

LEADERSHIP JESUS WAY

THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM



TRAINING AND LEADING DISCIPLES
CONFERENCE LEADER • MAJOR IVAN BEZZANT

TSMP THE NEXT CHAPTER
TERRITORIAL STRATEGIC MISSION PLAN



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SESSION 1 – JOURNEY BEGINS

Vision: Rugby Team preparing for a game.

Psalm 25:4-5

“Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long”.

Critical issue is “Leadership”. “Everything rises and falls on Leadership”.

Matthew 4: 18 – 20

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fisherman of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

God’s call is to **journey** with Him. “Follow me, and I will make you ...” It is a call to a journey not to a series of events.

It is a call to be made into something. It is a call to be transformed.

The success of this transformation is not about how much we know but how much have we changed to become like the one who calls us.

Illustration: Piano/Pilot

Formula for life: REVELATION + APPLICATION = TRANSFORMATION.

Matthew 7:24-29

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse, because it is built on rock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash.”

28 After Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 for he taught as one who had real authority – quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

Lessons from this Scripture

1. We are all building.
2. We will all be tempted to build the easy way. The hard way is to build slower and deeper.
3. We build, not for the sake of the house, but we build with our eye on the storm.
4. **Storms will come.**
5. Storms will show you how you have been building.

Two motivating forces in your life

Love or Lust

- Love:
- is for the benefit of others
 - desires to give
 - even at the expense of self
- Lust:
- is for the benefit of self
 - desires to get
 - even at the expense of others

Where will the storm hit?

Two areas: **Identity:** “Who am I?”
 Destiny: “Where am I going?”

Identity speaks of value: “What am I worth?”
Destiny speaks of purpose: “Why am I here, what am I supposed to do?”

When the storm hits you, you could hear something like:-

Identity: *“You are worthless. You aren’t even supposed to be here. You are a mistake. Something is drastically wrong with you. You are a nobody.”*

Destiny: *“You have no purpose. You are a total failure. You’ll never be a success. You are inadequate. You are not equipped to accomplish the job. Nothing ever works out for you.”*

When engaged in discipleship living, you could, and dare I say, should, hear something like this:

Identity: *“to Me you are very valuable and are worth the life of Jesus Christ. You are a somebody. You do belong here. Before the foundation of the earth, I planned for you. You were no mistake.”*

Destiny: *“You are destined to a great purpose on this earth. I placed you here for a purpose. You are a success as a person and are completely adequate and suited to carry out My purpose. Set your vision high and allow Me to complete great accomplishments in your life.”*

KEY FOUNDATION STONES:

The way of the Kingdom is: ***We cannot give someone something that we don’t have ourselves.***

Who you are is what you impart into others.

For reflection:-

- Are you living in a sense of reality in the fact that we are of value and it matters that we are alive. How much do you walk in this?
(Understand that if you question your value, how are you going to impart value into others)
- Do you see that you can make a difference if you apply your life to the battle?
(If you don't believe this then you will not be able to impart this to others.)
- Do you see yourself as being unique? That God has carefully and clearly conceived you to serve Him? That you are unique to God?
- Do you walk in a real sense that this is your time in history? That God has planned for you for this moment in history? Have you a clear grasp that God has put you here for this day and that He has a unique role for you.
(If you don't walk in this how can you impart this to someone else?)
- Do you believe God longs to see you do what He knows and says you can do? Are you walking in a level of success, doing what God has created you to do?
- Do you know why you are here?
(How can we lead if we don't know why we are here? How can we lead if we don't know some of the answers to these questions?)
- Do you walk in the reality of saying, "I can withstand trials and difficulties because of the sense of destiny I have in my life?"

SESSION 2 – KINGDOM OF GOD EXPLAINED

ARTICULATION + DEMONSTRATION = REPLICATION.

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well.”

“Seek” means to intensely pursue. “First” means highest priority.

Your ability to pursue the Kingdom is determined by how clearly you can see it.

Kingdom of God defined:

“the re-establishment of God’s rule in the lives of individuals and society.”

Biblical Story:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Mankind was created in His likeness | Genesis 1:26 |
| • Mankind was created for Earth | Psalm 115:16 |
| • Created in right relationship (Son) | Genesis 3:8 |
| • Created to Rule | Genesis 1: 26 – 27 |

To summarise so far:

- **Position** of mankind – belongs to a Royal Family as sons and daughters
- They are given **power** which is the ability to carry out task
- They are given **authority**, which is the right to exercise power.

So the picture is: His royal family on earth in right relationship with the Father, with all power and authority to rule.

Fall of Man – Genesis 3

Result: The picture above was distorted, tainted and lost at the “fall”.

That is: We were now no longer in Right relationship. We have lost Power and Authority and are no longer in Possession of what God had given.

Satan only has power and authority to the level I give him.

Jesus comes to earth for two key reasons:

1. Proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God on earth
2. Restore what was lost and distorted at the fall

The result:

- Our position has been restored – through adoption
- Our relationship has been restored which speaks of intimacy with Father God
- Mandate of having power and authority to rule or lead

The place of satan:

Jude 6

“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority, but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day”

Mark 16:19

“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.”
(NIV)

Matthew 28: 18 – 19

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Psalm 110: 1 – 2

“The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.”

Jesus posture is sitting at right hand of Father. Jesus has done all He needs to do. His work on Calvary was perfect and complete.

Ephesians 1: 9 – 10

“And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.”

SESSION 3 – “DISCIPLESHIP EXPLAINED”

Luke 6:40

“A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher” (NIV)

In the New Testament we see that a disciple is one who learns to live the life his teacher lives. Then with his life, he teaches others to live the life he lives.

The word ‘disciple’ means, ‘a follower of’ or ‘a learner’. The original word has the idea of apprenticeship. It is a fact that we learn more by what we see than by what we hear.

In the New Testament the word ‘disciple’ is mentioned 269 times and the word ‘Christian’ is mentioned 3 times.

Definition of Disciple:

“A disciple is a whole-hearted follower and student of Jesus Christ, one in training daily to obey Him and live by the power of His Spirit”.

- Disciples understand and practice the daily use of ‘use it or lose it’.
- Disciples understand that growth comes from risk and pressure; **no pain - no gain.**
- Disciples understand that responsibility produces ownership
- Disciples understand that the fastest way to learn is to teach. Disciples are investors in people.
- Like Jesus, they are believers under authority (Luke 7: 8 - 10)
- They live wanting to be used by God (Matthew 20: 1 -15)
- They understand that you impart and receive what someone is, not what they say they are (measles Vs mumps)

Discipleship Today

1. Attend the meetings
2. Pay tithes and offerings
3. Obey the rules
4. Become a member

These are important but are the ‘fruit, not the main tree’.

Discipleship is communication not of knowledge but life. Jesus taught us a way of life.

A Disciple’s relationship is: “I don’t teach the other person to know what I know but rather I teach him to become what I am.”

Discipleship is not a communication of knowledge but communication of life and spirit.

Through a relationship with Jesus, His disciples were shepherded, adjusted, corrected, fed, challenged, rebuked, exhorted, encouraged and built up.

1 Corinthians 4: 15 – 16

15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 And you should follow my example, just as I follow Christ’s.

SESSION 4 – HOW GOD BUILDS

Malachi 4:5-6

5 "Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. 6 His preaching will turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse.

God is in the family business. He is not building an organisation but a family. He calls us to join His family business. God doesn't call us to build a corporation. He is not the chairman of a Board. Not a director of a company. He is the father of a family.

Matthew 6:9

"this, then, is how you should pray:- "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name".

Genesis 15:1-6

1 Afterward the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."

2 But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since I don't have a son, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. 3 You have given me no children, so one of my servants will have to be my heir."

4 Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own to inherit everything I am giving you." 5 Then the LORD brought Abram outside beneath the night sky and told him, "Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that – too many to count!" 6 And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith.

God's way is to produce sons who will inherit the land. Think about Jesus. He was trained by His Father to receive an inheritance.

Abraham says here he doesn't have a son. Abraham says he has everything he could ask for except a son.

He doesn't ask for an organisation. He doesn't ask for a group. He sees that the only way to inheritance is through his children. He says, "I have a slave, not a son." God says my way is to give you sons to pass my Kingdom onto.

Difference between a serving son and a slave who serves:

A son will ...	A slave will ...
1. Son will hold his father's heart and success of his father's work as his own. He will think about what's best for the family before himself. He will think responsibility.	Slave will tend to do his own thing. Hardworking but work independently. He will think in terms of their rights.
2. Son will use language of "us, we and our", because he is family oriented.	Slave will use the language of "me and my", because he thinks in terms of my ministry, my job etc.
3. Son will naturally honour chain of command. A good soldier takes orders from any officer.	Slave will be unwilling to honour authority. They will be selective about whom they yield to.
4. Son will share inner feelings (doubts, fears, insecurities and anxieties.)	Slave will only share what he wants you to know.

A son will ...	A slave will ...
5. Son will come to father and work out difficulties.	Slave will carry offences against leaders. They will carry unforgiveness and mistrust, often resulting in gossip.
6. Son will have generational vision. They will be thinking about the generations to come when they make choices and decisions.	Slave will be self-focused. My ministry rather than building kids/grandkids in the Spirit.
7. Son will focus on welfare of the people. Conversation and time involvements reflect caring for the flock.	Slave will tend to focus on appearance: meetings, numbers, events, success, "who I know"
8. Son will be secure to accept and welcome confrontation and change. Responds to discipline.	Slave will get offended with confrontation and correction.

SESSION 5 – COACHING

Jesus taught that ministry, leadership, **what we do**, results from the relationship of **who we are in Christ**.

The issue for us in developing leaders is not what we need to know, the issue is **what do we need to become**.

The question is not, “what information do I need to master?” It is, “**what identity do I need to embrace and become?**”

How did Jesus teach and train disciples:

1. MODEL: “Watch it done”

Show: Jesus lived His priorities as the disciples watched.

Luke 8:1

1 Not long afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby cities and villages to announce the Good News concerning the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him,

Observation: The disciples (leaders in training) watched as Jesus taught in parables, calmed the sea, cast out demons, healed the sick, raised the dead.

2. TEAM: “Do it together”

Share: Jesus involved His disciples in His life and ministry.

Luke 8:51; 9:28

51 When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, James, John, and the little girl's father and mother. 28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain to pray.

Participation: The disciples (leaders in training) began to minister with Jesus as he fed the multitudes and they also shared in the glory of His transfiguration.

3. SOLO: “You do it”

Send: Jesus passed on His message and authority to His leaders in training.

Luke 9:1,2; 10:1

1 One day Jesus called together his twelve apostles and gave them power and authority to cast out demons and to heal all diseases. 2 Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the coming of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 1 The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit.

Activation: The leaders in training were entrusted with His mission and they were obedient in sharing it.

4. **EVALUATE:** “You get checked out **on** it.”

Supervise: Jesus held His disciples accountable for His ministry.

Luke 9:10; 10:17

10 When the apostles returned, they told Jesus everything they had done. Then he slipped quietly away with them toward the town of Bethsaida. 17 When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”

Correction: The leaders in training shared their experiences, joys and victories and Jesus gave them encouragement and exhortation as He redirected their focus.

Luke 10:20

20 But don't rejoice just because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered as citizens of heaven.”

The ultimate goal of leadership is to glorify God by:

1. Firstly becoming a mature disciple of Jesus. The key is our relationship with Jesus.
2. Helping others to become fruitful - to live the life you live.
3. Reproducing labourers as you reproduce yourself by teaching and training.

Leadership is not complete until the people we are working with are also helping someone else become like you.

We can give people all the knowledge they need, but if they are not able to live the life or perform the service, they are not trained.

Training is not the giving of information, but it is the verbal expression of what the teacher is experiencing themselves.

JESUS: TRAINING DISCIPLES - WHAT DID HE DO?

Jesus' goal for disciples was that people would look like Him at completion.

How did he go about training disciples?

His choice of disciples

1. He got to know them. He spent time with them in their surroundings.
Luke 4: 37 - 39, Luke 5: 1- 11, 27 - 35

He observed them for about a year, during which time they were initial believers
Mark 1: 14 - 3:12; Luke 9: 10, 10:17ff

2. He selected them because of their heart desire. Their hunger and thirst for righteousness.
John 1:43 - 51
3. He chose them through prayer.
Luke 6: 12 - 13
Before you talk to men about God, talk to God about men!

His relationship with the Disciples

1. He communicated His message to them.
Luke 6: 20 - 49
2. He loved them unconditionally.
John 15:9, 13:34 - 35
3. He withdrew periodically with them from the crowds for rest and strengthening.
Mark 4: 35 - 36; 6:31 - 32, 45 - 47; 8: 27 - 33; 9:2 - 8
4. He prayed for them.
Luke 10; 21 -22; 22:31 -32 John 14:12 - 14,17

His practical training of the disciples: (Real life situations)

1. He taught them in many ways:

Matthew 11:1

1 When Jesus had finished giving these instructions to his twelve disciples, he went off teaching and preaching in towns throughout the country.

He used:

- Parables and explanations (Matthew 13: 3 - 8, 18 – 22)
- Demonstration (John 13:1 - 15 washing the feet)
- Question and answer (Matthew 16: 13 – 16)
- Example – His life and actions (Luke 11:1)
- Correction (Matthew 16: 21 – 23)
- Everyday life occurrences (Mark 4: 35 – 41)

2. He sent them out in pairs to apply their training.
3. He evaluated them afterwards, checking, correcting and encouraging.
(Luke 10:17 – 24)
4. He persisted and repeated basic lessons.
(Mark 4: 35 - 41; 6:33 - 52; 8:1 - 10, 31 – 33)
5. He progressed with them step by step. (Matthew 16: 13 – 20)

His trust in the Disciples

1. He entrusted His work to them. (Matthew 28: 16 - 20, Acts 4:1 – 8)
2. He entrusted His power to them. (Matthew 14:12 – 14)

Matthew 20: 1 - 13

Question: Who has a plan for your life?

Someone who will motivate you beyond what you are now. A person who will have a grip on your life that will help pull you through the challenges that come your way. Someone who has a vision that will draw you out of where you are and call and take you where God wants you to go.

Matthew 20:6-7

6 *At five o'clock that evening he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?'*

7 *"They replied, 'Because no one hired us.'*

"The owner of the estate told them, 'Then go on out and join the others in my vineyard.'

The Kingdom of God is going out and taking hold of people who have nothing to do. The Kingdom of God is not allowing people with talent, ability or potential to waste it.

In the parable, what concerned man (image of God), was that people were not being used. Not being employed. Not being lifted to a higher standard.

- The Kingdom of God is a call to work and not to be idle.
- It's a tragedy for a person to have no direction.
- What has hindered the Body of Christ the most is not the devil but a **lack of vision**. The devil is not much of an obstacle for a person who is filled with Christ's vision. The problem is not the opposition but the lack of fuel which is vision.
- Our problem is not that we have been overcoached but that we have had no one to coach us.
- The Church is a desert. No one is saying anything that grabs us deep enough that we will want to lay down our lives for it. No one is challenging us, no one is calling us to a higher place. No one is calling us to something that we would die for.

The need for a Coach

There is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Jesus is not self-made. God uses people to work through. God will use people to take us to another level of excellence.

We all have blind spots, which we cannot see, but others will and we need others to reveal the truth to us.

Are we willing to hear wisdom from the people God has put in our lives? We need to listen to people who know more than we do.

Coaches can be people in history who when we study their lives, speak to us and call us to a higher level of excellence. Coaches can be anyone in your life who you can see are calling you to a higher life.

SESSION 6 – GENERATIONAL TRANSFER

Acts 13: 36

36 "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.

There is a need to serve our generation! But to be people of the Kingdom, we need to understand that we each have a responsibility to pass on to another generation. We can't be so selfish as to live for ourselves only.

Psalms 71: 16 - 18

16 I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign LORD;

I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone.

*17 Since my youth, God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.*

*18 Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.*

Psalms 78: 4 – 8

*4 We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.*

*5 He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,*

*6 so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

*7 Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.*

*8 They would not be like their ancestors –
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.*

Christianity is always one generation away from extinction. If our forefathers had abdicated their responsibility of transfer, Christianity would have ceased to be.

The Sovereignty of God is committed to seeing generations who will continue the generational line. Nearly every generation for the last one hundred years has said they are the **terminal generation**. That is, they thought they were the generation that would witness the Second coming of the Lord.

As a result, they did very little to take dominion, control or lead (Genesis 1:28). The problem is the years have come and gone and we are still here on earth. In the meantime we have lost the territories of universities and business, the ruling of the nations, the arts, science.

We are to live not as a terminal generation but to live as a **bridge generation**, a generation between what was and what is to come. This bridge generation will carry a sense of responsibility both to the generations before and to the generations to come. The worldview of a bridge generation sees truth coming to it and then passes it over to those who are to follow.

Truth is never intended to stop with a generation. It comes to the generation, matures with the generation and is then passed on to the generation to follow. A bridge is something that joins two sides. A bridge generation exists to join the generation that was and the generation that is to come.

God describes Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This is a description of His nature and His desire.

We must begin to think generationally. We must live, accountable to the past, relevant to the now and in anticipation of the future.

We must live beyond ourselves. It is not enough that we just live under the blessing and make it to Heaven. We must not only fulfil our destiny, but we must equip our children to fulfil theirs

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Malachi 4:5-6 (NLT)

"Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. His preaching will turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. Otherwise I will come and strike the land with a curse."

We are prepared to give our money, give our time, give our knowledge, but too often we are not prepared to give our hearts.

The only way of discipleship is not the giving of knowledge but it's the giving of our life, the giving of our hearts. The heart of the father is given to the son and the heart of the son is given to the father.

When hearts are given we are in training. If hearts are not given the process is often viewed as control.

We must become people of influence. Influence is to pass on to another generation. What sort of influence are you?

We need spiritual parents, grandparents who are people of influence, touching another generation.

We need to be people who are receiving the heart of a father and passing our heart on to a son/daughter.

Look at Jesus. He received the heart of the Father and then passed His heart on to those who He came in contact with.

Luke 1:17 (NLT)

He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah, the prophet of old. He will precede the coming of the Lord, preparing the people for his arrival. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will change disobedient minds to accept godly wisdom."

We must turn our hearts to God, turn our hearts to fathers and turn our hearts to children.

Be careful what you are implying when you say to children, "you must go out and find your own way."

If you are living the way of the Lord, you are living the right way and its right for you to encourage your children that there is no need to find an alternative way. We must teach our children the way of the Kingdom of God. We must raise our children with a vision to succeed us and not be pressured into a carnal need to "find their own way."

Their way must be our way and our way must be the way of the Kingdom of God.

King David carried a vision to build a temple. One problem, God would not permit David to build.

God wanted one generation to formulate the vision and the next generation to fulfil it.

1 Kings 8:18-19 (NLT)

But the LORD told him, 'It is right for you to want to build the Temple to honor my name, 19but you are not the one to do it. One of your sons will build it instead.'

Many dreams are lost because they were never passed to the second generation.

It is the responsibility of fathers, men of dreams to sow their dream into the hearts of builders in the next generation.

1 Kings 8:20 (NLT)

"And now the LORD has done what he promised, for I have become king in my father's place. I have built this Temple to honor the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

Solomon saw that his destiny was to succeed his father and be a dream builder.

I believe that the dream I carry in my heart will be fulfilled by my children.
Too often the church is guilty of starting over. We always want to start afresh.

Canadian runner, Donovan Bailey, won the 1996 100 metre gold medal with a speed of 9.84 seconds. Though Donovan won the gold medal, his 9.84 seconds was not the fastest 100 metre race run in the '96 Olympics. The fact is there were many who ran but did not win gold. A faster 100 metre race was actually run by every runner of the 100 metre relay who succeeded him in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th positions. The reason was, when they received the baton at their starting line, they had the privilege of starting at a full sprint. The momentum was already established as the baton was placed in their hands.

Generational transfer is a vision to see our children begin with a running start. The result will be that they will run faster and accomplish more than we could have imagined.

We have to pass on the baton. The life of God, the dreams and visions we carry must be passed on. Without a vision for generational transfer the church is forever in the formation stage.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16 (NLT)

I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. 15For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one spiritual father. For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. 16So I ask you to follow my example and do as I do.

Fathers spend time with their children, express appreciation and reproduce the life they carry.

Fathers set an example. We need to ask the following questions:-

Do I have ungodly habits?

Do I have an ungodly temper?

Do I have an ungodly mouth?

Do I indulge in cynical or sceptical remarks that cast doubt on the accuracy of the Bible, or on the justice of God, or on the sincerity of fellow believers?

Do I set an example of the life of God in such matters as having time with God, witnessing and taking responsibility in the church?

Fathers deal with crisis in a positive way, they communicate continually. They will train, discipline and share values.

Proverbs 13:22 (NLT)

Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.

We must take responsibility to pass on the baton. We must deal with our independence. We must pour our lives into others. This must become intentional.

SESSION 7 – SEED SOWING – STRATEGY FOR EVANGELISM

“If you keep doing the same things, you will always get the same results.”

Mark 4:26-29

26 Jesus also said, “Here is another illustration of what the Kingdom of God is like: A farmer planted seeds in a field, 27 and then he went on with his other activities. As the days went by, the seeds sprouted and grew without the farmer’s help, 28 because the earth produces crops on its own. First a leafblade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. 29 And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle.”

1. This parable is about the Kingdom of God.
2. The Seed is scattered.
3. The Seed grows by itself.
4. The Harvest is reaped later.

John 4: 37 – 38

37 You know the saying, ‘One person plants and someone else harvests.’ And it’s true. 38 I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and you will gather the harvest.”

1. One person does the sowing.
2. Someone else may do the reaping.

1 Corinthians 3:6

“My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow.”

1. One person plants seeds
2. One waters
3. Only God makes them grow. God gives us the privilege of doing the mechanical things, planting and watering. But God makes it grow.

We work in partnership with God. We do a bit, He does a bit. We plant and He makes it grow.

This is true in nature. We can’t make seeds grow. If we don’t plant then how can God make it grow?

Matthew 13: 1 – 23

1. Seeds falling on pathway
2. Rocky ground
3. Thorns
4. Good soil

We need to be prepared to meet four types of soil:

1. Soil that causes seed to be snatched away
2. Soil that causes seed/plants to wither up
3. Soil that causes seed/ plants to be choked down
4. Soil that causes seed to produce a good harvest.

We will not know what sort of soil we are planting seeds into. Man in Scripture did not know what sort of soil it was until the seeds began to grow. If he did know then he wouldn’t have wasted his time planting!

The key for us is not to look at the soil because we cannot tell what sort of soil it's going to be like. The seed is the most important, not the soil. We are not responsible for the soil of anyone else's life. You are only responsible for your own. We are not responsible for the growth of the seed. It's over to God to bring the increase. It's up to God to do the hard stuff.

It is easy to sow seeds.

The seed is the word of God which is the message of the Kingdom. If we don't plant seeds then God cannot grow plants. Remember it's a partnership.

Two things we need to know about the message we plant:

1. It is the most penetrative message of all time.
2. It is the most powerful message of all time.

This message has liberated people. No one is too hard for this message.

Three types of seeds:

1. Seeds of **truth**

- Spoken
- Word
- Sown by the things we say
- Convey truth by words

We can plant bad seed. We can plant the wrong stuff which is so difficult to root out.

2. Seeds of **love**

- That which we do
- Time, resources, effort
- It will cost you but it is worth it

Remember we don't have to make it grow, or worry about the soil, all we have to do is plant seed.

3. Seeds of **power**

- Drawing people's attention to the things that only God can do
- Co-operating with God
- Pray with people in need
- Make God real to people.
- Allowing God to do something in the situation

SESSION 8 – EMPOWERED FOR KINGDOM LIFE

We need to ask, “Is Jesus ministering as He did in the New Testament?”

Supernatural acts of miracles and deliverance. These are signs of Jesus as King, ministering in authority. I believe Jesus is restoring a dimension of His Government into the life of the Church that is vitally needed today.

Consider Elijah. At times this man of God was gripped with depressive moods. He was prone to disillusionment and discouragement. Given to self pity but ever at God’s disposal.

Whenever we place ourselves in God’s hands, no matter how frail and insignificant we may feel, we accomplish far more than we can ever realize.

1 Kings 18:21

21 Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, “How long are you going to waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” But the people were completely silent.

Elijah preached and the people said nothing. Here is the man striving with people.

1 Kings 18:38,39

38 Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the ditch! 39 And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces and cried out, “The LORD is God! The LORD is God!”

The fire fell and the people cried out. Oh for the fire!!

Someone has said, “What the striving of man cannot achieve is but the work of a moment to the outpoured Spirit.”

It is the fire, which makes the difference.

Here is our challenge as disciples:

John 14:12-14

12 “The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. 14 Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!

Let’s consider the following Scriptures: The call is to pursue the lifestyle of Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 12;2

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”

2 Corinthians 3: 18

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever – increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

Let’s look at life of Jesus through these Scriptures:

Luke 3:21 – 22 “

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

²³ Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

Points to note:

- He was praying – verse 21
- Heaven was opened – verse 21
- Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove – verse 22

Compare:

John 1:32

32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him."

- Voice came from heaven: "You are my son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased."

Result of this experience: See Luke 4:

Verse 1 ¹ *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*

Verse 14 ¹⁴ *Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.*

Then

Luke 4: 16 – 21

¹⁶ *He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."^[a]*

²⁰ *Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Seems this event was significant to Jesus

Acts 10:38

³⁸ *how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

Now Consider Disciples of Jesus:

Mark 6: 7 – 13

⁷ *Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. ⁸ These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff— no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*

After the death and resurrection of Jesus:

Luke 24: 49

⁴⁹ *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city **until you have been clothed** with power from on high."*

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power **when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

What is the Anointing?

It is knowing the supernatural presence of God upon us
It is being aware of His Presence with us.

“It is an actual physical experience when we feel the warm presence and glow of God upon our body.”
– This is how I heard it described by a new convert years ago.

Acts 2: 1 – 4

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Something to consider: With Jesus Holy Spirit came like a dove, with Disciples, sound like the blowing of a violent wind and tongues of fire. Could I suggest it's not the manifestation that's important, allow Him to come as He wills but the issue is, we need the knowledge He has come.

Acts 3: 6 – 9

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but **what I do have I give you**. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Paul's ministry:

1 Corinthians 2; 1 – 5

¹ And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.^[a] ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, **but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power**, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

Romans 15:17 – 19

¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done – ¹⁹ **by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God**. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

Samuel Logan Brengle:

“Getting out of bed about 6 o'clock with that desire, I opened my bible and , while reading some of the words of Jesus, He gave me such a blessing as I never dreamed a man could have this side of heaven. It was an unutterable revelation. It was a heaven of love that came into my heart.”

D.L Moody:

“I remember I was walking the streets of New York, and right there on the street the power of God seemed to come upon me so wonderfully I had to ask God to stay His hand.”

Charles Finney:

“As I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was such a thing for me, without any recollection that I have ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves of liquid love.”

Leslie Weatherhead

“the whole compartment of the train was filled with light. I felt caught up into some tremendous sense of being within a loving, triumphant and shining purpose. An indescribable joy possessed me.”

John Wesley:

“About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

War Cry

Early Salvation Army meeting – 13 September 1878

“Everyone was overpowered by the Spirit.”

William Booth reports 1880

“After we had a few testimonies the glory came in a marvellous manner. Talk about a baptism of fire like they had at Pentecost, we were all filled and flooded and some overwhelmed with the divine presence. And then the Captain and Lieutenant lay on the floor, both were filled unutterably full of glory and of God. All of us got such a baptism we had not had for a long time.”

William Booth

“No one could do the works that are being done except God was with them. All glory to Jesus. He is enabling you to give proof of your calling. But how much more might be done had you all received this Pentecostal baptism in all its fullness? If every soul was inflamed and every lip touched and every mind illuminated and every heart purified with a hallowed flame.’

William Booth

“thou Christ of burning, cleansing flame, send the fire! Thy blood – bought gift today we claim, send the fire! Look down and see this waiting host, give us the promised Holy Ghost, we want another Pentecost, send the Fire!!”

Three things to do

- Surrender
- Hunger
- Ask