

LIVING AN
INTENTIONAL
LIFE

WEEK ¹
IDENTIFY >



WEEK ²
INVEST >



WEEK ³
INTERCEDE >



WEEK ⁴
INFORM >



WEEK ⁵
INVITE >



IDENTIFY

MATTHEW

28:18-20

COMMUNITY GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 1

THEN JESUS CAME TO THEM AND SAID, “ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”

MATTHEW

28:18-20

EXPLANATION

The first part of our new series is to identify the people God’s placed in your life to share with the Gospel. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is a clear command for the task at hand: Jesus expects us to go and share the Gospel across the world, knowing that we operate under an authority that is not our own. Throughout this series we’ll see that God is calling us to take part of a greater kingdom, God’s Kingdom, and that starts with identifying where God is already moving.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

As mentioned earlier, the first command of the Great Commission is to “go.” What does that mean to us today? Where exactly are we to go? Though many people pursue God’s calling on their lives

through going overseas and evangelizing, there are also many opportunities to share the Gospel close to home.

Perhaps a better translation to this command would be “as you are going.” **How does this translation change our perspective of the command?** Just as we’re called to go overseas and share Jesus with others across the world, we’re expected to share our faith with those closest to us. **So, how do we “identify” those who we’re called to invest in and disciple?** Look at those around you!

APPLICATION

When we consider those God has put around us, we begin to see that He’s put them in our lives for a reason and a purpose. Whether that be for a short season or for the rest of our lives, we have a calling to disciple them and grow them up in the faith.

Parents: this means God has entrusted your child to you so that you may disciple them as a young Christ-follower.

Young professionals: God has given you a career path to pursue so that you may make much of Jesus in the office, in the meeting, or in the after-work hangouts.

Students: God has placed you in that awful math class for the purpose of sharing Christ with your friends and classmates around you.

QUESTIONS

1. Is there someone you already know God is calling you to disciple? What could that look like for you (monthly lunch, weekly coffee, inviting them into your home)?
2. We’re also called to practice discipleship in community. What are some ways that you can invite that person into Christian community?

3. After identifying that individual, we're commanded to raise up disciples. What does discipleship look like for you? How would you begin discipling someone?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Prayer is the single-most important thing we can do in the Christian life. As we begin this series, spend this week praying over the people God has called you to disciple, even if you may not know who that is yet. Pray for clarity in identifying who that is, and pray for boldness to step into that discipleship journey with them once you know who that is.

[< MAIN MENU](#)





INVEST

1 PETER

3:15-16

COMMUNITY GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 2

BUT IN YOUR HEARTS REVERE CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT, KEEPING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, SO THAT THOSE WHO SPEAK MALICIOUSLY AGAINST YOUR GOOD BEHAVIOR IN CHRIST MAY BE ASHAMED OF THEIR SLANDER.

1 PETER

3:15-16

EXPLANATION

Part Two of the 5 I's evangelistic strategy is to invest relationally in the people that God has helped you identify. What do you naturally think about when you hear the word "invest"? Is it the Dow Jones, NASDAQ Index, or your recent 401K review? Moreover, is it the important relationships in your life and the priorities you place on sustaining and improving those?

It's almost certain that you've considered "investments" in your close friends, children, spouse or significant other (maybe someone who you would like to become a significant other). When it comes to the lost or unchurched people that God has placed within your sphere of possible influence, it's very important to consider the nature of those investments. We use the word "invest" often when talking about the Kingdom of God and the investments we

make in giving. Not to convolute our alphabet alliteration, but three “T’s” are often listed to talk about those investments: time, talent, and treasure.

Those three are also clear when framing relational investments. The deepest relationships are the ones with the most **TIME** spent developing shared history and experiences. What is unique about each person that connects or complements one another? Those specific traits and even special abilities that cultivate a relationship can equate to **TALENT**. And, whereas, **TREASURE** often refers to tithing or special offerings, in a relational investment quotient, it’s easy to understand that as sacrifice...giving of oneself for the good of another. Keep that understanding of investment close as you read and study Scripture together.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

Peter writes to a dispersed church, including believers all over the provinces of the Roman Empire. This occurred during the early days of Christendom and was full of persecution. Believers were being hunted and killed. In scattering, lives were spared and the Gospel spread. Peter wrote to encourage and motivate them as they stood strong under trials and stayed strong delivering God’s Gospel. In 1 Peter 3:15, he instructs believers to be prepared. For what? To explain their hope. In the middle of the darkest days, true believers maintained hope because they had Jesus and they understood the temporary nature of suffering compared to eternity. His disclaimer, however, when championing hope, was to always default to gentleness and respect. One might say Peter urged people to know their audience and remember whose message they carried.

APPLICATION

No one likes unsolicited advice. Even wise and well-meaning words from a stranger or common acquaintance are typically lost or ill-received. Investing in people with your time, your unique

interests and abilities, and your willingness to serve and share are all in an effort to “earn the right to be heard” and “become trusted” when sharing the love of Jesus. The people you invest in and relationships you cultivate will one day be, even if it takes a great deal of time, those with whom you can clearly communicate the hope of Jesus and invite people to know and follow Him.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you have success investing in new relationships?
2. What’s your personal challenge or Achilles’ heel when it comes to investing in others?
3. Does gentleness and respect come naturally for you or do you more easily default to a defensive posture when engaging people who believe differently?
4. How can you leverage specific time in your schedule, as well as the talents or interests and activities in your life, to strategically invest in those you identified as part of this study?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

This week, make a distinct note next to each of the names you have identified as part of this series. Name a way you plan to invest. Is it a text or a call? Is it an invite to coffee or lunch? Is it offering to help with something practical in their life? Is it a simple question to spark a conversation to get to know them better, further earning the right to be liked and trusted so you might become someone they listen to when considering Christ? Make a note by each name and pray for each opportunity.

[< MAIN MENU](#)





INTERCEDE

ACTS

1:8

COMMUNITY GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 3

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.

ACTS

1:8

EXPLANATION

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He promised that believers would receive the powerful indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit which would enable them to spread the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Our Church is a result of Jesus keeping His promise.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

Part Three of this sermon series is intercession. Intercessory prayer is when we pray on behalf of others, especially for the lost and unchurched. In the previous verse, the Greek word for power is **dynamis** from which we get our word “dynamite”. Dynamite’s power can be destructive, like when eliminating an enemy. It can also be constructive, like when clearing away rock for a building’s foundation. The indwelling power of the Spirit can be used destructively and constructively, especially through intercessory prayer.

Intercessors are not a special class of Christians. All believers are to intercede since Jesus is the ultimate intercessor (Rom 8:34, 1 Tim 2:5). We also intercede knowing that God answers prayers. We hope praying for the lost results in salvation. Yet, true intercession seeks for God to be glorified.

APPLICATION

My best friend Clayton's relationship with God is partially a result of intercessory prayer. After the Lord saved me, I wanted Clayton to be saved. While college roommates, we would often have spiritual conversations. I shared the Gospel multiple times until one evening Clayton said, "I'm just not ready man. Thank you but I'm not ready."

That night I made a commitment. I committed to intercede for Clayton for however long it took for him to be saved. When waking, at meals, before bed, anytime I thought of Clayton I prayed for him. I asked God to remove pride and replace it with humility, remove fear and grant him faith, remove anger and give him joy. "Lord, in the name of Jesus, save my friend Clayton!"

One evening, a week later Clayton told me. "Hey man, I did it!"

"What did you do?" I asked suspiciously... because, knowing my friend, "I did it" could mean many things.

He responded, "I did it. I prayed to God and surrendered. I'm trusting in Jesus!"

I was speechless. God had answered my prayer! I was committed to praying for decades, and it only took a week. Dynamis (power) was released in my friend's heart, destroying strongholds of the enemy and clearing ground for the Gospel to grow! I had planted the seed and prayed, God did the rest. That is because God saves. Thankfully, I can't. Only He can (Eph 2:1-10).

"Rolling Hills Community Church exists to bring glory to God by reaching people for Christ and nurturing them in the faith through inspired worship, genuine community and passionate ministry that

transforms lives in our neighborhoods and throughout the world,” (RHCC Mission Statement). Since prayer undergirds everything we do, intercession is essential to accomplish our God sized mission to bring Him glory through transformed lives.

QUESTIONS

1. Share about someone who prayed for you and the results. Did someone pray for your salvation or return to the church?
2. What powerful (dynamite) results of prayer have you witnessed? Have you seen enemy strongholds destroyed or a heart softened?
3. What are helpful strategies or tips to maintain a regular ministry of intercessory prayer?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Intercede for your five people daily during this sermon series and if needed, beyond. Pray for those you have identified and have or are willing to invest in with time, presence, service, and/or sharing the Gospel. Trust God to do a good work in their lives, to bless them, to protect them, and to save them for His glory.

[< MAIN MENU](#)





INFORM

DEUTERONOMY

6:4-9

COMMUNITY GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 4

HEAR, O ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. THESE COMMANDMENTS THAT I GIVE YOU TODAY ARE TO BE ON YOUR HEARTS. IMPRESS THEM ON YOUR CHILDREN. TALK ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT AT HOME AND WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET UP. TIE THEM AS SYMBOLS ON YOUR HANDS AND BIND THEM ON YOUR FOREHEADS. WRITE THEM ON THE DOOR FRAMES OF YOUR HOUSES AND ON YOUR GATES.

DEUTERONOMY

6:4-9

EXPLANATION

So far in our series, in Part One we covered “Identify,” where we were challenged to ask God to help us identify a couple of people in our circles of influence God has placed us to begin to invest in. In Part Two, we talked about what it means to “Invest” in those relationships. In Part Three, we talked about “Interceding,” and this week we are going to begin taking another step and “Inform.”

What does it mean to inform, why is it important to inform, how do we inform, and what exactly are we informing them about? These are all great questions, so let’s dive in!

BIBLICAL CONTENT

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 holds one of the most important passages in the Old Testament because this passage contains one of the most important prayers for the Jewish people. It is traditionally prayed twice daily, and called the “Shema.” “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” It is the reminder that God alone is Lord. This part of the passage is followed by the instructions to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength. Then, we are given the instructions to pass these truths of God’s Word on to those around us: to share, proclaim, and teach these truths to those God has placed in our lives.

APPLICATION

God’s instructions from the passage are intentional actions and ongoing processes. This means sharing the truth of the Gospel won’t happen accidentally. It must be intentional and is not going to happen all at once. The invitation and transformation we are praying for will come through a slow dissemination of information over time. To inform is the intentional and ongoing process of sharing your story, life, and priorities that have been transformed by your relationship with Jesus.

Before you inform others, it would be helpful to be reminded of how God has transformed you. Take a second and share some ways Jesus has transformed your life, your family, your priorities, and your desires.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the common reasons we have a hard time with this step in the process?
2. Why is it difficult to move from Identify, Invest, Interceded to Inform? Why is it important? What truths from God’s Word give us comfort and help us take this step?

3. As a group, brainstorm some ways we can take the step this week to begin the intentional and ongoing process with the folks you have identified.

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

This week, be bold and challenge yourself daily to make one intentional step to inform one of the people you have identified by sharing your story, your priorities, or your life with them.

[< MAIN MENU](#)





INVITE

GALATIANS

6:9

COMMUNITY GROUP CURRICULUM

WEEK 5

LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

GALATIANS

6:9

EXPLANATION

A question that is often asked by followers of Jesus is, “Do I really have to share? Aren’t my actions and deeds enough to point others to Jesus?” No one can argue the importance of our words and actions matching up with our message. Yet, Scripture is very clear that we are to invite. Through our words, we invite people to be a part of what God is doing. This can be anything from inviting them to a church service, inviting them to your group, or inviting them into a deeper conversation about matters of faith. Through identifying, investing, interceding, and informing, you have hopefully seen God work through you so that you are now ready to invite those in your sphere of influence into the bigger story of what God wants to do in their life.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

It is easy to grow weary of doing the right things. Most of us have

had those moments where we wonder if what we are doing is really making a difference. We have spent the time investing in others and interceding on their behalf, but the life change isn't necessarily happening at the pace you had expected. Do not lose heart! Paul reminds us that at the proper time, which, by the way, is not determined by you, a harvest will be reaped. God is the one at work, and God is the one bringing the growth. He invites you into the work. He uses your words. Don't be discouraged, but rather faithfully invite and share.

APPLICATION

When you are getting ready to invite someone to a church event, or you hear someone say something that causes you to want to dig a little deeper into their story, take a moment to pray before any of these encounters. A go-to prayer of mine is as follows:

“Lord, this is not about me. I know I can change no one. Only you can change a heart. Use my words to point others to you and please move me out of the way so you can work.”

What this naturally does is remind you that God is the one changing a heart, not you! You have been faithful to inform and invite, but never think you are the one that will change anyone.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some practical ways to overcome the fear of inviting others to church?
2. What are things you can listen for in a conversation that could be an open door for more intentional conversation?
3. What verses should you commit to memory to help guide your spiritual conversations?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

Start your day by praying for God to give you an opportunity to invite. If your heart is in the right place, if you have familiarity with a person's story, and if you seek to make yourself available, it has been my experience that God will always provide an opportunity. Then go about your day with intentionality. Do not miss opportunities to share with other parents on your kids' team or with the barista at your coffee shop. Go with the expectation that God is going to open a door for you, and when (not if) He does, humbly walk through it.

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