

APPENDIX 3

NEW SHORT-TERM TRIAD DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

Called to Grow in God

A Triad Bridge Group
Curriculum
First Baptist Church
Grand Blanc, Michigan

Purpose of this Triad Group Meeting

- + To enjoy a meaningful time with friends, or new acquaintances.
- + To take time to share, talk, laugh, think, study and pray.
- + To focus on what the Bible teaches about how: God calls us to Grow.
- + To meet four times to experience being part of a short-term Triad group.

What is a Triad: A Triad is a group of three or four people who meet together for faith-building and friendship-building. The end result is Christian discipleship (growth) that is personal and practical.

The Triad Bridge:

This four week Triad Bridge Group is designed to allow participants to discover how a Triad works, and test the whole thing out. If you like the experience, you can continue for a five to ten month journey as a Triad. If you want to wait, that's fine too. You can try out other short-term thematic studies, or form another group later. Your group may also have other ideas for doing things together to grow in your faith, and that's fine too. Just let us know how it goes, and how we can help you with resources, or answer questions. - Pastor Scott

"Discipleship is not a program, it is a pilgrimage shared among friends."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN >>>> READ CAREFULLY<<<<<<<<<<<

1. This experience might just give you joy and warmth in your heart.
2. MAKE a commitment to meet together as a group of three or four.
3. Find a common time and place to meet for the next month.
Adjust your schedules now, not later.
4. Let us know that you are meeting, so we can pray for your group.
www.comefollowjesus.com (our website for discipleship)

(not so convenient tear off sign up form)
God Calls Us To Grow. Triad Group

WHO _____, _____

_____, _____

WHEN Started: _____ Email _____

contact: _____

Meeting 1

God Cares, God Calls

Key Verse: *(Yes, you can read it out loud. Go ahead, read it all together at once)*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17 NIV)

Warm up: Think about several people in your life who have really cared about you. Who are they? Write their names down.

Go ahead, don't be shy, share who these people are. *(start with whoever is most brightly dressed today)*

Questions:

1. When your group talked about the people who have cared for you, what were some common things mentioned about these people?
(for example: kindness)

If you came up with 7 or more things, then you may advance.
(If not, you must try again so as to get out of mental doldrums.)

2. Which of these qualities do you feel you offer to a friendship?

3. Which of these qualities do you immediately associate with Jesus?

The B.I.B.L.E. (*God's Word speaks to us*)

In John 3:16-17 (on the previous page, but let's break it down to each verse)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (16)

1. Who are the key subjects of this passage?
2. What are the key verbs? What do they tell us about why Jesus said this?
3. How is God calling to people today through this passage?
4. How has God impacted your life through this message?

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (17)

1. When Jesus said: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."
(Matthew 4:17)

How would that call relate to verse 17 above?

2. Why is easier to talk about salvation than it is to talk about
condemnation?

3. Jesus was God's greatest gift, what has Jesus saved you from?

Think about a specific situation, or time in your life, when you knew that Jesus was there to help you. (After you have talked about this, take time to pray. If someone in the group wants prayer support, include them in your prayer time below).

CLOSING PRAYER: God, thank you for calling out to us through Jesus,

your Son. May we trust Him as Savior, and surrender our hearts to Him as Lord.Amen.

Meeting 2

Called Out of our Sleep

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:14

"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Experience:

Have you ever been woken up out of your sleep by the voice of someone calling you? Of course, but what type of awakening are you talking about here? Perhaps it was a child, or your husband or wife. Maybe it was a phone call. Hopefully it wasn't someone calling out: "Fire!!!"

Maybe it was someone who was being gentle, and they whispered your name.

God calls us out of our sleep sometimes, whether it's natural sleep or supernatural sleep, that is, spiritual. God will speak when we need to be awakened. There may be danger. There may be an opportunity. There may be a need that we are numb to. There may be a problem we haven't dealt with. There may be an illness we have to attend to. There may be someone who needs understanding. There may even be a blessing, and we need to get our _____ out of bed.

Warm up:

Share some stories about being woken up at night by a voice, or by someone speaking to you in a dream.

- + Mention those times that it was startling.
- + Mention those times that you were glad that someone did wake you up.
- + Mention those times you had to wake someone else up. (Were they glad or mad?)

Reflection: *(Oh, and yes discuss the questions if you care, or if you dare.)*

Jesus got up one morning early and went to a lonely place, a quiet place, because He knew how much He needed to hear what His Father wanted to talk with Him about. While there is nothing in that story that tells us that Jesus was called out of His sleep, we realize that Jesus was deeply in tune with His Father, and was attentive to heed His call. He made it a priority to have time with His Father, to be still and be blessed, so as to bless. Jesus calls us to wake up

spiritually by faith, and to walk in this faith. There are many people who are dead spiritually, alienated from a relationship with the one true Living God. They have not received God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ. They don't know Christ as the way, the truth and life. Therefore, they have not come to salvation, and are asleep. Movie titles seem to fit so many people's spiritual condition: "Dead Man Walking", or "Night of the Living Dead." (Discuss the following questions.)

1. How are people spiritually or mentally sleeping?
2. What does it take to be spiritually awake?

CONSIDER GOD'S CALL Read I Samuel 3:1-10

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1. Since God's Word was rare in those days, what does that tell us about people's spiritual condition?
2. God is patient with Samuel, why?
3. What is beautiful about Samuel's statement: "Speak, for your servant is listening?"
4. How would you apply this story to today? To yourself?

ASLEEP IN THE BOAT. (Matthew 8:23-27)

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

1. Why did Jesus step into the boat and go to sleep, knowing that there would be a storm?

2. What was Jesus trying to teach them?

3. Do people sometimes think of God as being asleep? How so?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we confess that sometimes we are not alert and aware. We confess that we need to listen and say, "Here I am, Lord". Forgive us for our lack of faith, help us to overcome our fears as we trust in your redeeming power. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Meeting 3

Called to Follow Jesus

Key Verse: Mark 1:17-18

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
At once they left their nets and followed him.*

Warm up:

Have someone start a conversation. They will speak only a sentence about something interesting that happened within the last day. (Your Aunt Millie sold her pickle farm to a retiring embalmer. Whatever!) Then the person to their right will say something interesting that happened to them, with only a sentence, using a word from your sentence. (Well you know, I found an old jar of pickles in my refrigerator yesterday, dated over four years old.) Keep going around a few times doing this. See what happens. (What you say does not have to relate to what the person next to you said, other than using a word they use.)

Would you recommend this form of communication for leading a group?

Why not?

Do people ever wonder if their life is simply going in circles, without purpose or direction?

How can this pattern be broken? What do we need to discover?

BIBLE STUDY: (Matthew 4:18-22)

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

1. What is so amazing about the way that Jesus called out to them?

2. Why do you think that the disciples left everything and followed Him?

3. As Jesus calls us today, what might each of us have to drop in order to better follow His leading?

4. Jesus gave them a vision for their life. In what way has Jesus given you a vision for your life?

5. In what ways does He come to us daily?

6. In what ways do we follow Jesus daily?

or....

In what ways may you struggle to follow Him daily?

TAKE A MOMENT to BREATHE. (Don't be too hard on yourself.)

Jesus said: ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest **for** your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

THAT'S GOOD NEWS!! as long as I remember who is with me, leading beside me.

Share: One area in your life that you are finding Jesus helping you with.
One important lesson Jesus is teaching you about.
One burden that Jesus is giving you strength to carry.
One joy that Jesus has placed in your heart to encourage you with.
One area in your life that you are letting go of , so you can follow better.

Prayer: (*Take time to go around and pray. Conclude with the following prayer.*)

Lord Jesus, help us to follow you in faith. We trust you, as we embark upon the path of your calling. May we let go of what is important to us, so we may affirm what is important to You and our Heavenly Father. Amen.

Meeting 4

Called Into a Family

KEY VERSE: Mark 9:35-37

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

WARM UP:

1. Think about a time in your life when people helped you feel accepted.

When was it?

Who was involved?

What did they do to help you feel accepted?

(Brace Yourself!!!)

2. Think about a time in your life when people rejected you.

When was it?

Who was involved? (This one is optional, and sometimes names are best kept protected.)

What did they do to reject you?

How did you handle the rejection?

THOUGHTS:

Jesus had a way of making people take a look at the way they treated one another. In the case of the passage above, Jesus welcomed the little children. Even though His disciples thought He was too busy to entertain the children, Jesus welcomed them. He helped them realize how special they were. Jesus was showing us the heart of God, who accepts people at whatever level of maturity or immaturity they may come from. Little children or seeking adults, the key ingredient to following Jesus, and becoming part of God's family in Christ, is simple faith.

- Why do you suppose some people are more welcoming than others?
- How has Jesus accepted you?
- In what ways has Christ helped you accept and welcome others?

MORE SCRIPTURE... (*Yes, for all you do, this Scripture is for you.*)

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4.14-16)

1. Paul gives the church a wonderful vision of what life might look like if everyone started growing up together in Christ. What does he suggest are the problems?

2. What can be done for the church to overcome and grow as God intended?

3. What is your part in the Body of Christ?

An eye? What visions has God given you for the future of the church?

An ear? What callings or concerns do you hear?

A nose? What problems have you detected and sniffed out?

A mouth? What good word have you shared to encouraged someone with?

Feet? Where has God guided you to share the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Hands? Who have you comforted today?

Do you wave at people you don't know?

Neck? When was the last time you made someone else look good?

PRAYER: (*Take turns to pray, then include this prayer if so led.*)

Lord Jesus, you call us to come to you. Help us to love people the way you do. May we show acceptance to those who are often rejected. Heal our brokenness with your gift of grace. We thank you that you have given us a family of faith in the church. We pray for the church and its ministries, that we may love others unconditionally, the way You O Lord love them.

Take some time to talk about what you want to do next.
Do you want to form a 5 -10 month triad group?

Do you want to be in another 3 -4 person group for four meetings of study/prayer?

(Call us at 694-9136 church, or email at arnoideagle@comcast.net.)

Remember, we are on a journey of faith. Together we form Christ's body. God is calling to us to grow through caring ministries.

Though one may be overpowered and two can defend themselves, a cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Prayer Triplet Groups “Healing, Peace, and Joy” First Baptist Church, Grand Blanc, MI.

“With the gift of listening comes the gift of healing.” - Catherine de Hueck .”

Key Scripture Passage:

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. (Acts 16:25)

Prayer Meeting 1: Choosing to Listen is a Blessing

KEY CONCEPT: Jesus rewards us for listening to Him and one another.

Healing is a gift that involves more than simple relief of a physical problem. Deeper healing, peace, and joy come as we open ourselves to God. There are four W's that one discovers in the process of experiencing the work of God's Holy Spirit: Waiting, Wondering, Worshiping, and Wellness. No one likes to wait too long, and yet we learn that “Those who WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall rise up with wings as eagles.” (Isaiah 40:31.). WONDERING often comes with waiting, we wonder about various things in life. What will happen to someone we love? How are we going to make it? Where will we find help? Will we find an answer to our problems? What can I do about something? Wondering is not a problem if we turn it over to God, but too often we wonder without consulting and trusting God. We can allow anxiety and distractions keep us from experiencing the presence and peace of God that will bless us. Indeed, in the midst of life's problems and struggles, one of the most important things we can do is to WORSHIP God. This is what Paul and Silas did in prison, being chained to the wall. People listened and wondered how they could joyfully sing, and yet it pleased God and they were set free from their chains. Indeed, they were already spiritually free, having the peace of Christ. WELLNESS in the face of adversity is possible for people of faith. Healing is a reality in more ways than physical health. The words to the hymn “It

Is Well With My Soul” were written by Horatio Spafford in 1873. There were two major traumas in Spafford’s life. The first was the great Chicago Fire of October 1871, which financially depleted him (he had been a wealthy businessman). Shortly after, while crossing the Atlantic, all four of Spafford’s daughters died in a collision with another ship. Spafford’s wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, “Saved alone.” Several weeks later, as Spafford’s own ship passed by the spot where his daughters died. Spafford listened to the leading of God’s comforting Holy Spirit, and was led to write these words. Our peace and eternal hope are with knowing the Savior Jesus Christ.

***When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.***

Spafford knew the wellness of faith in Christ; God’s Holy Spirit pours peace within our souls as we wait, wonder and worship. Listen to God, you won’t be disappointed.

Luke 10:38-42 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” ⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

1. What was the key difference between Martha and Mary when it came to appreciating this brief time with Jesus?
2. Why was it better that Mary chose to listen to Jesus in this precious moment?
3. What is important in our quality time with God and one another? How could we listen better?

Acts 26:28-29. Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?” ²⁹ Paul replied, “Short time or long--I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

1. Why was Paul so confident before King Agrippa?
2. How would you describe the confidence Paul had in the gospel of Jesus Christ?
3. What kind of wellness is observable in a believer of Jesus Christ?
4. What can happen if people really listen to the gospel and come to Christ?

Prayer: Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we pray in hope, waiting for the work of your healing grace. We pray in wonder, believing that you can do awesome and mighty things. We pray in worship and awe, trusting that you are understanding in your mercy, and faithful in your holiness and power to save. May your peace bless us with a joy that helps us through the trials and tough times. Amen.
CONTINUE to pray for your family and friends, especially those going through heartache and pain.

Prayer Meeting 2: The Peace of God

I am certain, the body is not the measure of healing, peace is the measure."
- George Melton

KEY CONCEPT: God's peace is available when we seek His presence and grace.

KEY VERSE: *You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.* (Isaiah 26:3-4 NIV)

People will often look for security and peace in all the wrong places. Isaiah was inspired to write from his own discovery of peace with God that it all starts when we keep our minds steadfast upon the Lord, His word, His presence, His power. When we do this we grow to trust the Lord, and experience the ways that God is a rock of refuge, now, and forever. Yet we can't help but notice that little word "keep", for indeed peace is not ours to make, produce or hoard; Indeed peace is God's to give, and in so doing, to "keep" us in His care. Peace belongs to God, and is given by God's grace, and is managed by God's mercy and kindness. God calls us to steadfast trust, and this requires us to grow in our faith. We will need to let go of the false "rocks" that we sometimes cling to: pride, possessions, people, power, money, jobs, roles, prejudice, culture. The peace of God is an awesome gift that is given to our souls, and is available whenever we earnestly direct our trust to be in the Lord.

Prayer that is centered on God's grace, and not simply our problems, will bring us peace. Prayer that is focused on God's steadfast love, and not simply our pain, will bring us the warm indwelling of Christ, who blesses us with God's healing love. Prayer that is focused on God's power, and not our shortcomings, will lead us unto a ROCK that is higher than us, a Kingdom great and eternal in the Lord.

Questions:

1. How has the Lord Jesus Christ been a Rock for you?
2. What challenges face us in keeping our mind steadfast on God in our prayers?
3. Through what experiences in life has your trust in the Lord grown?

"All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:25-27)

Questions:

1. In the upper room, before His Passion, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit would come to them. Yet Jesus also affirms what it was He came to give to them. What kind of peace does He leave with the disciples?
2. What is the difference between the peace of Christ and the peace of the world?
3. What is the result of Christ's peace when it comes to our hearts and minds?
How does this help us to pray boldly?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, have your way in our lives. May your peace reign in our hearts as we trust in you completely, and overcome the stress and strains of the world with your help.

CONTINUE to pray for anyone you know who is stressed out, or is going through a very difficult time in their job, family or wherever they may need the peace of God.

Thank Jesus for being the Prince of Peace. Place your faith and trust in Him.

Prayer Meeting 3: Hope Through Life's Trials

*Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.
Psalm 55:22*

Key Concept: God gives us hope in His eternal love, in His faithful promises.

SCRIPTURE: (Psalm 25 NIV)

*1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; 2 in you I trust, O my God.
Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.*

*3 No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,
but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.*

*4 Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;
5 guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.*

Questions:

1. What are the cares or concerns that have recently weighed upon your heart?
2. In what way did you, or did you not, lift up your soul in trust to the Lord with these cares or concerns?
3. In Psalm 25: 4-5, what is the result of asking God to show us His ways?

We read of God's process of giving us lasting hope from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans:

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:1-5)

In reflecting upon this passage, let's take time to pray through these truths that give us hope.

v. 1. Lord, we thank you for justifying us, though we are sinners, by your gift of grace that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, I confess that you have forgiven me of _____.

Lord, I thank you that I have peace with You over _____.

v. 2 Lord, we thank you for a close and intimate relationship with You, that we may access by faith in your continuing work of grace in our lives.

Lord, help me to rejoice in the hope of _____.

Lord, help me to see your glory revealed in _____.

v. 3 Lord, we thank you for what we learn through suffering, and we believe you will always help us to persevere.

Lord, help me to learn from the way I have suffered through _____.

Lord, help someone I love persevere through _____.

v. 4 Lord, we thank you for producing righteous character within us through life's trials.

Lord, I thank you for producing the character quality of _____ in my life. Help me to develop more of this character quality _____.

v.5 Lord, we thank you for pouring your love into our hearts in those moments of life when we have greatly needed your presence, peace and hope to sustain us.

Lord, I thank You for giving me hope when _____.

Lord, I thank You for the Holy Spirit that I experience giving me strength for _____.

Colossians 1:27 *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

PRAYER: Almighty and gracious God, our Heavenly Father, may the hope of glory rest strongly in our hearts, and guide our thoughts and actions. We pray that we may daily discover Your presence, Lord Jesus, in our journey of faith. Our purpose is to serve for the sake of Thy eternal kingdom with faith, hope and love. Amen.

Prayer Meeting 4: Joy That Perseveres.

KEY CONCEPT: The Joy of the Lord will survive in your heart, even above pain or sorrow.

SCRIPTURE: *Then I would still have this consolation-- my joy in unrelenting pain-- that I had not denied the words of the Holy One.* (Job 6:10 NIV)

Which of the following sentences can you relate to:

- Joy is something I desire, but rarely experience.
- Joy is something I experience, but I need it more consistently.
- Joy is consistent and regular in my life.
- Joy is often overflowing in my life.

SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Let's compare two passages on Joy from the Old Testament.

"My days are swifter than a runner; they fly away without a glimpse of joy." (Job 9:25)

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
(Psalm 51:12)

1. What key differences of attitude do we see between these two passages?

The first passage is a complaint from Job who endured great loss and pain, the second is a prayer from David, who also endured many trials.

2. What can we learn from Job's realization about how quickly time passes?
3. What could Job learn from David's way of seeking God?

Let's compare two passages on Joy from the gospels in the New Testament.

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and

revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (Luke 10:21)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:11-12)

1. What is it that Jesus observed that filled His heart with joy?
2. What purpose did Jesus come to fulfill?
3. When, where and how have you experienced the Joy of Jesus in your life?

Testimony of Joy:

There was a French mathematical genius named Blaise Pascal who died in 1662. After running from God until he was 31 years old, on November 23, 1654 at 10:30 pm, Pascal discovered that God was real, and was converted into the reality of a joyful, genuine, faith in Jesus Christ. On a piece of parchment paper he wrote down his experience, and had it sewed into his coat, where it was found after he died. The paper said,

Year of grace 1654, Monday 23 November, feast of St. Clement . . . from about half past ten at night to about half an hour after midnight, FIRE. God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of philosophers and scholars. Certitude, heartfelt joy, peace. God of Jesus Christ. God of Jesus Christ. "My God and your God." . . . Joy, Joy, Joy, tears of joy. . . Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. May I never be separated from him.

God's gifts of healing, peace and joy are available to us in a powerful and personal way through coming to know Jesus Christ. When we are surprised by the fire of God's love, His grace that is sufficient and overflowing, by faith we will never be the same. There is hope eternal, born by the ignited flame of God's truth that envelopes us with cleansing refinement, and the very power of the Holy Spirit to bring us life, whereby we are born again. Jesus calls us to trust God our Father, and to believe in Him, for He was sent to bring us abundant life and overflowing joy, salvation and redemption.

PRAYER:

Gracious and loving God, righteous and Holy, may we experience your everlasting Joy in our lives. May we place our trust in Jesus, and allow Him to fill our hearts and souls with Joy that springs forth like a fountain overflowing. May the joy given to us be a wellspring that we share willingly, sacrificially, and thankfully with others. Amen.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we seek the increase of your Heavenly Kingdom in the hearts and souls of people in our lives. May we have vision to see the lost, passion to reach their hearts, and faith to proclaim your salvation. In Jesus name, Amen. CONTINUE to pray as God leads you.

Jesus, may your joy help us bear the pain of _____.

Jesus, may your joy help us overcome the trial of _____.

Jesus, may your joy give us patience over _____.
Jesus, may your joy help us be thankful for _____.
Jesus, may your joy help me to love _____.
Jesus, may your joy guide me to _____.
Jesus, may your joy help me to bless _____.

**Thank you God for the blessing to be filled with your love, peace and joy.
In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

Please look to the next page to consider what you will do next as a triplet or triad.

Upon completing this four part Prayer Triplet Experience, please consider what you would like to do next.

1. Continue to meet, transforming our group to become a Triad Discipleship Group.
_____ To meet for another four weeks as a trial.
_____ To meet for six to nine months for a faith and friendship building experience.
2. Continue to meet regularly as God leads us for prayer as a Triplet. _____
3. Take a Break and Pray about what to do next. _____

May God bless and guide you.

Please let us know what your plans are. Contact the church office at 810-694-9136.

You may also email Pastor Scott Arnold at arnoldeagle@comcast.net .

Prayer Triplet Groups “Prayer Evangelism”

First Baptist Church, Grand Blanc, MI.

“In order to take the gospel to every creature, the Church is called to engage the forces of evil. This is where the battle for our cities is won or lost.” - Ed Silvoso

Key Scripture Passage:

2 Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Prayer Meeting 1: From the Upper Room to Every Room.

KEY CONCEPT: Prayer is the key to the successful fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Acts 1:8 *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."*

Following the resurrection, and many appearances and teaching, Jesus gave his disciples a reaffirmation of the Great Commission to go into all the world, preaching the gospel and making disciples of all nations. In this passage we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Holy Spirit as they would obediently wait in prayer in Jerusalem. We live at a time when the church is likewise struggling with reaching the lost, including people of various errant religions. The influence of “Post-Modern” thought is expressed by many who believe that “everything is relative... there are no absolutes.” This is influenced by the evolutionary teaching that life came about spontaneously, and things just happen by random coincidence. This kind of thinking is perpetuated by a lack of faith in God, and a general mistrust of the church.

In reflection, we find ourselves more like the early church than we might have imagined. For this reason we can draw courage from Jesus words of promise and purpose. We too can experience the power of the Holy Spirit if we wait in prayer, anticipating the working of God to come. Perhaps this is where we are called to exercise greater faith and trust in what Jesus opened the way for.

In coming together in prayer triplets, this will provide an intimate and powerful means for praying the Scriptures over our lives and those we are concerned for. Our primary purpose is to glorify God through regular intercessory prayer. We grow in our faith as disciples by joining in prayer, and we are empowered and prepared for multiplying our faith through evangelism. The Bible is our prayer guide to live in faithful witness.

Through prayer together, we are better equipped to pray for the lost with the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. Indeed prayer is the strongest foundational/relational tool we can draw upon, for through prayer we affirm and trust that God is in the midst of our daily encounters. Prayer will therefore activate our spiritual gifts, and ignite our passion to care for others, in a way that reflects the mind of Christ and the empowerment of God's Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, Jesus was about to ascend to the right hand of the throne of God our Heavenly Father, His departure opens the way for the fullness of the Holy Spirit to come empower us to fulfill God's good will.

1. What was God's promise and purpose for the disciples from Jesus?
2. What do we learn about God's strategy for the church in this passage?
3. What did they need to accomplish God's purposes?
How is this important or available to us?

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

4. What made the early church's prayer life and fellowship effective?
5. In what ways could we improve our personal and church life and prayer?

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

6. Based upon Acts 4:31, immediately after they prayed, what happened to:
 - A. The place where they were praying?
 - B. The people who were praying?
 - C. What happens in the church (place and people) when we pray today?

Acts 4:32-33 (32) All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. (33) With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

7. Based upon Acts 4:32-33 what is the long-term result of prayer?
8. What is the church's primary testimony according to this passage?

Prayer: Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, fill us with Thy Holy Spirit so that we may give you glory in a new life we may live for Thy Kingdom in Jesus Christ.

Amen. CONTINUE to pray for your family and friends.

Prayer Meeting 2: How Should we Pray for the Lost?

KEY CONCEPT: People are usually open to intercessory prayer on their behalf.

Mark 5:22-23 (22) Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet (23) and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

A great revival started in a city of Argentina because religious leaders decided it was time they take their intercessory prayer seriously. After being in one accord through prayer together (even with denominational diversity), they went to ask leaders in the city government, police department, and various large businesses, how they could pray for them. First they asked each leader to forgive them for not being more concerned about the problems they faced. Then, they asked the leaders to help them understand what specific ways their churches could help. Then they asked if they could pray with them, and return to pray with them whenever necessary, or once a month. The city's leaders were so astounded, doors of communication and cooperation began to open up. Within a year new relationships flourished between religious leaders and the leaders of government, police, media, commerce and industry. Soon the media offered the religious leaders air time, and a regular television and radio ministry began. Home Bible Studies and prayer groups met throughout the city as people were encouraged to listen and pray together. An evangelistic rally was held where people meeting in the various homes were encouraged to come to a centralized park where various ministries of counseling, healing, and prayer were being offered. Many thousands of people came, and the rallies continued each evening, accompanied by more radio broadcasts. The city was being transformed and reached for Christ.

On one of the nights there was a bus headed home from the rally, and a man with a gun jumped on board asking for everyone to hand him their money. When the people started telling him that Jesus loved him, while handing him their money joyfully, he yelled out: "You people are crazy", and jumped out crying. The bus stopped, the people walked out and prayed for him. The man dropped his gun and asked Jesus to come into his heart.

When God's Holy Spirit brings revival it is because we are being STRONG in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

The primary passage we will consider in this study is from Paul's first letter to Timothy. Paul has weathered so much, and seen the power of God. Now he passes along the torch of courageously bearing the light of the gospel of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Read I Timothy 2:1-8 (1) *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (3) Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (4) No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. (5) Similarly, if anyone*

competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. (6) The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. (7) Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. (8) Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, (9) for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. (10) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

1. How can believers be strong? (v.1)
2. How can believers be faithful? (v. 2)
3. What can our service be compared to in human terms? (v. 3-6)
4. Why is quiet time important for discipleship? (v. 7)
5. How does our faith in the Risen Christ help us to endure trials? (v. 8-9)
6. How can we make prayer a part of caring for the salvation of the lost? (v. 10)

What does Paul teach us about the priority of enduring?

7. Who could we go to in our city/community/nation and be a witness for Christ through asking how we might pray for them?
8. If you were to be talking with your friend or neighbor, and they mentioned a concern or a need, would you be bold enough to ask them if you could pray for them?
How might this differ if you met a stranger who shared a concern with you?
9. In the city of Argentina, listening and caring opened the way for prayer evangelism.
How may this work (or not work) today here in our city?

Prayer: Lord Jesus help us to reach out to people in need with the power of prayer. We believe that showing love and concern expresses more than mere feelings, but indeed is a movement of faith in Thy Power to heal and forgive. Amen.
CONTINUE in prayer, taking turns to pray for people, concerns, your neighbors and our nation.

Prayer Meeting 3: Prayer that Goes Beyond Reason.

Key Concept: There are times when prayer, and actions based upon prayer, go beyond what we can logically, or reasonably, understand. Yet these are the times when we open ourselves to the supernatural purposes of God that go beyond sense, human reason, and immediate practicality.

Luke 15:1- 7 (1) "Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. (2) But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." (3) Then Jesus told them this parable: (4) "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? (5) And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders (6) and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' (7) I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

In this passage we observe Jesus interacting with social outcasts and the social elite. Jesus primary concern is “salvation”, not “status”. It may seem odd to the Pharisees and teachers of the law that one who is being referred to as the messiah would even associate with tax collectors and sinners. The ways of God and the ways of man are different, and in this case Jesus is seen by the Pharisees as being either ignorant or unholy. The sin of pride became the plank in the eye of the Pharisees as they assumed that God was not interested in sinners but in law abiding, doctrinally correct, saints. Yet God's concern and compassion is not measured in human standards. The Lord is more interested in the heart of people's affection, and truthful desire to know and serve Him. God always starts with us in our sinful condition, seeing that each of us is lost without His grace and truth. In this case, Jesus the Good Shepherd, the way, truth and life, goes out of his way to reach the lost, even accepting social and spiritual criticism.

Jesus tells them a parable about a shepherd who goes out to look for the one lost sheep out of one hundred. Indeed Jesus was speaking about Himself, and the Kingdom of Heaven that He came to win souls for. In contrast, Israel had often been referred to as being led by human shepherds who failed to fulfill their God-given responsibilities. Various kings, priests, and teachers had not only neglected the spiritual and physical needs of the people, they had often led them astray, or thought only of themselves. Godly leaders are not concerned primarily about keeping their human influence, they are concerned about pleasing God by being fair and compassionate to all. Jesus spoke about God's concern for the lost one-hundredth sheep, and we learn that God values all individuals, not matter their income, status, education, race, or culture. This may seem impractical, or even unwise in worldly standards, but it is pleasing to God to see others as Jesus would.

The point here is that we are to love and pray for sinners. After all, that includes us!! The very people we may not like, or who we would feel uncomfortable with, are the very people God calls us to pray for, and even associate with (as long as we don't compromise

our faith or values). Indeed we are to believe in the powerful work of God's grace that can change the most unlikely of persons. Putting our faith in action may even seem ridiculous to our sense of reason, and outrageous to those we reach out to. However, through prayer, and this giving rise to active openness to God within the course of a day, we may become aware of God's leading. Often God will call us to respond to the people along life's path, and sometimes it will involve us going out of our way to express his care to another person. To illustrate this, I know a friend who was having a tough day when all of a sudden a perfect stranger came up to him at the library and said: "Jesus loves you, God just wanted me to let you know." This friend was totally blessed by the surprise encounter, and he marveled how bold and faithful this person had been. From then on it changed his view of evangelism, to where now he seeks God's direction and timing as he tells others "Jesus loves you", as the Spirit leads.

Let's consider the following questions as we start to pray from the basis of the parable of Jesus and the lost sheep:

1. Why did Jesus care as much for the sinners and tax collectors as He did for the Pharisees and teachers of the law? Do political and religious leaders show very much impartiality in our time?
2. When was the last time Jesus called you to reach out to someone you would not normally associate with? What happened?
3. According to Jesus parable, what are we supposed to do once we have reached out to someone and brought them to salvation?
4. Can you think of some way that prayer may be illogical, impractical, or beyond human reason? What about the case of praying for someone who is diagnosed with an incurable disease?

Give an example when God called you to stop what you were doing and pray?
Did it lead to a time of reaching out to someone in need?
5. What is the value of rejoicing? What are we to understand takes place in heaven as we rejoice?

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help us see your guiding hand upon our lives, especially as we follow your shepherd staff to reach out to someone in need. Amen.

CONTINUE to pray for people who need healing, include people who are lost and need

salvation. Think of individuals and also nations, or religious groups.

Prayer Meeting 4: Passion for the Lost.

KEY CONCEPT: “Prayer is the most tangible trace of eternity in the human heart. Intercessory prayer on behalf of the felt needs of the lost is the best way to open their eyes to the light of the gospel.” - Ed Silvoso

John 17:20-23 Jesus' passion for the lost.

(20) “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, (21) that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (22) I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: (23) I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jesus led the disciples in the way of prayer. In this intercession, His prayer was not only for their own personal growth and unity in the faith, but also for the spread of the gospel through their witness to world. The new covenant with God that Jesus established was for the whole world to hear. Those who believe will likewise receive the spiritual presence and power of God the Father and Christ the Son. Jesus prayed that the glory of God would dwell in them, giving them both unity in spirit, and purpose in spreading the saving love of God to a lost world.

Specifically, who could you pray for today. Think of your friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers, do they all know the Lord? Start by praying for people in such a way that you know enough about them so that you can pray specifically. Continue to pray for people by asking God to open conversations that pertain to God in their lives. Take it a step further as you ask people if you would mind if you prayed for them. If the timing is right, you might even invite them to a small group meeting in the future, or to your Sunday School class, or to get together personally for deeper conversation or prayer. Jesus had worked with His disciples to this point where He could pray for them and they were widely open and ready for the ministry of His prayer. It may take time, but we should cultivate our relationships, and at times be bold yet sensitive to the Holy Spirit, as we pray for and with others.

1. What does Jesus teach us about the direction of prayer here? To whom?
2. What does Jesus teach us about the purpose of prayer here? For what reason?
3. To what extent is Jesus forward looking in His prayer? Why is hope important?
4. What kind of unity is Jesus referring to here? Who is involved, and for what reason?
5. How may we experience the glory of God as we pray like Jesus?
6. How do we encourage others to experience the glory of God through prayer?

7. How is this prayer of Jesus an example of passion for both the saved and the lost?

READ Matthew 10:6-8

(6) Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. (7) As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' (8) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

8. In this passage how did Jesus express His passion for reaching the lost?

9. What is to be our attitude in delivering the gospel message, and reaching the lost?

10. How can we make prayer the key foundation for the way we reach out to others?

11. Who are you going to commit yourself to pray for evangelistically?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we seek the increase of your Heavenly Kingdom in the hearts and souls of people in our lives. May we have vision to see the lost, passion to reach their hearts, and faith to proclaim your salvation. In Jesus name, Amen. CONTINUE to pray as God leads you.

Jesus, we pray for the salvation of _____.
Jesus, we pray for the healing of _____.
Jesus, we pray for forgiveness for _____.
Jesus, we pray for encouragement for _____.
Jesus, we pray for strength for _____.
Jesus, we pray for direction for _____.
Jesus, we pray for comfort for _____.

Upon completing this four part Prayer Triplet Experience, please consider what you would like to do next.

1. Take a Break and Pray about what to do next. _____
2. Continue to meet as God leads us for prayer as a Triplet. _____
3. Continue to meet, transforming our group to become a Triad Discipleship Group.
_____ To meet for another four weeks as a trial.
_____ To meet for 5 -10 months for a faith and friendship building experience.

May God bless and guide you.

Please let us know what your plans are. Contact the church office at 810-694-9136.

You may also email Pastor Scott Arnold at arnoldeagle@comcast.net .

APPENDIX 4

NEW LONG-TERM TRIAD DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

Faith
Friendship
and
Fruitfulness

A Discipleship Triad Curriculum

by Rev. Scott T. Arnold

First Baptist Church of Grand Blanc, Michigan

TRIAD DISCIPLESHIP GROUP CURRICULUM

First Baptist Church of Grand Blanc, Michigan

Outline of Study “Faith, Friendship and Fruitfulness”

Orientation: Getting to Know One Another.

Get together for a meal, dessert, or time of initial bonding/sharing.

Introduction and philosophy, talk about hopes and expectations.

Establish agreement for commitment, confidentiality, and consistency.

Read the covenant, and agree to it, pray for God's help and transforming work in your lives.

Section 1: “Faith”

“Overview on Faith, Friendship, and Fruitfulness”

“From the Ground Up” (Genesis 1) Starting with God.

“Made in the Image of God” (Genesis 2-3) Made for Faith and Fellowship

“The Pride that Led to Sin” (Genesis 3) Man's Fall and Need for Repentance.

“God's New Work of Reconciliation and Redemption” (Genesis 3-4, Romans 1-3, (II Corinthians 5:19-21)

“When in Doubt, Faith it” Romans 3:27-28, 4:4-5 Galatians 3:23-29)

“Justification by Faith”

“Jesus is the God's Answer” Matthew 14:25-33 and Matthew 16:13-23

Peter, “Depart from me” “Walking on the Water” “Thou Art the Son of God.”

Section 2: “Friendship”

“Enjoy Some Time Together” Go and do something enjoyable together as a Triad.

“Jesus is the Best Friend” John 15:9-17

“Support in Christian Friendship” Ecclesiastes 4:10, 12 I John 4:7-12

“Laughter and Joy in Friendship” Psalm 126 Nehemiah 8:10-12

“Emergency Relief in Friendships” Proverbs 17:17 Luke 11:5-8

“Tough Times for Friendships” Proverbs 18:24 I Peter 1:3-9

“Depth in Friendships” Daniel 2:17-20 Jude 1:17-21

Section 3: “Fruitfulness”

“Worship Time” Attend a special worship event, concert, or have a retreat.

“Direction in Life” Matthew 5:1-16

“Defining Priorities” Matthew 6:24-34

“Dealing with Distractions” Matthew 7:1-7 “Doing the Will of God”

“Discipline that Brings Joy to Life” Philippians 4:4-7

“Discipline that Multiplies and Grows” Philippians 4:8-13 Matthew 28:16-20

Conclusion: Go out for dinner, play golf, or have a picnic to celebrate.

Pray for God's direction for the future.

Orientation: Getting to Know One Another.

In your first time together as a Discipleship Triad it will be good to get together for a meal, dessert, or time of initial bonding/sharing.

1. Take time to share your life stories.
2. Then take time to read over the definition, purpose and covenant for Triads.
3. Make a final decision about your commitment to this journey.
4. Triads often benefit from people of different ages, faith development, and life experience, that meet together. Making new friends, and renewing old friendships within the sharing of faith, is a blessing.
5. Schedule your regular meeting times and your first meeting.
6. Pray for God's leading and strength.
7. Remember to enjoy your times together, and pray for one another regularly.

Definition of a Triad Discipleship Group: *A group of three people who meet together regularly for Christian faith sharing and friendship building.*

Purpose of a Triad Discipleship Group: *That a group of three people would grow together in the Christian faith by walking alongside one-another in life's journey, learning and growing spiritually from God and His Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.*

Covenant for a Triad Discipleship Group:

We will meet together regularly for the next 5 to 10 months (or however long we take to finish this Discipleship Triad experience). We will make our faith in Jesus Christ, our friendship with one another, and our commitment toward spiritual support as a Triad, a priority, as we trust in God to help us fulfill His call to growth. We will be consistent in meeting, protective of confidentiality, and committed to encourage one another in Christian care.

SIGNATURES _____

If you have completed this covenant, then please schedule your regular meeting times and give the church office a call so we know you have started and can support you.

If you did not complete the covenant, have questions, or would like to have another person join Triad Discipleship Group to complete your group, then please contact Pastor Scott Arnold. You may reach him at 694-9136, 695-6548 (home), or by email at arnoldeagle@comcast.net

Please check the www.comefollowjesus.com website for discipleship help, information, links, and curriculum support, and who is available as a Triad Discipleship Coach.

Thank you, Pastor Scott Arnold and the Triad Discipleship Coaches.

Discipleship is not just another program, it is a pilgrimage of faith shared with friends.

Come Follow Jesus.

A Series for Sunday Morning Sermons on Discipleship
and a Discipleship Triad Group Study Outline

January 22 - April 16, 2006

- January 22. Matthew 3:13-17 Behold God's Son, our Savior (Revelation)
- January 29. Matthew 4:18-22 The Invitation to Come and Follow (Faith)
- February 5. Matthew 5:1-12 Follow the Path of Blessing (Hope)
- February 12. Matthew 5:38-48 Follow the Way of Peace and Love (Love)
- February 19. Matthew 6:5-18 Follow the Way of Prayer (Humility)
- February 26. Matthew 6:24-34 Follow only One Master (Priorities)
- March 5. Matthew 7:13-27 Follow God's Way of Salvation (Commitment)
- March 12. Matthew 8:18-27 Follow Jesus with Willingness and Awareness
(Obedience)
- March 19. Matthew 9:9-17 Follow the Way of Mercy (Grace)
- March 26 (Mission Sunday) (Vitari Preaching)
- April 2. Matthew 14:13-21 Follow the Way of God's Provision: A New Manna
(Trust)
- April 9. (Palm Sunday) Matthew 16:24-28 (Cantata) Come Follow Jesus to the Cross
(Sacrifice)
- April 16. (Easter) Matthew 28:1-10 Come to the Empty Tomb (Transformation)
- April 30. Matthew 28:16-20 Come and Go Expecting Jesus. (Great Commission)

(From this outline a new resource for Discipleship Triad Groups will be formed.
This shall be made available in June, 2006.)

APPENDIX 5

COVENANTS FOR TRIAD DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship Triad Covenants

For a Long Term Triad Discipleship Group

We will meet together regularly for the next 5 to 10 months (or however long we take to finish this Discipleship Triad experience). We will make our faith in Jesus Christ, our friendship with one another, and our commitment toward spiritual support as a Triad, a priority, as we trust in God to help us fulfill His call to growth. We will be consistent in meeting, protective of confidentiality, and committed to encourage one another in Christian care.

For a Short Term Triad Group (Bridge or Triplet)

We will meet together regularly for the next 4 to 8 weeks. We will make our faith in Jesus Christ, our friendship with one another, and our commitment toward spiritual support as a Triad, a priority, as we trust in God to help us fulfill His call to growth. We will be consistent in meeting, protective of confidentiality, and committed to encourage one another in Christian care.

Upon completion of this experience, we will evaluate whether to continue, either becoming a Triad Discipleship Group, or deciding to conclude our time together while seeking God's future direction.

SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Printed Material

Arn, Charles. *How to Start a New Service*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.

A helpful tool for analyzing a church's worship ministry, and what can help a church assimilate people into it's life and fellowship. Helpful in seeing the need for discipleship ministry as means for retention of people after they visit.

Arn, Charles and Win. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.

A realistic assessment of church evangelism, and a clear-sighted vision of practical ways churches can implement a discipleship ministry that will help people become assimilated, spiritually strong, Christians.

Baker, Michael L. *Jesus Walk: Discipleship for the 21st Century*. Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 1999.

The first of a two part series for disciple making. This first journal helps seekers and new believers understand who Jesus is, and how He guides us to take first steps in following Him as Savior and Lord.

_____. *Faith Walk: Discipleship for the 21st Century*, Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press, 1999.

This second journal in discipleship leads believers into sound biblical doctrine, and God honoring application of faith.

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: Water Brook, 2001.

Statistical evaluation of the church's

current state of health in the ministry of discipleship. Concerns and strategies are examined through specific examples, models that are working to make healthy disciples are highlighted.

_____. *The Power of Team Leadership*. Colorado Springs, CO: Water Brook, 2001.

A book to help church leaders work together, and understand the dynamics that encourage complementary service as Christ's disciples. Case studies and models are examined and critiqued, helping churches think past their past assumptions of pastor-dependent leadership.

_____. *The State of the Church: 2005*. Ventura, CA: The Barna Group, 2005.

This is a report that updates previous church studies of the Barna Group. There is information on church trends, social trends, and cultural shifts of attitude toward Christianity. The conclusion is that Christians are not holding fast to a biblical worldview.

Bennett, Ron and Larry Glabe. *Opening the Door; Tools for Leading an Evangelistic Bible Study*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress.

A directive guide and study series useful in starting a home discipleship small group, where neighbors and friends can be invited and welcomed to find out more about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Preparation materials, charts, and a study from the gospel of Luke.

Blackaby, Henry. *Experiencing God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1998.

A useful tool for congregational, and small group, understanding and exploration of coming to know and serve God as disciples of Jesus Christ. Emphasis on discovering God beyond our assumptions.

Boyer, Ernest Jr. *A Way in the World; Family Life as Spiritual Discipline*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1984.

A family man shares how spiritual discipline can be experienced as a father and husband within the context of the home, God discipling us through family life lessons.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Discipline of Grace*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1994.

The author explores God's grace in the role of discipleship formation; Dependency on God's grace and holiness leads us into a disciplined pursuit of God's holiness.

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *How People Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

An honest examination and testimony from professional Christian psychologists as to how people do adjust to changes and challenges, and grow by God's grace.

_____. *Making Small Groups Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

A practical guide for making small group discipleship ministry effective and creative. Seasoned veterans of small groups share their insights and offer solutions to common problems encountered.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1998.

A biblical summary of discipleship in the ministry of Jesus, and in the early church.

Colson, Charles. *The Good Life*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishers, 2005.

A worldview questioning book that probes questions related to life's meaning and purpose,

helpful for discussion and dialogue in small groups, and for personal discipleship reflection. Examples, stories, and personal testimony from the author give inspiration.

Cymbala, Jim. *Break Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Personal testimony to the power of God that works when people patiently, persistently pray for a spiritual breakthrough. Applicable for disciple makers who are praying for people they are mentoring or coaching, or for pastors praying for church renewal.

Dukes, Bob. *A Model for Strategic Discipleship*. Fayetteville, GA: Worldwide Discipleship Association, 1997.

A set of tools and a model for developing discipleship in the local church. The "Equipping Spiritual Growth Inventory" is a personal discipleship evaluation tool which helps identify the level of discipleship for a believer, and offers supportive guidance for further direction and growth.

Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

A biblical view of discipleship that emphasizes practical ways for the church to develop and train leaders.

Elwell, Walter. Ed., *Baker Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.

A doctrinally solid evangelical commentary of the New International Version of the Bible.

Thirty seven scholars contributed to this volume.

George, Carl F. *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. Marshall, PA: Kingdom Publishing, 1997.

A practical guide to small group formation,

and the means to identify what kind of curriculum is right for a group. Various types of groups are identified, with suggestions for how each of these types may be needed.

Hanks, Billy, Jr. *A Call to Joy*. Waco, TX: Word, 1994.

This integrated mentoring discipleship program is designed to encourage a new Christian to affirm the joyful Christian life. This is step one in a disciple's growth to maturity.

_____. *A Call to Growth*. Waco, TX: Word, 1993.

This is step two in a mentoring discipleship program, and is designed to help believers mature to become capable to mentor and disciple others.

Harvest Bible Chapel. *Adult Small Group Curriculum*. Rolling Meadows, IL: Harvest Bible Chapel, 2004-2005.

Small group and house church resources that are coordinated in stages for church-wide discipleship. Incorporates a creative mix of activities each session and makes Bible study a shared journey that is organized and structured well. (From James MacDonald and Joe Stowell.)

Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1990.

A useful tool for planning, administering, and promoting discipleship in the church. Great flow charts and help with what may hinder discipleship ministry.

_____. *The Disciple-Making Pastor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1988.

An insightful and practical resource to encourage and guide pastors in becoming a leader for discipleship in the church.

_____. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Grand Rapids,

MI: Baker Books, 2004.

A devotional guide to consider Jesus' call to become disciples. Wise and insightful, inspiring faith and reflection for church leaders. Includes study guide.

Jeremiah, David. *Prayer, the Great Adventure*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997.

A wise and practical guide to developing the personal habits and corporate ministry of prayer. A pastoral approach that guides disciples toward maturity of communion with God.

Koessler, John. *True Discipleship; The Art of Following Jesus*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2003.

A searching look into the character of being a disciple of Jesus, extolling virtue and personal transformation that will lead to genuine expressions and witness of faith.

LeFever, Marlene. *Parties with a Purpose*. Colorado Springs, CO: Cook, 1998.

An idea book for having welcoming parties that help introduce friends and neighbors to church members in a way that is fun and non-threatening. Useful to introduce people to the possibility of exploring the faith in a small home-based group; Useful in pre-evangelistic methods, where potential disciples are first caught before being taught.

Machhia, Stephen A. *Becoming a Healthy Disciple; Ten Traits of a Vital Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004.

A balanced biblical view of discipleship that explores ten traits of healthy disciples, as they are personally growing believers, vital in their church community, and Christlike in service within all of life. Emphasis on the matter of becoming

like Christ, qualities are more important than achieving goals.

MacDonald, James. *Gripped by the Greatness of God*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2005.

A series of sermons that explores the attributes of God draw us to God's sovereignty, majesty, awesomeness, and holiness; Disciples come to wonder at God's works, worship before God's throne.

McSwain, Jay. *PLACE: Finding Your PLACE in Ministry*. Alpharetta, GA: MDC Today, 2004.

A complete set of tools to lead workshops in the local church that will help disciples discover their personality type, spiritual gifts, abilities, passions for ministry, and affirm experiences of life.

Navpress. *Growing Strong in God's Family. Volume 1 in a Course in Personal Discipleship*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1999.

_____. *Deepening Your Roots. Volume 2 in a Course in Personal Discipleship*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1999.

Navpress. *Bearing Fruit. Volume 3 in a Course in Personal Discipleship*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1999.

An interactive three-part series of studies for groups that focus on biblical basics and theological foundations.

Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2003.

A new way of thinking about discipleship, grounded in the lessons learned from Jesus' inner circle of disciples. A call to not hurry discipleship, but to see the cost and time involved in discipleship as having a long-term

effect toward gradual multiplication.

Ogden, Greg. *Discipleship Essentials*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2003.

Hands-on workbook for discipleship triad groups, gives a philosophy of triad ministry, explanation of how to run triads, and twenty four lessons that cover being a Christian, understanding God's Word, becoming more like Christ, and serving Christ in maturity.

Piper, John. *Don't Waste Your Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003.

A challenging call to make the Christian faith real within every aspect of life; Discipleship being integrated and purposeful as one understands the cross and follows Jesus daily.

Rasnake, Eddie. *Following God Discipleship Series: First Steps*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishing, 2002.

_____. *Following God Discipleship Series: Living God's Will*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishing, 2001.

Rasnake, Eddie. *Following God Discipleship Series: Using Your Spiritual Gifts*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishing, 2004.

Three of twelve studies are mentioned here for discipleship development, useful for small groups or home church experiences. Includes guidance for daily personal devotion/reflection.

Robinson, Darrell. *People Sharing Jesus*. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 1995.

A tool for church-wide focus and training for evangelism, encourages disciples to fulfill the Great Commission beyond their fears and failings.

_____. *Incredibly Gifted*. Garland, TX:

Hannibal Books, 2002.

A biblical view of spiritual gifts that helps to clarify the role of spiritual gifts, especially in making and edifying disciples in the church.

Rumford, Douglas J. *Soul Shaping*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishers, 1996.

A book for renewing one's relationship with God by examining soul neglect, and providing the Christian disciple tools and perspectives for personal or group spiritual care.

Shepherd, Rick. *Following God Discipleship Series: Praying God's Way*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishing, 2003.

A volume from the *Following God Discipleship Series*; emphasis is on the need and process a disciple goes through in learning how to pray. Open communion and fellowship with God our Heavenly Father is taught; specific study includes the Lord's prayer.

Shuler, Clarence. *Experiencing Discipleship*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.

A ten week intensive small group discipleship journey that gives weekly lessons and daily studies for reflection; may be used for a high commitment Sunday School series.

Silvoso, Ed. *That None Should Perish*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1994.

A vital guide for developing prayer based discipleship ministries that can strategically be used to reach entire cities and communities.

Smith, James Bryan and Lynda Graybeal. *A Spiritual Formation Workbook*. New York, NY: Harper, 1999.

A "Renovare" resource that nurtures Christian growth through prayer, spiritual disciplines, and

gives guidance for spiritual formation groups.

Stowell, Joseph M. *Following Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

A pastor's compelling call to discipleship; Seeking to make the invitation of Christ "to come and follow" a matter of discovering life's purpose and joy.

Terry, John Mark. *Church Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 1997.

A theological and practical guide for churches that desire to formulate a biblical approach of evangelism that places discipleship as the mandate.

Wilkinson, Bruce. *Experiencing Spiritual Breakthroughs*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 1999.

An insightful look at spiritual development, with the paradigm of the "three chairs" depicting generational and relational differences of faith.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1991.

A deep and penetrating look at the psychology of personal discipleship, an exploration of the connection of historical asceticism to modern faith development.

Willis, Avery Jr. *Masterlife*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway, 1997.

Biblical Process for Growing Disciples incorporating an extensive four part, four volume, journey for small groups, Sunday School, mentored pairs, or individual study. The companion leader's guide is extensive and invaluable.

Wilson, Carl. *With Christ in the School of Disciple Building*. Fayetteville, GA: Christian Growth

Books, 1976.

A careful and thorough study of the stages of discipleship.

Internet Resources

Arnold, Scott. Come Follow Jesus. 2005
www.comefollowjesus.com

Website of the discipleship ministry of First Baptist Church of Grand Blanc, Michigan. Resources shared for the development of discipleship ministries, triad discipleship groups, and prayer triplets.

Barna, George. Barna Research Group. www.barna.org

Many details about research and survey results on Barna's work on Discipleship patterns in the church.

Beacham, William. www.studentdiscipleship.org

Resources, curriculum for students and adults, thematic and biblical training. Online store. Non-denominational.

Christianity Today. www.christianitytoday.com/leaders/features/discipleship.html

Many articles, resources, ideas, and curriculum.

Connecting Business Men to Christ. www.cbmc.com

A great website with tools, articles and network opportunities to help build an effective discipleship ministry among professional businessmen.

Cross Daily. www.crossdaily.com

Find articles, study tools, referencing, chat room, ministry connections, and Bible study for small groups.

Gillem, Pres. *Pres' Blog, A Journal of Spiritual Formation*. Address: www.lifetime.org/pres

A series of insightful blogs that are personal, practical, and insights for spiritual formation.

Harvest Bible Chapel. www.harvestbible.org

Resources and information from a dynamic and multiplying church whose focus is on small groups and discipleship.

Martin, Dr. Jobe. www.biblicaldiscipleship.org

A resource that addresses issues of how the Christian faith relates to concerns of our times.

Morrell, Doug www.coregroups.org

This site features a good layout, with a Triad Discipleship model called "CORE", and printed resources and guidance. Free training E-newsletter is available. PDF downloads.

NAV PRESS. Discipleship Journal.
www.navpress.com/Magazines/DJ/

Internet resource for the Periodical "Discipleship Journal" by Navpress. This has current issues, and back issues, of this trustworthy resource for discipleship ministries.

Ogden, Greg. www.cc-ob.org/staff/ogden.htm

Website with biographical information on this author of Triad resources: *Discipleship Essentials*, and *Transforming Discipleship*.

Piper, John. Desiring God. www.Desiringgod.org

Great resource for discipleship devotional readings, sermons, online library, radio ministry,

and insights from a dynamic, evangelical, scholar.

Priebe, Chris. www.authenticwalk.com

A free internet discipleship course. Very well done, evangelical and biblical.

Williard, Dallas. www.dwillard.org

Website with articles, thoughts and resources. This address was accessed 1/2006.
www.dwillard.org/articles/artview.asp?artID=71