a bathroom mirror, or the dashboard of your car, or on the refrigerator.
5. Pray daily for them and seek opportunities to share with them.



Who will you share your story with this week?

**BRIDGE DIAGRAM** – Draw the bridge with your One-One-One testimony below...

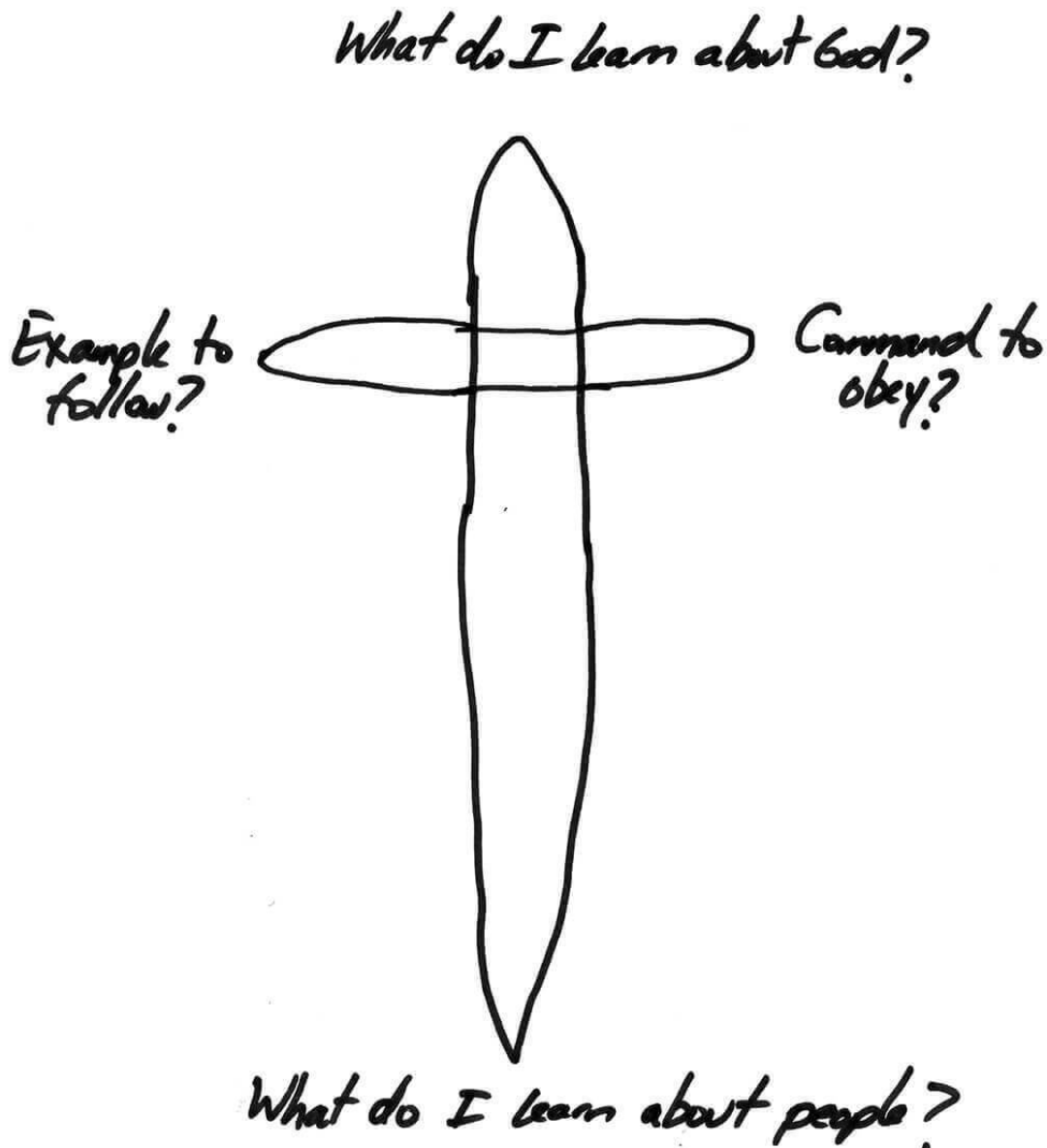
### 3. READING GOD'S WORD

Reading and obeying God's Word (The Bible) regularly is a vital for remaining in Jesus.

If you are new to reading the bible a good place to start reading is the gospel of Luke and then the book of Acts. Aim to read 20 chapters a week. Some will read more, others less.

**Sword Method** - Below is a way to read the bible called the Sword Method with four simple questions to help you understand and apply what you read.

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12*



## 4. JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY

- Write out Luke 11:2-4 in your own words.

Jesus' Words	Your Words
Father, may your name be kept holy.	
May your kingdom come soon.	
Give us each day the food we need,	
And forgive us our sins,	
As we forgive those who sin against us.	
And don't let us yield to temptation.	

- Use Jesus' teaching on prayer as a guide for praying. Don't just recite the words, instead pray around each theme.
- Set a time each day to pray and to listen to God. When will you pray?

## 5. BECOMING CHURCH

Three important aspects of being church are:

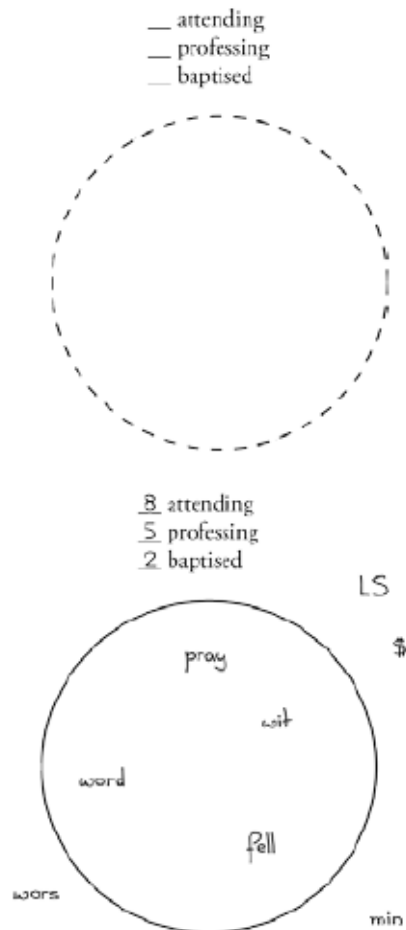
- **Covenant** – a group of baptised followers of Jesus who recognise themselves as Christ's body and are committed to meeting together regularly.
- **Caring Leaders** – As a new church develops leaders are appointed according to biblical standards (Titus 1:5-9) and exercise mutual accountability including church discipline.
- **Characteristics** – In Acts 2 we see a number of characteristics of the church.

### CHURCH CIRCLES

Fill in the blanks (sample below). Are we as a group committed to meeting together regularly? If 'yes', draw a solid line.

Discuss whether the following **characteristics** are present in your group. If 'yes', place the abbreviation inside the circle. If 'no', place the abbreviation outside the circle.

- Worship (**wors**) – exalting and enjoying God's presence
- Fellowship (**fell**) – loving care for one another
- Offerings (**\$**) – to meet needs as an act of worship
- Prayer (**pray**) – communicating with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Word (**word**) – studying and OBEYING the scripture as authoritative
- The Lord's Supper (**LS**) – eating and drinking in remembrance of Him
- Witness (**wit**) – living out a commitment to share the gospel with the world
- Minister (**min**) – meeting the needs of others



There are probably characteristics outside the circle. Develop a plan to include these in your life together.

Key questions:

- Are you a church? You may want to choose a name...
- What do you need to do to become a church?
- When will you do this?
- Commit to a plan and pray...



## 6. PERSON OF PEACE SEARCH

Jesus was always on the move. He was often meeting new people and visiting new places.

In Luke 10:1-11 Jesus explained to his disciples how to connect with lost people. Jesus sent his disciples to seek out those insiders whom the Spirit had prepared to receive the message. He called them persons of peace.

The person of peace becomes a doorway for the gospel to enter and spread throughout a community. They are

1. Receptive to the messenger
2. Receptive to the gospel
3. Well connected relationally

Read Luke 10:1-11 and fill in the table below.

Messenger does

Person of Peace does

As a church set aside some time to go out praying and looking for persons/houses of peace.

## 7. THREE THIRDS DISCIPLESHIP

A disciple is someone who is following Jesus and learning how to fish for people. Here is a simple way of gathering with other disciples to learn how to follow and fish in three parts.

### First Third: Look back

#### 1. Mutual Care

- Share any highlights or lowlights since you last met.
- Pray for any needs in the group.

#### 2. Worship

- Find a simple, relevant way to worship God. For example:
- Read a passage of the Bible and respond to God in prayer.
- Sing songs of worship.

#### 3. Accountability

*Follow*

- How did you obey the lesson from last time?

*Fish*

- Did you pray with anyone who was in need?
- Who did you share your story and/or Jesus' story?
- Did you find a person of peace?

#### 4. Casting vision for reaching lost people and making disciples.

- Focus on things that are on the heart of Jesus, like the Great Commission.
- Pray for people you know who are not following Jesus.

### Second Third: Look up

#### 5. New lesson

Read or tell the Bible story or passage.

- Without looking at the text, retell the passage in your own words.
- What does the passage teach us about God?
- What does it teach us about people?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow?

## Final Third: Look forward

### 6. Practice

- What practical skills do we need to master?

### 7. Set goals and pray

- What do you need to do this week to obey what you've learned?
- Who can you share the gospel with and/or disciple?
- It is helpful to keep track of your own goals and progress in a simple notebook.
- Pray.

## The Three Thirds outline

Look back	Look up	Look forward
<p><b>1. Mutual care:</b> How are you doing?</p> <p><b>2. Worship:</b> Praising God in a simple, relevant way.</p> <p><b>3. Accountability*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow:</i> How did you obey the lesson from last time?</li> <li>• <i>Fish:</i> Did you pray with anyone who was in need?</li> <li>• Did you share your story and/or Jesus' story?</li> <li>• Did you find a person of peace?</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Casting vision*</b> for reaching lost people and making disciples.</p>	<p><b>5. New lesson:</b> Enough Biblical content to obey and pass it on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term discipleship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Commands</li> <li>• 7 Skills</li> <li>• Church formation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Life long discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Thirds Discipleship</li> <li>• Discovery Bible Study</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>6. Practice*</b> the lesson until everyone is confident and competent to apply the learning. eg. Retell your story, Jesus' story, or this week's story.</p> <p><b>7. Set goals and pray:*</b> Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.</p>

If time is short, make it a priority to cover the sections with an asterix\*

Read over the outline above, and then see how much of it you can write out from memory.

# Next

# DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN: MARK

Use the Discovery Bible Study method to work through the Gospel of Mark. When you have finished Mark, continue to work through the Bible using the Discovery Bible Study method.

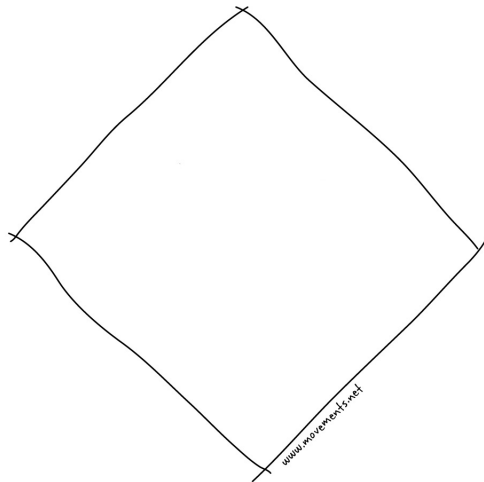
1. Mark 1: 1-8
2. Mark 1:9-15
3. Mark 1:16-20
4. Mark 1: 21-28
5. Mark 1: 29-34
6. Mark 1: 35-45
7. Mark 2: 1-12
8. Mark 2: 13-17
9. Mark 2: 18-28
10. Mark 3: 1-12
11. Mark 3: 13-19
12. Mark 3: 20-30
13. Mark 3: 31-35
14. Mark 4: 1-20
15. Mark 4:21-25
16. Mark 4:26-29
17. Mark 4: 30-34
18. Mark 4: 35-41
19. Mark 5: 1-20
20. Mark 5: 21-24; 35-43
21. Mark 5: 25-34
22. Mark 6: 1-6
23. Mark 6:7-13
24. Mark 6: 14-29
25. Mark 6: 30-32
26. Mark 6: 33-44
27. Mark 6: 45-52
28. Mark 6: 53-56
29. Mark 7: 1-13
30. Mark 7:14-23
31. Mark 7: 24-30
32. Mark 7: 31-37
33. Mark 8: 1-10
34. Mark 8: 11-21
35. Mark 8:22-26
36. Mark 8: 27-38; 9:30-32
37. Mark 9: 1-8
38. Mark 9: 9-13
39. Mark 9:14-29
40. Mark 9: 33-37
41. Mark 9: 38-50
42. Mark 10:1-12
43. Mark 10: 13-16
44. Mark 10: 17-31
45. Mark 10: 32-34
46. Mark 10: 35-45
47. Mark 10: 46-52
48. Mark 11:1-11
49. Mark 11: 12-18
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58. Mark 13:1-8
59. Mark 13:9-13
60. Mark 13: 14-27
61. Mark 13: 28-37
62. Mark 14:1-10
63. Mark 14:11-21
64. Mark 14:22-26
65. Mark 14:27-31
66. Mark 14:32-42
67. Mark 14:43-52
68. Mark 14:53-65
69. Mark 14:66-72
70. Mark 15:1-15
71. Mark 15:16-47
72. Mark 16: 1-8
73. Mark 16: 9-13
74. Mark 16:14-20



# WHAT JESUS STARTED

There are six elements that characterize the movement that Jesus founded and still leads today.

1. Jesus saw the need. He was moved with compassion. He looked out over Israel and saw sheep, lost without a shepherd. He prepared his disciples to take the gospel to the whole world.
2. Jesus connected with people. Jesus spent his time ministering to people—looking for the “sick” not the “healthy,” “sinners” not the “righteous”. He sought out people who knew they needed God’s mercy.
3. Jesus shared the gospel. Jesus proclaimed the good news of salvation in words and deeds. In him, God’s rule had become a present reality. He preached, he taught, he rebuked, and he invited everyone he met to repent and believe. He gave his life as a ransom for many.
4. Jesus trained disciples. Jesus led people to put their trust in him and to learn to obey his commands. He modeled and taught them a new way of life.
5. Jesus gathered communities. Jesus formed his disciples into communities characterized by faith in him, love for one another, and witness in word and deed.
6. Jesus multiplied workers. Jesus equipped his followers to make disciples of all nations. He sent the Holy Spirit upon them so that they would continue his ministry in his power.



From memory, redraw and explain the Movements diagram.