

Phase I: Establishing Faith

Primary Goal: To reach out to unbelievers and proclaim the Gospel in an effort to establish faith in Christ alone for salvation, and conduct basic follow-up with new Christians.

WHAT JESUS DID

WHAT WE CAN DO

<p>He and John the Baptist went to the lost sheep of Israel and showed concern and care for their spiritual condition. It was a tough message, but it was laced with love. They gathered people who needed to hear the message and those who had responded to the message.</p> <p>•<i>Isaiah 40: 3 cf. 42: 3/Matt. 9: 12 "I have come to call sinners."</i></p>	RELATIONSHIPS	<p>We can build relationships with unbelievers in an attempt to "connect".</p>
<p>God's love, holiness, the atonement of the Lamb of God, the future judgement, the role of the Holy Spirit, evangelistic apologetics, the divine nature of Christ.</p> <p>•<i>John 1: 29 - 34 "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."</i></p>	CONTENT	<p>We can share with unbelievers the Good News and answer their questions about the Christian faith and follow up those who respond.</p>
<p>He and John the Baptist called people to repent, turn away from contemporary idols and put their trust in God's deliverer (Messiah). They exhorted the people to become followers (disciples) of this Promised One.</p> <p>•<i>Matt. 3: 1 - 2 "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."</i></p>	ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>We can challenge people to repent, accept Christ and publicly declare their faith in Him.</p>
<p>That God would call men to become Christ's disciples. That the strong man would be bound and the power of the enemy broken so the Word might be proclaimed. •<i>Matt. 16:19 "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven."</i></p>	PRAYER	<p>We can pray for opportunities to share Christ with unbelievers. We can pray and prepare for the spiritual attacks. Pray that people will become aware of internal needs.</p>
<p>Various evangelistic encounters. Situations where relationships could be established. Large groups, small groups (in homes and at public gatherings) and individual contacts.</p> <p>•<i>Matt. 9:10 "While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples"</i></p>	SITUATIONS	<p>We can conduct evangelistic outreaches in communities. We can hold evangelistic socials in our homes and churches. We can provide opportunities for new disciples to publicly confess their faith in Christ.</p>

Scriptures from The Harmony of the Gospels:

Matthew: 3: 1 - 4 :11, Mark: 1: 1-13, Luke: 2: 1 - 2; 3: 3 - 18; 21 - 23, 4: 1 - 13, John: 1: 19 - 28

Phase II - Laying Foundations

Primary Goal: To gather young believers into a small group to help them understand the foundational truths of the Christian life and involve them in the larger Christian community.

WHAT JESUS DID

WHAT WE CAN DO

<p>Jesus challenged a group of disciples to be with Him. He spent time with them individually and as a group and revealed His identity as Messiah.</p> <p>•John 1: 39 <i>"Rabbi, where are you staying? Come and you will see!"</i></p>	RELATIONSHIPS	<p>We can gather an "open" group of young believers who desire to grow. We can begin spending time getting to know each of them. We can create an honest, safe, grace - oriented, sharing environment that facilitates trust & emotional safety.</p>
<p>He revealed Himself to them as the Messiah through His teaching and miracles. He taught that the Kingdom of God under Messianic rule had appeared and that God had provided an opportunity for them to participate. •John 2: 11 <i>"He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him."</i></p>	CONTENT	<p>We can teach them the "foundational truths" of the Christian life: The person and work of Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the sovereign plan of God, how to grow spiritually.</p>
<p>He challenged them to put their faith fully in Him as their Teacher and Guide. He challenged some to become His followers.</p> <p>•John 1:43 <i>"Finding Phillip He said to him, Follow me."</i></p>	ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>We can challenge them to be committed to learning how to grow by having a Quiet Time and being around other believers. We can invite them to participate in a small group. We can encourage them to share emotions & needs. We can identify emotional trauma & faulty belief systems. We can encourage them to look to God to meet their needs in answer to their specific prayers.</p>
<p>That God the Father would call men to follow Him and reveal that He was the Christ. That power would be made available to accomplish attesting miracles.</p> <p>•John 1: 47ff. (to Nathaniel) <i>"I saw you when you were under the fig tree...you will see angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man."</i></p>	PRAYER	<p>That God would reveal Himself to these new disciples in powerful and intimate ways, answering their prayers and helping them gain insights into His nature and power.</p>
<p>He performed miracles attesting to His divine nature and authority. He set up various teaching situations both publicly and privately. He established His Messianic authority over Israel by cleansing the Temple. He formed a group of followers and took them with Him as He taught and performed miracles.</p> <p>•John 3: 2 (Nicodemus) <i>"Rabbi, no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him!"</i></p>	SITUATIONS	<p>We can provide opportunities for them to become involved in the Christian community by delegating logistical tasks. We can provide social functions to establish relationships with more mature believers. We can assign an accountability partner. We can be prepared for the Lord to precipitate specific needs that He will provide for.</p>

Phase III - Equipping for Ministry

Primary Goal: To equip the disciples for ministry in the Kingdom and learn more about the nature of the Kingdom and the principles that govern their role as citizens who are sons and daughters.

WHAT JESUS DID

WHAT WE CAN DO

<p>He challenged a few of His disciples to participate in His mission of winning the souls of men. They followed Him into spiritual battles and observed His power and authority. He trained them as apprentices working alongside a Master.</p> <p>•Mark 1: 16ff <i>"He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea and said to them, 'Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!'"</i></p>	RELATIONSHIPS	<p>We can encourage our disciples to be with us as we model a ministry lifestyle. We can model healthy relationships, set & respect boundaries, a willingness to confront others in a caring way, maintain priorities, etc.</p>
<p>The importance of telling others about His mission and love for sinners. He trained them in basic ministry skills. Insights into the nature of His Kingdom: That He was Conqueror over the kingdom of darkness; had authority to forgive sin, heal sickness, and dispel demons.</p> <p>•Luke 5: 23ff <i>"Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven'..."</i></p>	CONTENT	<p>We can offer training in evangelism skills, teach about the sovereign authority of Christ over the spiritual realm and the traditions of men, and review the truths of the Gospel with the purpose of helping others understand; teach and model healthy relationships and teach about positional truth.</p>
<p>He called His disciples to be fishers of men. He challenged them to leave their worldly pursuits (at least temporarily) and follow Him on mission.</p> <p>•Matt. 4: 20 <i>"At once they left their nets and followed Him."</i></p>	ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>We can challenge people to go with us as we reach out to the lost in our community. We can challenge them to get training in how to win others to Christ. We can encourage them to participate in various ministry situations. We can construct projects that address emotional/spiritual strongholds.</p>
<p>He prayed for healing power and deliverance for those trapped in sin and satanic strongholds. He asked for their eyes to be opened to see and understand the spiritual battles raging around them. For another generation of disciples to repent and follow Him.</p> <p>•II Kings 6 (Elisha's servant) cf. Matt. 16: 13-19</p>	PRAYER	<p>We can pray as Jesus did. We can ask God to open doors for our disciples to share their faith. That God would give them a vision and burden for the lost. That God would free them from emotional and relational bondage.</p>
<p>He took His disciples on a short term mission project to upper Galilee. Challenged the status quo of religious traditions and human philosophies. He healed the sick and cast out demons.</p> <p>•Matt. 4: 23 <i>"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their Synagogues, preaching the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness."</i> •John 3: 2 (Nicodemus) <i>"Rabbi, no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him!"</i></p>	SITUATIONS	<p>We can take our disciples with us as we minister. We can make time to debrief after our ministry times together. We can offer opportunities to focus on ministry events thus showing a willingness to change traditions for the sake of extending the Kingdom. (Retreats, concerts of prayer, evangelism training, mission projects, recovery opportunities, etc.)</p>

Scripture References from The Harmony of the Gospels:

Matthew: 4: 13 - 25, 8: 2-4, 14-17, 9: 1-17, 12: 1-21, Mark: 1: 16 - 3: 12, Luke: 4: 31 - 6: 11, John: 5: 1-47

Phase IV - Developing New Leaders

Primary Goal: To appoint a group of leaders and train them to apply kingdom principles as they assist in the ministry and help others grow.

WHAT JESUS DID

WHAT WE CAN DO

<p>He appointed the Twelve to be with Him as leaders in His ministry. He allowed them to assume important ministry roles and gave them authority, sending them out in pairs to preach and minister in His Name. He spent extra time instructing them as a group and individually.</p> <p>•<i>Luke 6: 13 "He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them."</i></p>	RELATIONSHIPS	<p>We can appoint leaders and train them as they assume roles of responsibility in the overall ministry and over individuals. We can be prepared to provide encouraging perspective when God challenges their status quo.</p>
<p>He taught the principles of Kingdom life as being distinct from religious traditions. That true religion was from the heart and not merely external forms. The eternal nature of God's plan and purpose and the wisdom of placing priority on eternal over temporal matters. He taught principles of spiritual authority and warfare. •<i>Matt. 5- 7 (Sermon on the Mt.)</i></p>	CONTENT	<p>Basic leadership skills—We can teach that true discipleship will produce Christlikeness and that biblical ministry involves growth in character not just success in ministry programs. We can teach about spiritual warfare, problem solving, team dynamics, and how to resolve conflicts.</p>
<p>He challenged their human propensity to put their trust in themselves and the temporal systems of men by disrupting their life and ministry. They were tested. He jeopardized the success of His public ministry to emphasize the importance of internal obedience, faith, and eternal priorities.</p> <p>•<i>John 6: 5 "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"</i></p>	ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>We can allow our disciples to fail. We can challenge them to assume responsibility in ministry tasks that appear bigger than their abilities. We can help them rearrange their priorities around their new responsibilities.</p>
<p>He prayed that God would give wisdom in selecting the disciples who were ready for leadership. He prayed that they might see the greatness of God and their own insufficiency and that God would provide supernaturally.</p> <p>•<i>Luke 6: 12 "Jesus went into the hills to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came..."</i></p>	PRAYER	<p>We can pray for wisdom in the leadership selection process.</p>
<p>He gave them real responsibilities in His ministry. He set up ministry situations that required supernatural provision and demanded faith. He created a new structure in His ministry: the Leadership Team. This allowed Him opportunities to apply truth at a deeper level by instructing these leaders separately from the main body of disciples and/or the interested others. This required them to spend more time with Him and the work thus causing them to reevaluate their priorities.</p> <p>•<i>John 6 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but... endures."</i></p>	SITUATIONS	<p>We can help them develop the gifts God has given them by positioning them in roles that suit them. We can send them into situations that will be sure to invite spiritual warfare. We can give them responsibilities to disciple and mentor young believers. We can include them in the Leadership Team.</p>

Scripture References from The Harmony of the Gospels:

Matthew: 5: 1 - 17: 23, Mark: 3: 13 - 9: 32, Luke: 6: 12 -9: 45, John: 6: 1- 7: 1

Phase V - Developing Mature Leaders

Primary Goal: To develop a group of mature disciples who have a vision for reaching the nations through God's enabling power, and have an ability to make other disciples according to the pattern Jesus used.

WHAT JESUS DID

WHAT WE CAN DO

<p>Although Jesus continued to have an intimate relationship with them, He reduced the tie. He was meeting with them, giving them more independence and slowly weaning them from Himself. He challenged them to be committed to one another.</p> <p>He washed their feet.</p> <p>He laid down His life on the Cross.</p> <p>•John 15: 15-17 <i>"I have called you friends because everything that I have learned from My Father I have made known to you... Love one another!"</i></p>	RELATIONSHIPS	<p>We can focus our training and attention on their full development and then commission them as peers in ministry. We continue to serve and love them as friends.</p>
<p>The importance of reaching all the nations. The all-sufficiency of the Spirit. The inadequacy of human strength. The importance of unity in the Body, how the church should function, and agape love in the midst of our relational struggles.</p> <p>•John 17: 23 <i>"May they be brought together in complete unity to let the world know that you sent me."</i></p>	CONTENT	<p>We can teach the importance of unity, reaching the nations, suffering love, the dynamics of family life, church life, and (advanced) leadership skills. We can remind them that though they have been trained, discipleship is never fully completed until we stand before Christ.</p>
<p>He challenged them to love one another. He commanded them to feed and care for His sheep. He challenged them to go into all the world and make disciples.</p> <p>•John 15: 17 <i>"This is My command: Love one another!"</i></p>	ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>We can challenge them to consider what worldwide mission involvement would look like for them. We can challenge them to set aside petty differences and strive to put each other first, to become less dependent on us as mentors and to form new ministry relationships.</p>
<p>He prayed that they would be able to overcome the enemy and their fleshly self-sufficiency. That they would experience the fullness and enabling of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>•Luke 22: 31 <i>"Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you."</i></p>	PRAYER	<p>Pray that God would allow them to humbly rest in the power of Christ's Spirit in them. Pray for unity and love to prevail as the enemy puts stress on relationships. Ask God to give them a vision and burden for the entire world.</p>
<p>He gave them increased responsibility in leading the ministry. He moved His ministry beyond the borders of Palestine. He commanded them to go into all the world to make disciples, and then teach these disciples to put into practice the same things they had been taught.</p> <p>•Matt. 28: 18-20 <i>"Go into all the world and make disciples..."</i></p>	SITUATIONS	<p>We can include them as part of a leadership team that directs the larger ministry. We can take the Great Commission seriously by setting up discipleship training and world missions opportunities. We can be sure that the Lord will put us and our disciples in situations where we are incapable of pulling this off in our own strength.</p>

Scripture References from The Harmony of the Gospels:

Matthew: 17: 24 - 28: 20, Mark: 9: 33 - 16: 20, Luke: 9: 46 - 24: 53, John: 7: 2 - 21: 25, Acts: 1: 1 - 2: 4