

Kingdom of God
Discipleship Program
Manual
Volume 1



The *Kingdom of God Discipleship Program* provides the opportunity to come into a greater knowledge of the glory of the Lord and His great love, and be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God, empowering others to do likewise as they journey through life, so that the world may know Him.

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Introduction

God does everything out of love to reconcile, restore and renew all things to Himself.

*He's relational, He's intimate and He's personal.**

For everyone to get the most out of these sessions I ask that you:

- expect to hear from God
- ask questions
- share your thoughts and discuss
- write your answers on the handout sheets
- and, most of all, enjoy the journey.

God's Plan

God's saving purpose, planned from before the beginning of time, is to gather together in one all things, in heaven and earth, in Christ Jesus under His rule and reign. God in Christ Jesus restores harmony and peace to the universe. In Him, we are one with Him.

Ephesians 1:9-10 *...having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (NKJV)*

To Make Disciples

Jesus gave His authority to His followers (disciples) so that as they journey through life, by His Spirit they would 'make followers (disciples)'.

Matthew 28:18-20 *So he came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time. (ERV)*

Discipleship starts with knowing God and His love for you, by knowing who He is, what He has done and what He will do. Spending time with Him in His Word, in His presence, in worship, in prayer and in fellowship with other believers, helps us to know God.

As we journey through this discipleship program, I pray in Jesus' name, that by His Spirit, you will come into a greater knowledge of the glory of the Lord and His great love for you, and be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God, so that the world may know Him. Amen

*All quotes can be followed on Twitter @InEveryStep

Session 1: Seeing the Unseen

The Creator God is relational. His Word is personal.

His presence intimate. His creation testimonial.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God's desire to reveal Himself to us.

Group Discussion

Discuss what are the different ways God reveals Himself to us? Write the answers on your handouts.

Read **Psalm 19:1-6** and **Romans 1:20**

Read **Hosea 12:10**

Read **Genesis 31:11**

God reveals Himself to us in creation. [Includes nature, prophets of God and angels of God]

Read **Deuteronomy 4:35-39**

Read **Genesis 15:1**

Read **2 Kings 5:1** and **2 Kings 5:14-15** and **John 9:1-7**

God reveals Himself to us in miracles. [Includes signs and wonders, visions and healings]

Read **Luke 24:27** and **John 20:31**

Read **Psalm 33:6-9**

God reveals Himself to us in His Word. [Includes written and spoken word]

Read **John 1:14-18, 14:6-7** and **Hebrews 1:1-4**

God reveals Himself to us in Jesus.

Read **John 16:13-15** and **1 John 5:6**

God reveals Himself to us by His Spirit.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences how God has revealed Himself to them.

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ask someone to give thanks to God that He wants to reveal Himself to us.

Session 2: To Know Him

*The Creator God transcends time and space dimensions,
yet makes Himself personal in our time and space existence.*

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God's greatness.

Introduction

We learnt in the first session the different ways God reveals Himself to us. When we read and study the Bible - God's personal love letter to us - we learn much about Him. Even the first words, *'In the beginning, God created...'* reveals to us that, whatever and whenever the beginning was, God was there, and He created. To know God more we will study three visions of God recorded in the Bible.

Bible Study - Visions of God - Ezekiel

God reveals Himself according to the need of the one He is revealing Himself to. We will study the vision of God given to Ezekiel.

The Context of the Vision

Ezekiel, from the tribe of Jews, was a prophet and priest. Ezekiel, together with the rest of the Jews at this time in history, were captives in a foreign land (**Ezekiel 1:1**). They were far away from their own place of worship, the city of Jerusalem. The Jews were a rebellious people who were worshipping foreign gods. So God sends a word picture by way of a vision to His prophet and priest Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 1:3**).

Read **Ezekiel 1:15-21**

Meditate on this Bible passage and continue reading it more than once.

Group Discussion

Discuss what are the five things listed in this Bible passage. Write the answers on your handouts.

Verse 15 Living Creatures

Verses 16-17 Wheels - moving from one place to another.

Verse 18 Eyes

Verse 19 Earth - the wheels are lifted up over the earth.

Verse 21 Spirit

To help us to not give the wrong meaning to the text, ask the following questions of the text:

Who are the people in this text? Read **Ezekiel 1:1-3**

Ezekiel, God, Captives (Jews), Chaldeans

Who is talking?

'I' Ezekiel.

Who is this person talking to? Read **Ezekiel 1:28-2:5**

Jews.

How do the people interact with each other?

God reveals Himself in a vision and then speaks to Ezekiel. Ezekiel watches and listens.

Where did the drama take place?

In the foreign land of the Chaldeans by the river.

When did this drama take place? Before or after Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high?

When Israel was held captive in the land of the Chaldeans. Before Jesus became flesh and blood.

What does a wheel represent?

Today, a wheel on the Indian flag is used to represent life in motion or the cycle of life where time has no beginning or no end.

In the context of the vision of God given to Ezekiel, what could the wheels in motion represent about God?

God is an everywhere God. He is not restricted to the temple in Jerusalem, or one region or country. God is an everywhere God. He has no beginning and no end. God is eternal... a God over all time and space dimensions.

In the context of this vision of God given to Ezekiel, what could the eyes represent about God?

God sees everything, including their rebellion, their weaknesses, their fleshly desires, their worship of other gods even when done in secret (**Ezekiel 8:12**). Yet, God still wants to set His people free of such bondages.

Why was it written?

God gave Ezekiel encouragement by revealing Himself to be the God of all the earth, all knowing, all seeing and all powerful. Even in a foreign land, God is with Ezekiel and the Jews (**Ezekiel 11:16**) and wants to set His people free from their fleshly desires and worship of other gods (**Ezekiel 11:17-25**).

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God is the same yesterday, today, forever. He is the God of everywhere, all knowing and all seeing, wanting to set people free from the bondage of their own flesh and worship of other gods. There still are people today who are rebellious, in bondage to their own flesh and worship other gods.

What does this mean for us today? Discuss as a group.

Knowing that God is the God of everywhere, all knowing and all seeing, means that no matter where we are, no matter our weaknesses, no matter our circumstances, God is with us. He wants to reveal Himself to us and care for us.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God transcends time and space dimensions. He is with His people no matter where they are and what situation they find themselves in. God is allowing Himself to be seen to assure Ezekiel and the Jews He is with them in this foreign land. God is not limited to circumstance. He is always interested in being with us, in relationship with us, forever seeing, looking out for us, ever knowing...those who will come to Him and those who will reject Him, yet He still pursues in love. Jesus died for all, yes, even those He knew would never follow Him. Oh what love!

What is your personal, practical response/prayer?

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ask someone to give thanks to God that He wants to reveal Himself to us.

Session 3: Making Himself Personal

God is relational. His communication personal.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God wants to reveal Himself to us, reaching down to us according to our need.

Bible Study - Visions of God - Jacob

As we have learnt God reveals Himself through different methods of communication. God reveals Himself according to the need of the one He is revealing Himself to. We will study the vision of God given to Jacob.

The Context of The Vision

Jacob, from the tribe of the Jews, was the son of Isaac and Rebekah. Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah. Both Abraham and Isaac received a personal promise from God. Jacob had cheated his elder brother out of getting the elder son blessing. As a result Jacob's mother Rebekah told Jacob he must flee from his brother's anger. It was also time for Jacob to have a wife so Isaac sent Jacob to Rachael's family tribe to seek a bride.

Read **Genesis 28:10-22**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations of this Bible passage. Write the answers on your handouts.

To help us to not give the wrong meaning to the text, ask the following questions of the text:

Who are the people in this text?

God, Jacob and angels of God.

Who is talking?

God.

Who is that person talking to?

Jacob.

How do the people interact with each other?

God reveals Himself in a vision and then speaks to Jacob. Jacob watches and listens.

How does God introduce Himself to Jacob? **Read verse 13**

'I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac.'

What does the way God introduces Himself tell us about His relationship with Jacob?

Jacob did not have a personal relationship with God. Jacob knew of the God of his father, but had not experienced God for Himself.

What did God promise Jacob in **verse 15**?

God promised Jacob that He is with Jacob, He will keep Jacob safe wherever he goes, and will bring Jacob back to this land; God will not leave him.

Where did the drama take place? **Read verse 19.**

In a city called Luz, now renamed by Jacob as Bethel.

Where was the ladder set up and **where** did the ladder go to? **Read verse 13.**

The ladder was set up on earth and went to heaven.

In the context of this vision of God given to Jacob, what could the ladder represent?

The ladder represents God's relationship with people. God reaches down from heaven to earth, bringing Himself to us. God gave Jacob a personal experience of Himself, a vision from earth where he lived, looking up to heaven, where God lives.

When did this drama take place - before or after Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high?

Before Jesus became flesh and blood.

Why was it written?

Through the true story of the tribe of Jews and their relationship with God, we learn much about God. God gave Jacob a personal experience of Himself. Knowing of God as the God of His father or father's father is not enough. Now Jacob knows God for himself and as a result receives his own personal promise.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God is the same yesterday, today, forever. God reveals Himself personally and according to our need. Each individual must choose for themselves who they will worship.

What does that mean for us today?

Jacob had a vision of God reaching down from heaven to him on earth. God came down to earth in human form of flesh and blood. Son of Man, Son of God, Jesus Christ (the Anointed One).

In **John 1:51** Jesus makes reference to His disciples that they will see heaven open and the angels descending and ascending on the Son of Man (Himself). Heaven is open through the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Today through Jesus Christ, by His Spirit, we can know God personally. We have access to God directly. No matter what our circumstances God is waiting.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God reveals Himself to the individual according to their need. Jacob needed to experience God for himself. It is not enough to know of the God of our fathers. Even when Jacob had done wrong, in his most lonely time, God still wanted to reveal Himself to Jacob and bless him. God is a relational God. He is a personal God. He is a loving God, ready to bless. He is a faithful God and will fulfil all His promises.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

Ask someone to give thanks to God that He wants to reveal Himself to us.

Session 4: The Time is Now

Behold the One His eyes like fire! Those who receive Him see love, light, life.

Those who reject Him see damnation, darkness, death.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare Jesus is the way to heaven.

Bible Study - Visions of God - John

As we have learnt God reveals Himself through different methods of communication. God reveals Himself according to the need of the one He is revealing Himself to. We will study the vision of God given to John.

Context of the Vision

John was exiled for his belief. The church was under persecution. The most ruthless and mighty empire of man was in power...the Romans. In a situation of oppression and isolation, John received a revelation of God in all His majesty, love and power. God was and is and is to come on the throne and His power is greater than all evil and all man's empires throughout the ages of time combined. John and all believers can be assured the end of evil is coming. Jesus has defeated it. Evil is on borrowed time. God is waiting for all those who will come to Him freely before evil is no more.

Let us look at just a small part of the revelation of Jesus and the things which take place.

Read **Revelation 4:1-11**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss the things listed in this Bible passage verse by verse. Write the answers on your handouts.

Verse 1 Open door in heaven.

Verse 2 In heaven a throne and One who sat on the throne.

Verse 3 Rainbow around the throne.

Verse 4 Around the throne twenty-four thrones with twenty-four elders sitting on those thrones.

Verse 5 Thunder, lightening and voices from the throne. Seven lamps = seven spirits of God.

Verse 6 Sea of glass. Four living creatures full of eyes.

Verse 7 First living creature like a lion. Second living creature like a calf. Third living creature like a face of a man. Fourth living creature like a flying eagle.

What do the four living creatures say day and night? Read **Verse 8**

'Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!' (NKJV).

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God All-Powerful. He always was, he is, and he is coming.' (ERV).

What do the twenty-four elders do when the four living creatures worship He who sits on the throne? Read **Verses 9 - 10**

Fall down before the One who sits on the throne and worship Him.

What do the twenty-four elders say as they worship the One who sits on the throne?

Read **Verse 11**

'Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honour and power. You made all things. Everything existed and was made because you wanted it.' (ERV).

Door open to heaven: The door that John sees is symbolic of Jesus' perfect blood sacrifice that has washed us clean. When we have received Jesus' blood sacrifice of Himself, we also have the Spirit of God within us, His presence upon us and around us.

Because of Jesus, God who became flesh and blood, became one of us, sacrificed His life, rose and ascended on high, at the right hand of the Father God, so that by His Spirit, we have access into the throne room of God.

Time now, in this world damaged by evil, in spirit we have access into the throne room of God, for continual meeting, fellowship, counsel, relationship, love and revelation.

Time future, our hope is that we will have access into the throne room of God in our resurrected perfect bodies, where we will see Him face to face. There will be no more tears, no more pain, no more ageing, no more sickness. Everything will be perfected in the fullness of time.

To help us to not give the wrong meaning to the text, ask the following questions of the text:

Who are the people in this text?

John, the voice, God (One who sits on the throne), the four living creatures, twenty-four elders, seven spirits of God.

Who is talking?

John the writer, the voice (verse 1), the four living creatures (verse 8) and the twenty-four elders (verse 11).

Who is that person talking to? Read **Revelation 1:4**

John is talking to believers at the time and throughout the ages.

Read **Revelation 4:1**

The voice is talking to John.

Read **Revelation 4:8**

The four living creatures are talking praise to the One who sits on the throne (God).

Read **Revelation 4:11**

The twenty-four elders are talking praise to the One who sits on the throne (God).

How do the people interact with each other?

John in the Spirit enters heaven, looks and listens to the voice, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders worship the One who sits on the throne (God).

Where did the drama take place? Read **Revelation 1:9** and **Revelation 4:1**

Island of Patmos and heaven.

When did this drama take place - before or after Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high? Read **Revelation 1:17-18**

After Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high.

Why was it written?

To reveal the One true God - almighty, all powerful, eternal, all knowing, holy - the One who rules and reigns, created all things, is faithful and worthy of all praise and worship. To encourage all believers through the ages that through Jesus (the open door) we have access to heaven, to the One who sits on the throne, anytime or in any circumstance.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God, almighty, all powerful, eternal, all knowing, holy - the One who rules and reigns, created all things, is faithful and is worthy of all praise and worship.

What does that mean for us today?

When we receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, spiritually we can enter into His presence, come boldly to His throne in heaven anytime. Even in times of struggle, isolation and persecution God reigns supreme and God makes Himself available to us at anytime.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God is almighty, all powerful, holy - the One who rules and reigns, creator of all things and is worthy of all praise and worship. Symbolically Jesus is the way to heaven, the open door.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences what God has been speaking to them about, from the vision of God sessions.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 5: For God So Loves

Knowledge is power. Knowing the power of His love.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare the love of God.

Bible Study - The Love of God

As we have learnt the Creator God was, and is, and is to come, a relational God. God does everything out of love because God so loves. This love of God is a love beyond our own understanding. We will study some aspects of the love of God from His story, His true love story, the Bible.

Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-8**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss what aspects of the love of God are listed in this Bible passage verse by verse.

Write the answers on your handouts.

Verse 4 Patient (waits a long time without anger), kind, does not envy, does not brag, is not proud.

Verse 5 Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not made angry and thinks no evil.

Verse 6 Does not rejoice in evil, but rejoices in the truth.

Verse 7 Never gives up on people, never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits.

Verse 8 Love never fails and will never end.

Who is the source of this love? Read **1 John 4:7-10**

Group Discussion

Discuss how the love of God has been revealed to us in this Bible passage? Write the answers on your handouts.

God loves us so much that He sent His Son to be the flesh and blood sacrifice for us, take our punishment, so that we might live through Him.

To help us to not give the wrong meaning to the text, ask the following questions of the text.

Who are the people in this text **1 John 4:7-10**?

John the writer, believers (beloveds), Jesus (Son of God) and God.

Who is talking?

John the writer.

Who is this person talking to?

John is talking to believers at the time and throughout the ages.

How do the people interact with each other?

John writes a letter to believers.

When did this drama take place - before or after Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high?

After Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high.

Why was it written? Read **1 John 1:1-4**

John the writer was an eye-witness to when Jesus became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high. So that the joy of the believer can be full, John writes and testifies that, in believing and receiving Jesus' blood sacrifice, their sins are forgiven and they are clean.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God, His never ending love, His eternal sacrifice and forgiveness for all time past, time present and time future evil we have said, thought and done against God and each other.

What does that mean for us today?

When we receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, we are spiritually clean and eternally forgiven for all time past, time present and time future of all evil we have said, thought and done against God and each other. God's love is never ending. In God's love we can trust.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God is love, perfect love.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences, what does knowing that God's love for them is never ending, mean to them?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 6: Love of the Father

It pleased the Father, that all the fullness of Godhead live in Jesus, and by Him, to reconcile all things to Himself.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare the love of God.

Bible Study

God was, and is, and is to come, in perfect relationship with Himself. The Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, are a complete oneness, three persons in one. One God. We will study the love of the Father from His story, His true love story, the Bible.

The love of the Father is so great He gives everything to the Son.

Read **Colossians 1:19-20**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of the Father from this Bible passage. Write the answers on your handouts.

The Father is very pleased to have all the fullness of the Godhead revealed to us in Jesus. Through Jesus becoming the flesh and blood sacrifice, all creation can be reconciled to Him, given peace. Without Jesus there is no perfect peace.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God - His love, His fullness revealed in Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice.

No peace without Jesus.

What does that mean for us today? Read **Colossians 1:21-22**

When we receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice we are no longer an enemy of God. We are now in harmony with God, accepted as we are, and in relationship with God, presented to God as holy and without blame. We cannot be accused in God's eyes.

Read **John 3:16-17**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of the Father from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

The love of the Father is so great. He gave us everything in Jesus, who became flesh and blood, died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended on high. God gave Himself to save the world, to be the eternal flesh and blood sacrifice for all the evil things we have ever said, thought or done against God or people.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God and His love. Evil.

What does that mean for us today? Read **John 3:18**

We are forever saved from judgement and punishment. We are no longer condemned.

We have eternal life.

Read **John 3:35**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of the Father from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

The love of the Father is so great that He gives everything to Jesus, the Son.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God, His love and His giving character.

What does that mean for us today? Read **John 3:36**

Whoever believes in Jesus, God the Son, has eternal life.

Read **1 John 3:1**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of the Father from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

God loves us so much He has given us everything in Jesus. We are His child. He is our Father who loves us equal to the love for His Son.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God, His love and all those who believe and receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice are a child of God.

What does that mean for us today?

We are a child of God, accepted as we are, adopted into His family, forever receiving His love.

Read **Colossians 1:12-14**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of the Father from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

The Father loves us so much He has qualified us through the flesh and blood sacrifice of His Son, to receive all that Jesus has, was, is and is to come. Joint heirs in Christ as a child of God.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

God, His love, His giving character, the eternal flesh and blood sacrifice of His Son.

What does that mean for us today?

We receive all that Jesus has, was, is and is to come. We are free from the powers of darkness.

We are in the Kingdom of God, His Kingdom of light, joint heirs with Jesus.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

The love of the Father.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences, what does knowing how much the Father loves them mean to them?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 7: Love of the Son

God made Himself personal in love, so we can be relational with Him in love.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare the flesh and blood sacrifice of Jesus.

Bible Study

God was, and is, and is to come, in perfect relationship with Himself. The Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, are a complete oneness, three persons in one. One God. We will study the relationship of the love of the Son of God, Jesus.

The love of Jesus is so great He gave up everything to become our flesh and blood sacrifice. Yet, to know personally of His love more and more each day helps us receive all the fullness of life, love, truth and power that is from God and is God.

Read **John 10:14-18**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of Jesus from this Bible passage. Write the answers on your handouts.

Jesus' love is so great. Jesus has the power to lay down His own life or not, yet He chooses to lay down His own life, which is the will of the Father. For God so loves. He gave us everything in Himself. Jesus gave up everything and chose to become flesh and blood, die on the cross, rise from the dead and ascend on high. God gave Himself to save the world, to be the eternal flesh and blood sacrifice for all the evil things we have ever said, thought or done against God or people. Jesus continues to give of Himself, His resurrected life, love, truth, and power and authority over the evil spirits and our flesh, each and every day. He is our good shepherd.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences, what does knowing that Jesus is their good shepherd mean to them?

Read **Psalm 23**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss what Jesus the good shepherd does for you. Write the answers on your handouts.

Jesus always provides everything I need.

Jesus gives me rest and food.

Jesus refreshes me and gives me living water.

Jesus restores and renews my spirit, mind and body.

Jesus leads me into knowing His rightness and justice, for His own reputation.

Even if I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I have no fear, because Jesus is with me.

Jesus comforts me with His love, His relationship with me and His ultimate power and authority.

Jesus prepares a feast for me for all my enemies to see. Jesus makes me His honoured guest.

Jesus anoints me with His never-ending abundance of Himself and all God's goodness.

Without doubt God's mercy follows me all my life, in time now as flesh and blood. Forever and ever I will live with God.

What are some of the things in the text that are the same today?

Jesus is the good shepherd who continues to give Himself to His sheep.

What does that mean for us today?

We can rest in Jesus, who He is, what He has done, is doing, and promises to do.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God in Jesus gives us all of Himself because He so loves.

How strong is this love of God in Jesus? Read **Romans 8:39**

God's love for us in Jesus for us is greater and stronger than anything, including our own weaknesses and the evil of this world.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 8: Love of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come!' Let all who hear say come.

Let all who are thirsty come. Let all who desire living water take freely.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare the love of God.

Bible Study

God was, and is, and is to come, in perfect relationship with Himself. The Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, are a complete oneness, three persons in one. One God. We will study the relationship of the love of the Holy Spirit.

The love of God is so great it is beyond our understanding. The love of the Holy Spirit never points to Himself. Instead He reveals, confirms, transforms and dwells within us, so we experience the love of the Father and the love of the Son Jesus, personally, powerfully and intimately.

Who does the Holy Spirit witness of, and bring glory to? Read **John 16:13-15**

Jesus.

How is the love of God poured into our hearts, personally, powerfully and intimately?

Read **Romans 5:5-8**

By the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

Read **Romans 8:14-16**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the love of The Holy Spirit from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

The love of God is so great, that once we receive Jesus' free gift of Himself, we receive the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit within us. We are children of God and God is our loving Father.

All believers are 'sons of God' (male and female) because they receive His Spirit.
The words 'sons of God' reveals the type of relationship with God we now inherit.
This adoption is as the first born son of royal blood, with all the legal rights of the first born son. Therefore we become equal heirs with Jesus, the King of the Kingdom of God.

Testify

Ask each person to share in two or three sentences, what does knowing that they are a child of God (as first born son of royal blood) mean to them?

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God in Jesus gives us all of Himself, He gives us His Spirit of adoption, because God so loves.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 9: Acceptance As I Am

Found in His love. Accepted as I am. Bound for eternity. In fullness of life.

I'm changed forever. By the great I AM.

Opening Prayer

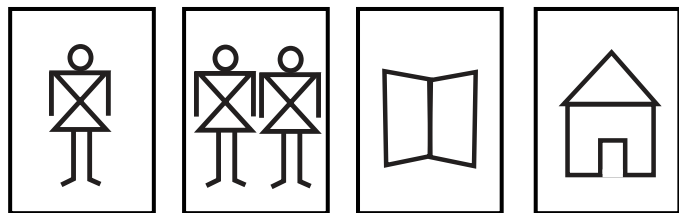
Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare I am accepted by God as I am.

Four Cards Workshop

Step 1: Each person takes a blank sheet of paper and cuts it into four pieces. Each person is to draw on the front of their card a picture to represent each item listed below.



Card 1 = Myself. Card 2 = My Family. Card 3 = My Education. Card 4 = My Village

Step 2: Each person is to describe themselves, their family, their school and their community through simple drawings and words on the back side of each of their four cards. No names are to be put on the cards.

Card 1: How do I feel about myself? (Draw a happy or sad face.) Do I feel loved? Do I feel accepted by my community? What am I good at? What do I like doing? What is my favourite animal? What is my favourite food? What are my dreams? What am I scared of?

Card 2: Who is in my family? What is the health of my family? Who or what god does my family believe in? What are those in authority over me like? (Draw a happy or sad face.)

Card 3: How do I feel about my life? (Draw a happy or sad face.) What is one thing I learnt when I was a child? What was the person who taught me this like? What was my favourite subject or topic to learn? What was the hardest subject or topic to learn? What was the easiest subject or topic to learn? Where are the places I don't feel safe? Where are the places I feel safe?

Card 4: What do I like about where I live? What don't I like about where I live? What do the older people do where I live? How do the older people help me?

Step 3: After each person has completed the information above on their cards they are to give the cards to you. Keep them in their sets of four.

Step 4: Give each person a set of four cards that are not theirs. Everyone's identity is to remain a secret and no one is to know whose set of four cards they have been given.

Step 5: One by one each person shares with the group the set of four cards they have been given.

Group Discussion

Discuss the results of each set of cards.

What patterns or relationships are there between how each person feels about themselves and their circumstances?

What are some of the differences between each person?

We all want to be accepted. We all want to be loved. When we seek acceptance or love from others, they and this situation has the power to control us.

Read **Genesis 29:31-35**

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about Leah and God. Write the answers on your handouts.

Verse 31 What did God know about Leah?

She was unloved.

Verse 32 What was Leah hoping would happen as a result of having a boy baby?

Her husband would love her.

Verse 33 Did Leah's husband love Leah as a result of her having a boy baby?

No.

Verse 34 After having three boy babies did Leah's husband love her?

No.

Verse 35 After having four boy babies what did Leah say?

Now I will praise the Lord.

God sees our need to be loved, to be accepted. God gave Leah her hearts desire to have a boy child, to reveal to her how much God Himself loves her. God also had a place for her in His plan. Through her fourth boy comes the tribe from which Jesus, God who became flesh and blood, comes from.

When we know how much we are loved by God, how He accepts us as we are, how beautiful we are in His eyes, and that He chose us before the creation of the world to be part of His plan, it is then that we are truly set free as we no longer seek other people's love or approval.

We live in the now reality that His love and His approval is more than enough.

Read **Romans 15:7** and **Acts 10:34**

What is the one thing you learn about God from these verses?

God accepts all people as they are. He accepts me as I am.

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:28** *'Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry. I will give you rest.'* (ERV)

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 10: Identity - Born of Spirit

God: Spirit born of flesh and blood, to be the flesh and blood sacrifice for all who are born of flesh and blood, so they as flesh and blood can be born of Spirit.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare I am born of Spirit, a child of God.

Bible Study

As we have learnt, all believers who receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself receive the Spirit of God - the Holy Spirit within. This is our time now inheritance, we are a child of God (as a first born son of royal blood), joint heirs with Jesus, living in the Kingdom of God here on earth, in a world damaged by evil.

God chose to become one of us because He loves us, and in that moment in history, Jesus, through the seed of the Holy Spirit, became born of a woman as flesh and blood, so that we who are born of flesh and blood, through believing and receiving Jesus' perfect eternal flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, are born of Spirit.

Read **John 1:12-13**

We will study why man born of flesh and blood needed to be born of Spirit from God's story, His true love story, the Bible.

Read 1 **Corinthians 15:47-51**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the first man (born of flesh and blood) and the second Man (Jesus of Spirit who became born of flesh and blood) from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

What is the first man made of?

Dust.

Whose image, likeness and identity do we have before we receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself?

The first man - man of dust.

Whose image, likeness and identity do we have when we receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself?

The second man - Lord from heaven - Jesus.

This is our time now inheritance. We have the identity of Jesus, flesh and blood born of His Spirit - the Holy Spirit, a child of God (as a first born son of royal blood), joint heirs with Jesus, living in the Kingdom of God here on earth, in a world damaged by evil.

Read **1 Corinthians 15:50-55**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the identity of man made of dust (born of flesh and blood) and Jesus of Spirit (who became flesh and blood) from this Bible passage. Write the answers on your handouts.

What is the nature and identity of man born of flesh and blood?

Ruined, dishonest and perishing, and destined for death.

What is the nature and identity of Jesus?

Never ruined, honest, ever-lasting, destined for life.

The first man became a seed that is ruined, by choosing to digest, partake and become one with the evil one's deception and the knowledge of evil and good. As a result all people are born with this nature that is ruined. The second man Jesus, through the seed of the Holy Spirit, a seed that is never ruined, became born of a woman as flesh and blood. Jesus the perfect flesh and blood sacrifice.

Read **Romans 5:14-19**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the results of man made of dust (born of flesh and blood) and the results of Jesus of Spirit (who became flesh and blood) from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

What is the result of the first man's offence?

Verse 16 Judged guilty.

Verse 17 Death reigned.

What is the result of the second man's free gift of Himself to all who receive Him?

Verse 16 Made right, free from guilt.

Verse 17 Life reigning in Jesus.

Read **Colossians 2:13-15**

What is the result of the first man's offence?

Verse 13 Dead in offences against God and fellow man and trapped in corrupt selfish desires of the flesh that ruin.

What is the result of the second man's free gift of Himself to all who receive Him?

Verse 13 Made alive with victory over the selfish desires of the flesh that is ruined because we are forgiven of all offences.

Verse 14 No longer accused.

Verse 15 Victory over all principalities and powers, who are defeated and now powerless prisoners.

This is our time now inheritance. Free from punishment of death, judgement and guilt, we are made right and reign in this life over our flesh, all the evil spirits and all powers that stand against Jesus' rule and reign. No longer can satan or the evil spirits accuse us because all their power and weapons have been stripped from them by Jesus' victory on the cross.

We are flesh and blood born of Spirit, made alive living in Jesus' victory, in this world damaged by evil.

We also have a time future inheritance.

Read **1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations about the results of man made of dust (born of flesh and blood) and the results of Jesus of Spirit (who became flesh and blood) from this Bible passage.

Write the answers on your handouts.

Who is risen from the dead?

Jesus.

Who will be risen from the dead in perfect bodies that never age, never get sick, never wear out, when Jesus returns to this world in all His glory?

All those who believe and receive Jesus' free gift of Himself, His flesh and blood sacrifice, as they are a child of God, born of Spirit.

Read **Revelation 1:18**

Who of Spirit became the perfect flesh and blood sacrifice, died, became alive in a perfect resurrected body, ascended to heaven, is alive forevermore and has the power over death and eternity?

Jesus.

Read **Revelation 1:5-6**

Who is the faithful witness, the first resurrected body, the highest power and ruler over all?

Jesus.

Why did Jesus do all this for us?

Because He loves us.

When we believe and receive Jesus' free gift of Himself, His flesh and blood sacrifice, in addition to being a child of God, born of Spirit, **what** do we become?

Kings (rulers over satan, the evil spirits and our own flesh) and priests (love relationship with God and others).

Jesus' resurrection was the first physical perfect body resurrection, so we could not only live in victory now in a world damaged by evil, but can live in future hope of our eternal state, being of perfect resurrected bodies that never age, never wear out, never die, in a renewed world not damaged by evil. When Jesus returns to the earth we who have received Jesus' free gift of Himself, His flesh and blood sacrifice, will inherit our perfect resurrected bodies.

This is our time future inheritance. Because God so loves, Jesus chose to become flesh and blood, through the seed of the Holy Spirit, born of a woman. He came into His own creation. As a result of man's offence, God's creation became damaged by evil. Inequality, oppression, evil and death reigned. For God so loves, Jesus came as the first Son of inheritance, so we can all be sons, born of Spirit from flesh and blood, to receive all our inheritance, time now and time future. Hallelujah!

What is the one thing you learn about God from this session?

God so loves and Jesus life as flesh and blood, death and resurrection is God's testimony and proof.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 11: Acceptance in the Beloved

Two human needs: wanting to be accepted and wanting to be loved.

God made us accepted (with special honour) in the Beloved (in Jesus most loved).

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare I am loved by God, given special honour and blessings in Christ.

Bible Study

As we have learnt, all believers who receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself receive the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit within. This is our time now inheritance. We are a child of God (as a first born son of royal blood), joint heirs with Jesus, living in the Kingdom of God here on earth, in a world damaged by evil.

God chose to become one of us because He loves us, and in that moment in history, Jesus, through the seed of the Holy Spirit, became born of a woman as flesh and blood, so that we who are born of flesh and blood, through believing and receiving Jesus' perfect eternal flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, are born of Spirit.

We will study the Father's love, blessing, will (heart's desire) and saving purpose for eternity from His story, His true love story, the Bible.

Read **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations. Write the answers on your handouts.

What is God's will and plan that He has revealed to us? Read **verses 9-10**

In the fullness of time all things are one in Christ, both which is in the heavenly realm and in the earthly realm.

What has God the Father given us (time past), so in time now we already possess? Read **verse 3**

Every spiritual blessing.

Where is this blessing?

In the heavenly places.

Who are we in or at one with to receive all this?

Christ Jesus.

In time now, as Christ is seated in a place of authority in the heavenly places, so are we.

In time now, as Christ is we have every spiritual blessing. The next verses outline some of the details of these blessings.

Who are we in Christ (time now), given to us by God the Father (time past)? Make it personal and write I am before your answer. Read **verses 4-5**

Example: I am chosen in love, holy, without blame and adopted as son, accepted (as I am) in the beloved (most loved), in my Father's will as this is His heart's desire.

Jesus is God's 'beloved' Son, the supreme object of the Father's love. We too are 'the sons' of His love, accepted (as we are). We are living in the time now, spiritual reality of the perfect love relationship between the Father and the Son. We are His heart's desire.

Who are we in Christ (time now), given to us by God the Father (time past)? Make it personal and write I am before your answer. Read **verses 7-8**

Example: I am redeemed and forgiven for all eternity by Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, with a never ending and over abundance of God's favour.

Who are we in Christ (time now), given to us by God the Father (time past)? Make it personal and write I have before your answer. Read **verse 11**

Example: I have taken hold of my inheritance (time now) as this was my God-given destiny and His heart's desire.

Who are we in Christ (time now), given to us by God the Father (time past)? Make it personal and write I am before your answer. Read **verses 13-14**

Example: I am sealed by the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing fulfilment of my inheritance (time now and time future).

Remember in time now, as Christ is seated in a place of authority in the heavenly places, so are we. In time now, as Christ is we have every spiritual blessing.

Read **Ephesians 1:21-23**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations. Write the answers on your handouts.

How much power and authority does Jesus have in time now and time future? Read **verse 21**

Above all principality, power, might, dominion and everything that is named.

Who is the fullness of Jesus? Read **verse 23**

All believers who received Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself.

Who is the fullness of all believers who received Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself?

Christ Jesus.

Read **Ephesians 2:4-8**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations. Write the answers on your handouts.

What do we have in Christ Jesus in time now? Read **verses 5-6**

Made us alive together with Christ. Raised us up to sit together in the heavenly places, in Christ's power and authority over our flesh desires and satan and all the evil spirits.

Why did God make us alive and raise us up to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ's power and authority? Read **verses 4-8**.

Because of God's great love towards us. Through all this God can reveal His never ending love, kindness, over abundance of favour and riches of blessing towards us.

Read **Ephesians 1:15-19**

What does the Apostle Paul pray for the saints?

Verse 17 That God will give them the Spirit of wisdom so that they will know Him better.

Verse 18 That God will open their minds to see His truth more, to know the hope and blessings (in time now and time future) for all those who believe and receive His flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself, who are His glorious inheritance.

Verse 19 To know the greatness of His power.

What is the one thing you learn about God from this text?

God's love, power and abundance of blessing is never ending. He sees me as His praise and glory.

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 12: Relationships

Seminar delegate: 'Learnt vine relationship, time receiving from Jesus, surrendered to Father's will, this is most important for me.'

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare oneness in Jesus, or the vine and branches relationship with Jesus or living in Jesus' love.

Story

IMAGINE you are a branch of a large vine.

You are connected to the main stem of the vine, surrendered to the will of the gardener.

All you are doing is just hanging there, nothing else, just hanging from the main stem.

Now because you are hanging to the main stem, all the goodness of the vine is naturally flowing from the roots, through the main stem, into you. Its water, its nutrients; everything from the vine is flowing into you.

All you are doing is hanging out with the vine, receiving its goodness.

One day, you feel a 'tingling' sensation. You discover you have grown.

Little bunches of fruit start to form. Pop (love), pop, pop (joy, peace), pop, pop, pop (patience, kindness, goodness), pop, pop, pop (faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

As the sun beats down and the rain pours over you, on the inside is the soothing flow of the living waters and nutrients from the vine. How is this happening? You haven't been doing anything!

All you are doing is hanging out with the vine, receiving its goodness.

That is the will of the gardener.

In the natural, water flows from high to low, rain, rivers, puddles etc. A vine needs water to live. Without water it will die. For a branch to receive water it has to drink from the main stem - receive from the main stem. To live and bear fruit the branch must drink water.

As it is in the natural so it is in the spiritual as God created all things.

In the spiritual, the Living Waters flow from high to low from the throne of God through Jesus to the branches. Branches don't drink from the rain - it goes into the soil and the branches actually drink from the main stem, receiving all the goodness of the vine from the root and main stem.

Read **John 15:1-8**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations.

Write the answers on your handouts.

Who is the gardener?

Father God

Who is the main stem of the vine?

Jesus

Who is a branch off the main stem of the vine?

Me

What does abide mean?

Jesus says to abide in Him. Abide means to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain or stand.

How can I abide?

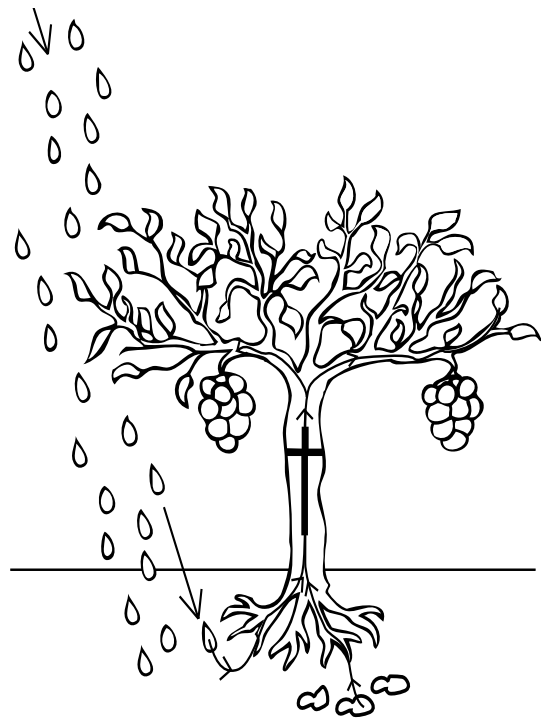
Write your answer in your workbook.

In the natural to live and bear fruit the branch must also eat nutrients or food.

Read **John 4:27-38**

Context

In this scripture Jesus is talking to an outcast woman. At this time past, a person from the tribe of Jews did not speak to a person from the tribe of Samaritans, especially a woman who was an outcast from her own people, but Jesus (in flesh and blood form was from the tribe of Jews) reached out to this outcast woman, talked to her about the Living Waters (Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit) and reveals to her who He is, the source of these Living Waters. When Jesus'



disciples return Jesus teaches them what His food is and about the harvest field.

In between reaching out to the outcast woman, revealing who He is and talking about the harvest field of those yet to know Him, Jesus reveals what His food is.

What did Jesus say His food is that sustains Him?

To do the will of the Father and finish the work He is sent to do.

As it is in the natural so it is in the spiritual as God created all things.

Spiritually when we are surrendered to our Father's will, as we spend time with Him in His presence, in worship, in His Word, receiving from Him all His goodness, by His Spirit we will be transformed more and more each day.

When we receive from Jesus, surrendered to the Father God's will, whose image are we being transformed into? Read **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

Jesus.

What does Jesus declare will happen if we drink of the Living Waters, surrendered to our Father's will?

Read **John 15:8**

Fruit is guaranteed. *As it is in the natural so it is in the spiritual as God created all things.*

When we surrender to our Father's will and drink daily in His presence the Holy Spirit will change us to become more like Christ. His character becomes our character. The Jesus tree produces Jesus fruit. The fruit of the Spirit.

What is the spiritual fruit and divine nature or characteristics of Jesus that we receive from Him, when surrendered to the Father God's will? Read **Galatians 5:22-23**

Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Who produces the fruit?

God the Father, the gardener, through Jesus Christ the Son, by His Holy Spirit.

When we have a revelation of how much God loves us, in His presence surrendered to our Father's will, He will reveal more of Himself to us as that is His will and we will be full of the fullness of God. As we are in His presence each day, receiving from Jesus, surrendered to our Father's will, He will change us, as this is His will.

What is the one thing you learnt about God from this session?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 13: Relationships - Acceptance of Others As They Are

Reconciled (bring into agreement). Restored (bring back to a state of health, soundness and vigour). Renewed (revive and make effective).

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God's love and transforming power.

Ten Seeds Group Practical

As we have learnt, the most important relationship we have is with God. If we are surrendered to our Father's will and spend time with Him, receiving all His goodness, each day God will change us into the character of Jesus.

God cares about our emotions, how we feel, how we are treated by others and how we treat others.

Group Practical

Everyone is to sit in a circle looking at each other. In the middle of the circle place the 10 seeds worksheet (copy from page 45 of the *Kingdom of God Program Manual*) for everyone to see.

Beside the worksheet place 10 seeds of rice or chana or any other seed available. The number of people in the circle is the number of your group. It can be any amount of people from three to 12. If more than 12 make two groups. If more than 24 make three groups and so on.

Each group is to have 10 seeds and a 10 seeds worksheet placed in the middle of the group.

Each person - one by one - is given the opportunity to speak to the group. Each one has equal voice. Each person is of equal importance. Each person works as an important part of the group. Each person shares with their group which column on the worksheet they believe their community sees them. Either their community sees them of no value, or their community sees them of some value, or their community sees them of great value.

It is most important everyone understands that there is no shame on the person in how the community sees them. How the community sees a person is a result of many things, most of which are out of that persons' control. The correct answer is: how you believe the community sees you.

Once each person has shared which column (no value or some value or great value) they believe the community sees them in, everyone in the group discusses how to represent the findings of their group by placing the 10 seeds into the selected columns. All 10 seeds must be used. The 10 seeds represent the group as a whole.

Example 1: If in a group of 8 people, 5 people believe the community sees them of no value and 2 people believe the community sees them of some value and 1 person believes the community sees them of great value, then the 10 seeds would be placed as 7 seeds in the no value column, 2 seeds in the some value column and 1 seed in the great value column.

Example 2: If in a group of 6 people, 3 people believe the community sees them of no value and 3 people believe the community sees them of some value and 0 person believes the community sees them of great value, then the 10 seeds would be placed as 5 seeds in the no value column, 5 seeds in the some value column and 0 seeds in the great value column.

Group Discussion

Discuss your observations. Write the answers on your handouts.

Read **Luke 8:43-55**

Meditate on this Bible passage and re-read it several times.

Group Discussion

What happened to an outcast woman with one touch from Jesus in **verses 43-44**?

She was healed (physically).

What did Jesus say in **verse 45**?

Who touched Me?

Jesus didn't say, what touched me, but WHO. Who means a person. Jesus values her and gives her respect by stopping to seek her out, giving her His time and His attention. She has already received His healing power. Remember Jesus is on His way to save a dying girl of an important man in the eyes of the world.

What did the woman do in **verse 47**?

The woman saw she could not hide, came forward and bowed down before Jesus and testified that with one touch from Jesus she was healed.

Not only has Jesus acknowledged the outcast woman as a person of great value, created in the image of the Almighty God, but with one touch from Jesus, the entire community, the disciples and Jesus Himself, are now listening to this woman.

She has a place. She has a voice. She is a person of value. She is significant.

What does Jesus call her in front of His disciples and all the community in **verse 48**?

Daughter or child of God.

One touch from Jesus completes wholeness - physically, mentally and spiritually. She has a place, a voice, a restored identity as a child of God.

Back to the 10 seeds practical. How can we empower those who believe the community sees them of no value and some value to believe the community sees them of great value?

- 1: Give them respect and include them in the community.
- 2: Give them a place, a role, an opportunity to participate in the community.
- 3: Give them an opportunity to speak and have an opinion to testify of God's greatness in their life.
- 4: Give them an opportunity to identify their gift/s (each person has at least one gift) and use that gift/s.

What is the one thing you learnt about God from this session?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 14: Relationships - Equality

'Learnt relationships restored equal-equal in Jesus...Message much needed in reached and unreached...all community.' Seminar Delegate

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God's love and healing power.

We will study some aspects of how God sees man and woman equal-equal from His story, His true love story, the Bible.

What did God declare over His creation that included man and woman? Read **Genesis 1:31**

It was very good.

To understand relationships in the Kingdom of God living in the world damaged by evil, we need to go back to the beginning. Read **Genesis 1:27-28**

In **whose** image did God create man?

God's own image

In **whose** image did God create woman?

God's own image

Who did God bless equally?

Man and woman

Who did God give equal dominion (power to rule) over all the earth?

Man and woman

Read **Genesis 2:18-20**

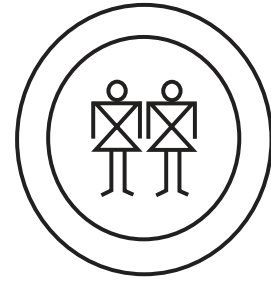
God refers to woman in this verse as a helper comparable with man. This means someone to come alongside, someone of the same kind of flesh, yet different. Someone equal with man, who together they can become one. Someone who completes man as a person created in God's image.

In the Old Testament of God's word, the word helper is mostly used in reference to God coming alongside man. In the New Testament of God's word, Jesus Himself refers to God's Spirit or presence as our helper.

Did God create man and woman equal or unequal?

Equal

Man and woman were God's masterpiece of all creation. Man (both male and female) received the breath of God, equal to each other, to complement each other and have an equal relationship with the Creator God and each other.



DESIGNED FOR GOOD

Man and woman were **DESIGNED FOR GOOD**...equal-equal.

Is today's world perfect?

No

Something happened to change God's perfect world. Remember God gave man and woman dominion over all the earth with the privilege to look after God's perfect world. He gave them everything to live victoriously with Him.

God created man and woman with a freedom to choose life or death, to choose to partake of God's wisdom and the tree of life, or choose to partake of the evil one's deception and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What was the choice God gave man (both male and female)? Read **Genesis 2:8-9** and **Genesis 2:15-17**

Life and death.

Before the end of the third chapter in Genesis, the first man and first woman chose to partake of the evil one's deception and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of God's wisdom and the tree of life. Man and woman chose a relationship of distrust, distance and rejection of God's wisdom leading ultimately to death and ruin, rather than a relationship of trust, intimacy and receiving God's wisdom, leading ultimately to life and fruitfulness.

Man and woman allowed death and evil to enter into this perfect world. Read **Genesis 3:1-7** and **Genesis 3:16-17**

What is now the relationship between man and woman, equal or unequal?

Unequal

Each one strives for control and power. The woman desires to control the man and the man tries to dominate the woman.

Read **Genesis 4:7**

The word desire in this context as in **Genesis 3:16-17** means to run after and attempt to control and manipulate. The word rule in this context as in **Genesis 3:16-17** means to dominate and oppress.

What does a woman damaged by evil now want to do to a man?

To run after and attempt to control and manipulate.

What does a man damaged by evil now want to do to a woman?

Dominate and oppress.

Man and woman are **DAMAGED BY EVIL**...unequal-unequal

But the story does not end there. God in His great love came down into His own creation as a man of flesh and blood and, on the cross, took upon Himself all the damage, disease, death and evil that entered this world as a result of man's offence, Jesus came back to life, overcoming all the damage, disease, death and evil, and has restored us for the better.

Man and woman are **RESTORED FOR BETTER**...equal-equal

But the story still does not end there. God in His great love gives us His power and authority to condemn the lies of the evil one, to know the truth so as not to be deceived, and to live in victory over our self-centred desires, the evil one and evil itself in a world damaged by evil.

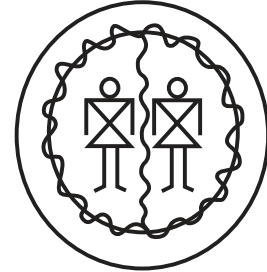
When we give over our desire to control and dominate and are in a continual state of surrender to the will of our Father, receiving all that Jesus came as flesh and blood, died, rose and ascended on high to give us, our old self dies and we truly live in time now, in a world damaged by evil.

God in His great love gives us a part in His plan of restoration and healing mission. In session 15 and 16 we will study the love of God and the part He gives us in His healing mission, from His story the Bible.

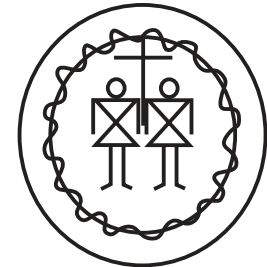
Man and woman are **SENT TO HEAL**...equal-equal

What is the one thing you learnt about God from this session?

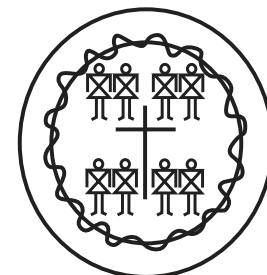
What is your practical response/prayer?



DAMAGED BY EVIL



RESTORED FOR BETTER



SENT TO HEAL

Session 15: Relationships - Discipleship

As we journey through life, whatever the situation, wherever we go, the all powerful ever present One is with us..Intimately, personally.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare God is with us.

Bible Study

Remember at the beginning of this journey we learnt that discipleship starts with knowing God and His love for you, by knowing who He is, what He has done and what He will do. Spending time with Him in His Word, in His presence, in worship, in prayer and in fellowship with other believers, helps us to know God.

Discipleship in us and in others is a daily continual process. As we learnt in the vine relationship session, the change in character and the growth in us is the work of the Holy Spirit. God doesn't need us to reveal Himself to others but out of His great love for us chose us to be part of His plan. For others to know God, His truth, love and power, they first must learn about Him.

Who are we disciples of?

Jesus

Who has all power and authority? Read **Matthew 28:18-20**

Jesus

What are the four actions that Jesus told His disciples to do in these three verses?

1: Go

In this context Go can mean as we journey through life (whatever the situation we are in), as we journey from one place to another (whatever the region we are in), Jesus has all power and authority over that situation, and over every region. Wherever each one of us is in our daily walk with Him, He is with each one of us, intimately and personally, in His Spirit within each disciple.

2: Baptising

In this context baptising means to empower others to become a disciple of Jesus. To receive Him, His identity, His Spirit and the Father. Being fully immersed in Him is to receive His power and authority, and by His Spirit, permanent, positive change, for time now and time future.

3: Teaching

Effective Teaching is empowering others to learn about Jesus, grow in their relationship with Him and teach others. Teaching is not showing others how much we know or proving ourself right. Teaching others from every tribe, both male and female (equal - equal), adult and child (equal - equal).

4: Make Disciples

In this context the action of make disciples is the main action. We make disciples by baptising them (empowering them to receive Jesus, His identity, His Spirit and the Father), teaching them (empowering them to learn about Jesus and grow in Him).

To make disciples of Jesus is God's strategy in fulfilling His plan (**Ephesians 1:9-10**). To make disciples is the work of the Holy Spirit in and through His disciples. God has revealed His plan to us, His disciples, and because of His great love for us has given each one of us a part in His plan.

As we *learn* about Jesus, as we *know* Jesus personally more and more each day in relationship with Him and know those who we journey through life with, as Jesus shares of Himself to us, we *share* about Jesus to others, as we let Jesus serve us we *serve* Jesus by serving others, by His Spirit, in His name, God's plan is being fulfilled.

Every disciple has a testimony as every disciple has the Holy Spirit within who is the witness of Jesus. Your witness is being the person God created you to be by the transforming power of Christ in you.



Testimony

What type of person were you before becoming a disciple of Jesus?

What type of person are you as a disciple of Jesus showing the difference Jesus has made to you and in you?

What was the situation in your life when you decided to receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself and become a disciple of Jesus?

What was the most important thing that brought you to receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself and become a disciple of Jesus?

What is the most important difference in your life in time now?

What will be the most important difference in your life in time future?

Each person - one by one - share their testimony (in less than two minutes each) as if sharing with a non-Christian. Avoid using Christian words such as righteous and salvation, instead describe what salvation means to you in your life.

What is the one thing you learnt about God from this session?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Session 16: Relationships - Kingdom of God

We become the likeness of who we worship.

Opening Prayer

Ask someone to open the session in prayer.

Worship

As a group select and sing two or three worship songs that declare Jesus is King!

Remember at the beginning of this journey together we learnt God wants to reveal Himself and His plan, which is to bring all things which are in heaven and earth in one in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the Kingdom of God ruler.

Word Study

Kingdom means both the right or authority or power to rule over a kingdom, and the territory or region that is subject to that rule or authority.

God means supreme deity, which we know is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The *Kingdom of God* is the right or authority or power of Jesus to rule over heaven and earth.

The image of the Kingdom of God is an important one for understanding the message and ministry of Jesus Christ and the role of His disciples in His healing mission.

Bible Study

Read **Luke 4:43** and **Acts 1:1-4**

Jesus preached and taught on the Kingdom of God, demonstrated the Kingdom of God, is the Kingdom of God ruler.

What did Jesus say was being fulfilled by His coming in flesh and blood? Read **Luke 4:18-19**

- 1: Preach the good news to the poor
- 2: Heal the broken hearted
- 3: Freedom to the captives
- 4: Recover sight to the blind
- 5: Freedom for the oppressed
- 6: Declare this is the beginning of God's appointed time for these things to take place.

The Kingdom of God has come on earth in Jesus Christ, into a world damaged by evil.

What did Jesus tell John was the evidence that the Kingdom of God/Kingdom of Heaven had come on earth? Read **Matthew 11:3-5**

1: The blind see

2: The lame walk

3: The unclean are cleansed

4: The deaf hear

5: The dead are raised

6: The poor have the gospel declared to them

In the Old Testament there are many prophecies of the day when the blind will see, the lame will walk and the deaf will hear. This is not just referring to spiritual healing. Jesus revealed the Kingdom of God is complete healing: spiritual, physical and mental. Complete wholeness and peace.

God the Father sent Jesus into the world damaged by evil (which is under the influence of the evil one and man's desire to dominate and control) to set the captives free, heal the broken hearted and declare the Kingdom of God has come. Those who believe and receive Jesus' flesh and blood sacrifice of Himself are rescued for ever and ever. Rescued from the kingdom of death and bought back into the Kingdom of Life.

Read **Matthew 19:13-15** (Also **Mark 10:13-16** and **Luke 18:15-17**).

What do we learn about how Jesus views children?

Even though Jesus was likening the faith and trust of a child to the Kingdom of God, the significance of Jesus stopping to minister to the children is powerful and is included in all three Gospels. The culture of the time, in a world damaged by evil, is that children are of lesser value to adults. The disciples were following the culture of this world and not yet living in the culture of the Kingdom of God. By His actions, Jesus was teaching and demonstrating to His disciples what the Kingdom of God looks like in a world damaged by evil.

How does Jesus view children in relationship with adults, equal or unequal?

Equal

Group Discussion

Discuss as a group what you believe the Kingdom of God is.

- 1: Restored relationships with God and others, man, woman, boy, girl...equal-equal
- 2: The poor and the rich become powerful...equal-equal
- 3: Community of equals building each other up
- 4: Inclusion of all people who believe and live in Jesus
- 5: Building of community with justice and peace
- 6: Captives set free with the truth and love
- 7: Honest practices become the culture

The Kingdom of God is revealed in Jesus.

Jesus has entrusted us, by His Spirit, in His power and authority, to live in the Kingdom of God in a world damaged by evil and be part of God's advance of His Kingdom, to the glory of God the Father.

The more we know God and His love for us, spending time with Him in His Word, in His presence, in worship, in prayer, in fellowship with other believers, receiving from Jesus, living in the fullness of His victory in this world damaged by evil, testifying of His great love and making disciples, we live in the Kingdom of God here on earth in time now.

What is the one thing you learnt about God from this session?

What is your practical response/prayer?

Prayer

Ephesians 3:14-21 *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

NO VALUE	SOME VALUE	GREAT VALUE

