

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

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LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION: What in the Word are YOU Doing?

1. Introduction

“But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus-- the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love.” Acts 20:24 (NLT)

- Is Acts 20:24 true for everyone, or only Christians, or only full-time ministers, or only the Apostle Paul? Why?

“Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ’s purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfilment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ’s undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards.” J. Campbell White, Secretary of the Laymen’s Missionary Movement.

2. The Right Goal

“What in the world are you doing?” (or would like to do) depends on what your goal is.

- Without a goal, we go everywhere but end up nowhere.
 - With changing goals, we go halfway everywhere and also end up nowhere.
 - With a wrong goal, we go somewhere but not where we ought to (and would ultimately find out not where we would like to).
 - With a right goal, we go to life’s sweetest satisfaction and glory for our Lord.
- But what is the right goal? How do we discern what is the right goal for us when so much is said in the Bible? Is there an all encompassing goal that is applicable for everyone?

YES. The right goal for everyone is God’s goal. *“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.” Rom.11:39*

In the previous course “What in the World is God Doing?”, we discovered God’s twofold purpose throughout history:

- To redeem a people from every people
- To rule a kingdom over all kingdoms

Therefore, our goal in life must be in line with the above goal. In short, this means to *“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.”* Matt.28:19-20.

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Goal: **Make disciples of all peoples**

Process: Baptizing (in New Testament, salvation and baptism go hand in hand
 Matt.3:6; Acts 2:41; 8:36-38)
 Teaching (God's Word)
 Obeying (living out the new faith)

Promise: I am with you always (the assurance that it is the right goal)

The right goal is making disciples of all peoples. Evangelism, winning souls, teaching, doing ministry, etc are not goals. They are the means.

Illustration: Farming

- What is the goal of a farmer? To reap a harvest that can produce another harvest. Ploughing, sowing, watering, weeding etc. are not the goals but the means.

3. **The Right Place**

Lessons from the Parable of the Sower Lk.8:4-15.

A primary factor in whether the seeds (Gospel) would yield a crop hundred times what was sown is the right place. The failure to yield a harvest is not the seed. The Gospel can never fail to bear fruit. The failure is sowing at the wrong place.

- Is it possible to be in the wrong place? Aren't we called to do God's will wherever we are?

Moses had to go to the right place (Egypt) to do God's will. Jonah was headed to the wrong place. The Holy Spirit had to direct Paul to the right place (Acts 16:6-10).

- Why are you where you are?

Illustration: The farmer must find the right place to achieve the right goal. While a fertile ground is ideal, it does not mean we only go where people are open to the Gospel. A farmer also tills the soil, plucks the weeds, water the ground, chase the birds, etc. All these are processes of "making disciples". In a spiritual sense, the right place is where God wants us to be. We can labour at the wrong place and only end up feeling dissatisfied and frustrated at God as a farmer would when working on the wrong place.

4. **The Right Time**

Lessons from the Harvest Matt.9:37-38.

The farmer needs labourers when the harvest is ripe for reaping. He does not need many labourers when sowing, or when the fields are green or when the harvest is over. Doing something at the wrong time not only does not result in the goal achieved, it can destroy the work entirely.

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Illustration: If the harvest is not ripe, reaping the green fields not only yields nothing but destroys possibility of a harvest. Conversely, instead of sitting around to wait for a harvest to ripen, God may want you to go to a right place where the time is right.

- Are you waiting for something? How sure are you that God wants you to wait?

5. The Right Method

- Can you use a spade to harvest wheat? Or your hands to pluck the grains? Or a scissors?

There is nothing wrong with the spade or hands or scissors but they are methods for different harvest. Spade for carrots. Hands for chilli. Scissors for grapes. There are many methods to make disciples. Using one particular method for all peoples will mean using the wrong method.

Illustration: Language is a common barrier to salvation. English may be a common trade language, but using the mother tongue (Tamil or Hokkien, etc.) would tend to bear better results.

6. The Right People

The process of getting a good harvest, involves different people with different function. On a small scale, one person can perform all functions. Though do-able, it is not ideal as God's goal is more than a small farm. His is a global harvest. On a large scale, each activity requires the right people.

The fact is we are all right people because God has chosen each of us. The question is right for what? The sowing, weeding, watering, harvesting, tilling, etc?

- Ask God what you are right for to achieve His goal. Be willing to do what He wants you to do.

7. Conclusion

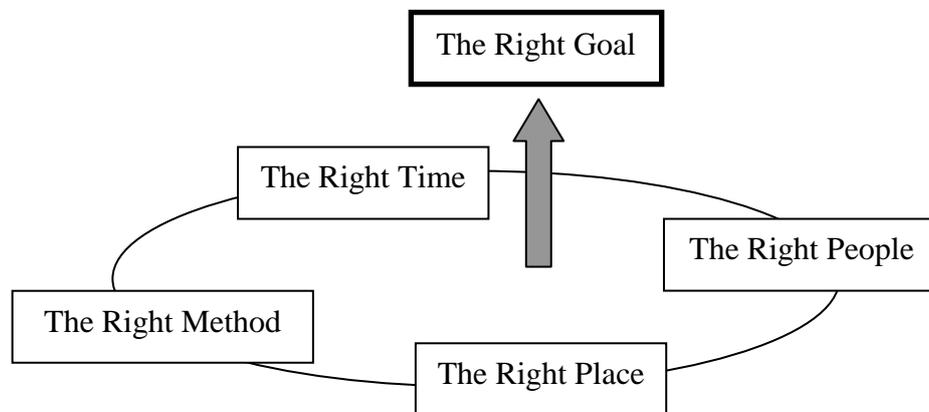
What in the world you are doing bears no meaning until you are willing to be and do what God wants – His place, His time, and His way. And God has given us His Spirit to make it all possible.

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LESSON 2: STRATEGY

1. Introduction

“What in the world are you doing?” (or would like to do) depends on what your goal is. And there is one right goal for everyone – God’s goal. And God’s goal is to redeem a people from every people and to rule a kingdom over all kingdoms. This means the right goal for each of us is to make disciples of all peoples (Mat.28:19-20) in fulfilment of God’s goal.



We don’t reach our goal by accident. Strategy is needed if we want to ensure we reach our goal.

2. What is Strategy?

A strategy is an overall approach, plan or way of describing how we will go about reaching our goal or solving our problem. Its concern is not with the small details. Strategy looks for a range of possible “means and methods” and various “operations” that will best accomplish an objective. Strategy is a way to reach an objective.

3. Why have a Strategy?

As Christians, a strategy forces us to seek the mind and will of God. It is a statement of faith as to what we believe that future to be and how we can go about bringing it into existence. It gives us an overall sense of direction.

4. Strategy vs. God’s Leading

Some believe that in doing God’s will and work, strategy and planning conflict with prayer and the spontaneous leading of the Holy Spirit. If this were true, a discussion of strategy would be useless. In other words, is strategy Biblical?

4.1 Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 26-33

- i. The goal was to take the Promised Land. Who initiated the plan to send the explorers?
- ii. Why do you think they were sent to explore the land?

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- iii. The result of the exploration was a rebellion. Did God make a mistake to help the people strategize?
- iv. What went wrong?

4.2 Joshua 8:1-8, 13-23

- i. The goal was to capture Ai. Who initiated the strategy to ambush the people of Ai?
- ii. Were the details given as to how the strategy would work?
- iii. Who came up with the details of the strategy?
- iv. How did human planning and the leading of God work hand in hand? (see v.18)

4.3 Nehemiah 2:11-20

- i. The goal was to rebuild Jerusalem. What was the source of Nehemiah's desire to rebuild Jerusalem?
- ii. Why do you think Nehemiah examined the walls?
- iii. Was developing a strategy in conflict with God's work? (see v.20)

The Apostle Paul planted churches with a strategy. He did not just travel aimlessly, wherever the road leads him, or wherever the wind blows the ship. He targeted major cities of that time. His strategy was the by planting churches in these cities, it will become centres that reach out to surrounding areas.

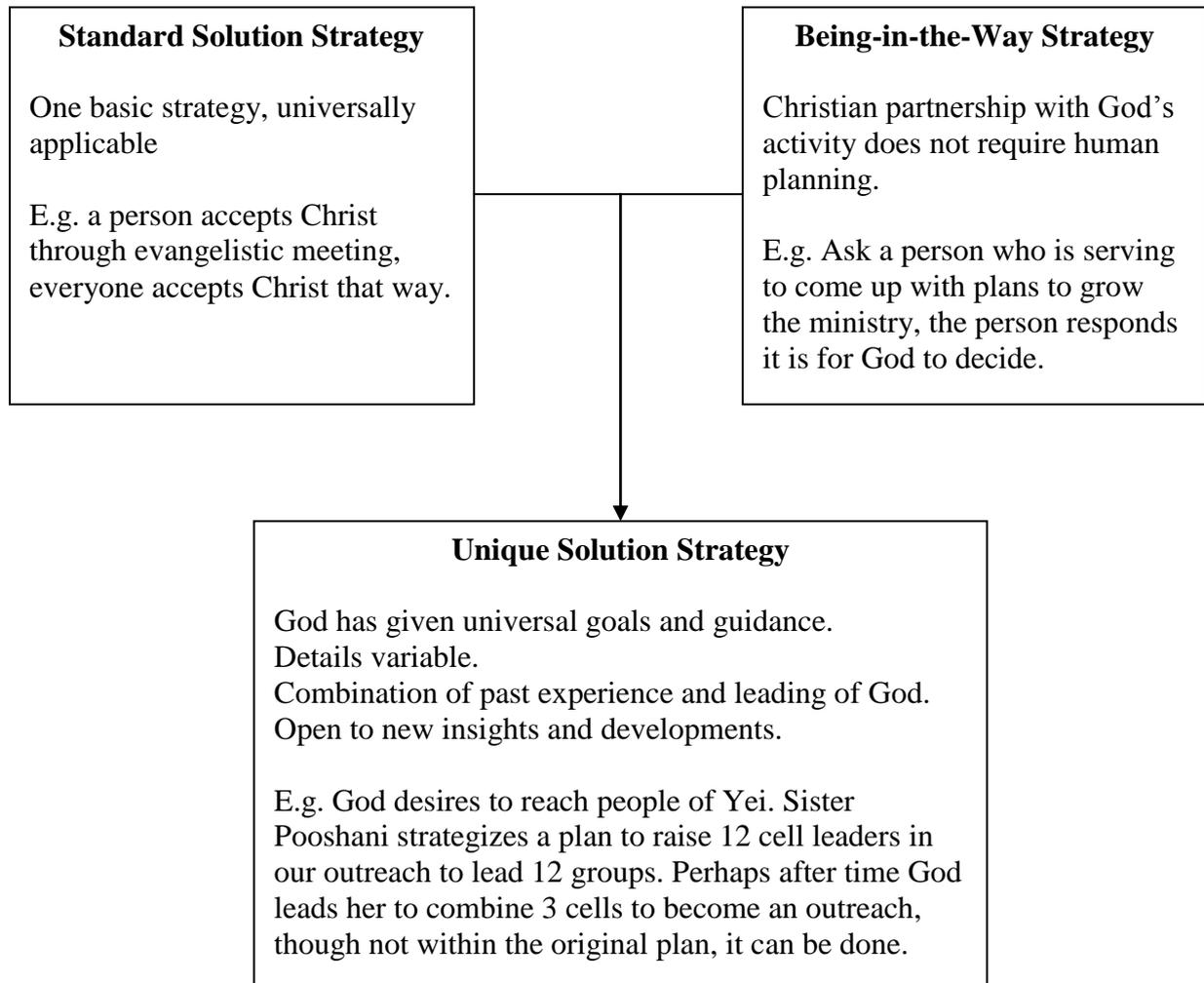
When strategy is properly formulated, understood and implemented, it can work in perfect harmony with God's leading.

The best strategy is (in order of importance):

- i. Biblical – God's work must be done God's way and time.
- ii. Efficient – since we are limited (time, effort, money, thought, etc.) we must prioritize. We can't do everything we would like to do, so we must work on the basis of efficiency.
- iii. Relevant – a strategy that worked 5 years ago may not work today. Remember lesson 1 right place, time, method and people.

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5. Types of Strategy



6. Conclusion

Strategy is necessary if our lives are going to be lived in a manner that fulfils what we want to do in this world. Strategizing is Biblical and not contrary to God's leading. The point is that strategy must be made consciously in God's will with God's guidance and flexible for His leading.

What is your strategy to achieve your goal in life?

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LESSON 3: PRAYER

1. Prayer

- What is prayer? What does it do?

The work of prayer is prerequisite to all other work in the Kingdom of God simply because the work of God must be done God's way in God's time with God's power. Without prayer, we can never hope to do anything in this world. Prayer at its very heart is a linking activity.

- i. It links us with God to receive direction, power and ability to do God's work.
 - ii. It links us with those whom we are praying for.
- Although the above are obvious, we are guilty of neglecting to link up with God on a daily basis. What are the reasons?

Every time the church has set herself to praying, there have been incredible movements in the mission world. The concept that treats prayer as if it were a supplement booster in getting some project off the ground makes the project primary and the prayer secondary. **Prayer was never meant to be incidental to the work of God. It is the work.**

2. How Prayer Can Make Disciples of All Nations

2.1 Prayer extends the outreach of the church

Prayer is mentioned over 30x in Acts, and generally it is mentioned as occurring just before major breakthroughs in the outward expansion of the early Christian movement. Under Count Zinzendorf, the Moravian movement emerged. The 24hour prayer chain that the Moravians began in 1727 went on for 100 years! This prayer effort kindled their desire to proclaim Christ to the unreached. From this small village, over 100 missionaries went out in 25 years.

2.2 Effective strategies are birthed through prayer

Joshua was one of the original 'researchers' who spied out the Promised Land in Numbers 13. It seems that because he knew the land and people well he was able to formulate good strategies to take the land. But it was not so. We see in the book of Joshua that he continually sought God for guidance. And out of those prayer times came the strategies. As in Prov.3:5-6, he leaned not on his own understanding but trusted and relied on God.

2.3 Prayer is the supernatural way of sending out workers

In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus told His disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. So what were the disciples to do? Work harder? Go on a recruitment drive? Develop technologies that would quicken the work? Not that all these are no good, they are good. But what is first and foremost is "pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out more workers." It is God who calls, equip and send the workers to the fields. Hudson Taylor is known as a great missionary to China. But more than just himself doing the work, he saw a great harvest in the world's most populous nation. And he with his associates would pray relentlessly for God to

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send more. Twice an appeal was made for more missionaries to be sent, 70 in 1880 and 100 in 1887. Both times the full number reached China within the specified time with all their support supplied.

2.4 Prayer opens closed doors for Christian presence

Daniel lived under closed doors for Christian witness. In fact, he was forced to stop praying. But he continued and it was because he continued the doors were opened. Similarly with Nehemiah. Countless testimonies have arisen today about God opening doors in places such as Eastern Europe (formerly under communist rule of USSR), military ruled nations in Africa, Muslim nations, etc.

- Have you experienced God opening doors for you to share the Gospel?

4. Rising Beyond Daily Prayers

The greatest challenge any of us will ever face in the global cause of Christ and the greatest contribution any of us will ever make to the glorious task of advancing Christ's Kingdom among earth's unreached is to grow men and women of prayer and to mobilize others with us into a movement of prayer for the world. **Other things wait to be done, but this is the greatest.**

Guides on how to grow in praying

- i. Besides praying for yourself, learn to pray for others (one for each day of the week):
 - Family (including extended family)
 - Friends
 - Neighbours
 - Colleagues
 - Work / business contacts
 - Community
 - Government
- ii. Learn to make use of opportunities to pray for people's salvation, e.g. while waiting in a queue, your office, your neighbourhood, etc. If someone shares a need or problem with you, pray right then with the person. Don't say "I'll pray for you." You won't! Say "Can I pray for you now?"
- iii. After your daily reading of Scripture, pray in line with the lesson you learnt from God's Word.
- iv. Prayer doesn't always have to be asking something from God. It can just be talking with the Lord. Learn to listen to the Spirit and act on what He says. How do you know it's God and not your own thoughts? By faith act on it. If it's a mistake, you learn from it. It's like learning to recognize someone's voice over the phone. With more practice, you'll get it right.

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- v. If you find difficulty in having long periods of prayer (whether due to distractions, tiredness, lack of concentration, etc.), have a number of short periods of prayer – morning, lunch time, evening, before bed.
- vi. At least once a week, pray together with someone. It encourages us and provides accountability for us to pray. Bible teaches that corporate prayer (2 or more) is important.
- vii. In reading the newspapers, pray for a particular nation or issue.
- viii. Join one of the many online missions prayer:
<http://www.global-prayer-digest.org>
<http://www.missionfrontiers.org>

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LESSON 4: EVANGELISING

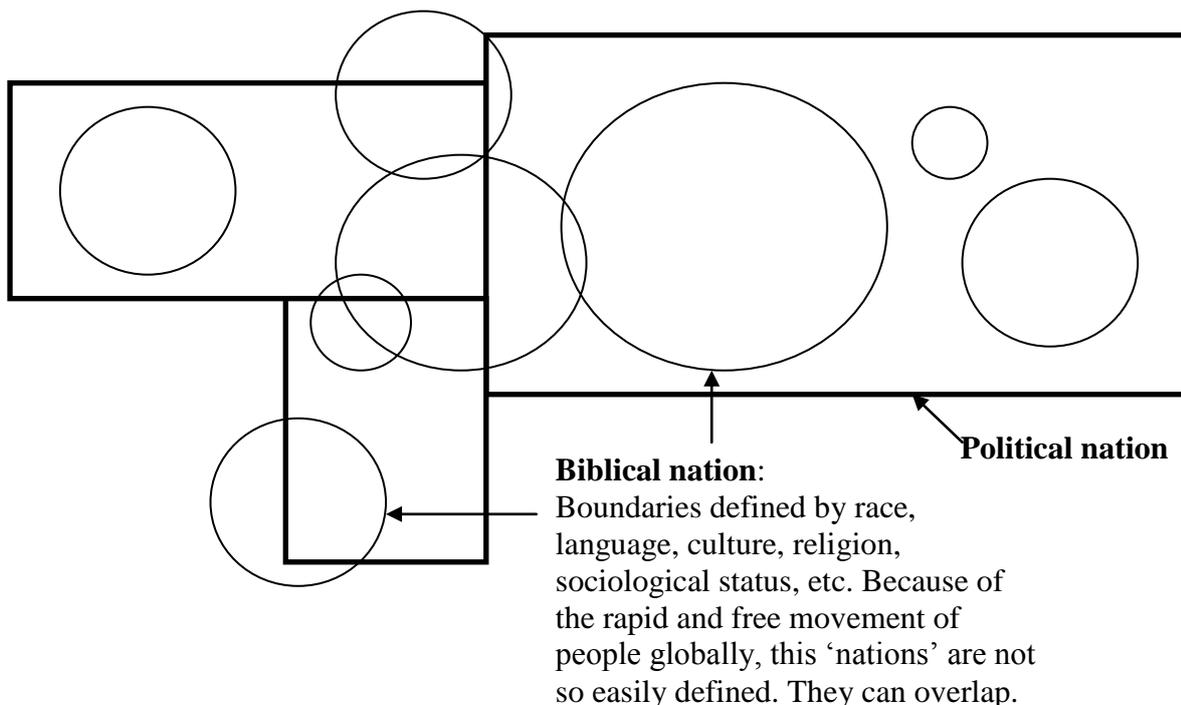
1. Introduction: Evangelism and Missions

Some equate “to make disciples of all nations” (Mt.28:19) as evangelism. However, evangelism is only part of the process of making disciples. By definition, evangelising comes from the root Greek word *euaggelion*, which means good news. Evangelising is the activity of making known the gospel (good news). Normally it is within the same culture or language. Missions, on the other hand, is world evangelisation.

2. World Evangelisation

In Mt.28:19, the word “nation” is derived from the Greek word *ethnos*, which bears a different meaning from political nation. In Jesus’ time, the political nation was very different, with Rome conquering most of the Mediterranean world which was sub-divide into many smaller kingdoms. A clearer translation of *ethnos* is ethnic unit or ‘peoples’. The term ‘people group’ has been coined to refer to the Biblical concept of nation. People groups are sociological groupings of people, not political groupings. A sociological group is one in which the people have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation, etc., or combination of these.

- Why do you think such an understanding of ‘nation’ is important?



- i. If we don’t have the Biblical understanding of ‘nations’ one can describe India or even Malaysia as evangelised. Just because we have a Christian population of 10% of the country population, it doesn’t mean the work of evangelism is finish. We know that more than half of Malaysians have yet to hear the gospel. And God certainly doesn’t leave them out. 2 Pt.3:9.

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- ii. Strategically, to understand peoples in term of Biblical nation helps us recognize people as their own culture, not just as individuals. This forces us to share the gospel in a relevant manner.

3. Presence, Proclamation, Persuasion

By recognizing people in their ethnic unit, it helps us develop an appropriate strategy to reach them for Jesus:

- i. Know them as God knows them
- ii. Meet their needs as *they* see it
- iii. Understand where they are in their movement towards Christ (Engel scale)
- iv. Communicate the gospel in their language and cultural understanding and in terms of where they are

3.1 Engel Scale

No awareness of Christianity	-7
Awareness of the existence of Christianity	-6
Some knowledge of the gospel	-5
Understanding of the fundamentals of the gospel	-4
Grasp of the personal implications	-3
Recognition of personal need	-2
Challenge and decision to receive Christ	-1
CONVERSION	
Evaluation of the decision	+1
Incorporation into a fellowship of Christians	+2
Active propagators of the gospel	+3

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3.2 Presence Evangelism

We dare not preach a gospel that we are not prepared to live by. It is universally admitted by all missions and churches that the reason most often given by converts for accepting the Christian way of life is the impression produced upon them by the changed lives of the Christian community. 1 Cor. 9:19-23

3.3 Proclamation Evangelism

In spite of its importance, presence evangelism is not enough to lead a person to Christ. At best it can only create within the person a desire to know more. To be really effective, it must be accompanied by proclamation evangelism. Rom.10:14.

3.4 Persuasion Evangelism

Persuasion goes one step beyond proclamation and tries to introduce the hearer to believe the message for himself. 2 Cor.5:20

4. Overcoming External Barriers

What are some external barriers you have faced in evangelising and what are some solutions?

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LESSON 5: DISCIPLING

1. The Goal in Discipling

The right goal for everyone is God's goal. *“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.”* Rom.11:39. **That goal is making disciples of all peoples** (Mat.28:19).

- What is discipling?

The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*, meaning learner, pupil, a follower of a teacher. It implies that the person not only accepts the views of the teacher, but that he is also in practice, an adherent. The key is the teacher. In the Christian context, it is Jesus. In that sense, the word ‘disciple’ is never used in the Old Testament because we are only to be disciples of God and not people.

Thus, discipling is the process of molding a person to be like Jesus.

- What does it mean to be like Jesus?

To be like Jesus does not mean to be a carpenter, or a Jew, or a certain physical appearance. Rather it means to be like Him in belief, values, and character. Thus, discipling is not making a duplicate of us or of someone else. We allow the person to retain his / her own self-identity, temperament, likes / dislikes, appearance, etc. Jesus personally disciplined the 12 disciples for 3 years but He did not make duplicates of Himself. Paul disciplined Timothy but Timothy was vastly different from him. In the past, missionaries would make converts wear their kind of clothes to identify themselves as disciples. This is obviously wrong.

The goal in discipling is to make a person become more and more like Jesus in belief, values and character.

2. The Way in Discipling

Prior to discipling there must be salvation. Salvation is when a person accepts the teacher and chooses to practice his teaching. A baby is born and the process of development begins. That is why the goal in life is not just to win souls; if it were so, it would be liken to giving birth to babies and leaving them by themselves! No, the goal is making disciples, to have more followers of Jesus and it begins with salvation.

- Is there a specific way in discipling?
- How did Jesus disciple the 12 disciples?
- How did Paul disciple Timothy?
- Who can be a discipler? Are qualifications needed?

There is no set way in discipling. But you must have / do the following:

- i. Discipler must be spiritually more matured than the disciple.
- ii. Discipler must share from the Word of God.

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- iii. Discippler must share his / her life.
- iv. Discippler must see disciple as a person and not a program or project.

Because discipling is not a structured program but a life sharing experience it has lost ground in church life. The result? New believers wandering all over the place looking for direction in the new life they have received. Older Christians dropping out and backsliding. Decrease in the impact of the church on the community.

Just as Christianity is about relationship between God and us, the church must be about relationship between God, you and I. Discipling is the essence of that relationship.

Often times, missions works is perceived as sharing the Gospel and saving souls. This is true especially at pioneering / church planting stage. From the time believers are added into the church, discipling begins. A lot of effort and time is spent on this. Should it be like this? Why?

3. Conclusion

You can be a discipler. **Ask the Lord to use you. Look out for new Christians that come along your path. Don't just refer them to "My Faith" SCG or LG and leave them alone. Follow through with them.**

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LESSON 6: TENTMAKING

1. In the Bible, History & Today

1.1 Who are tentmakers?

Tentmakers are missions-committed Christians who work in secular jobs in order to reach another people group. Their goal is to “make disciples of all nations.” They communicate the gospel by word and deed through excellence in work, caring relationships, and well chosen comments about God in the context of everyday life. They are in full-time spiritual ministry, even when they have full-time secular employment.

- “*Tentmakers are marketplace Christians living the Great Commission.*” True or false?

1.2 Apostle Paul, the first tentmaker

The term ‘tentmaker’ is taken from the fact that Paul was a tentmaker Acts 18:1-4. 1 Cor.4:11-12 & 9:6 suggests that Paul and Barnabas also supported themselves during their missionary journeys. In his farewell speech to the Ephesus elders he makes reference to himself meeting his own needs Acts 20:33-35. Paul was also financially supported at times in his ministry (e.g. by Philippi & Macedonian church).

1.3 Old Testament ‘tentmakers’

- **Abraham**
Sheep farmer of Canaan
- **Daniel**
Senior civil servant of Persia
- **Esther**
Queen of Persia
- **Ezra**
Secretary of state in Persia
- **Joseph**
Steward in Egypt
- **Mordecai**
Prime minister of Persia
- **Moses**
Prince of Egypt
- **Nehemiah**
Cupbearer in Persia

These OT characters were not ‘tentmakers’ in the actual sense because they did not purposefully use their jobs to “make disciple of all nations.” However, it is clear that God did use them for that purpose. ***Imagine if you purposed to be a tentmaker, how much more God can use you than them!***

1.4 Tentmakers today

William Carey (1761-1834) is one of the greatest missionary. But he was by profession a businessman and scholar!

- one of the first missionaries to India
- translated the Bible into 35 languages
- leading authority on botany in India
- wrote for Encyclopedia Britannica
- professor at Ft William College

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- businessman – Indigo factory, publishing

A survey of today's tentmakers show that they:

1. Led an evangelistic Bible study before going
2. Main reason for going was to share Gospel
3. Believed God called them to be tentmakers
4. Had actively shared their faith at home
5. Had strong relationship with home church
6. Recruited others to be tentmakers

2. The Greatest Need In Missions Today?

97% of those who have not heard (~ 2 billion) live in the 10/40 window. Majority of these nations are strong adherents of other religions – Islam, Buddhism & Hinduism and are closed to Christian missions.

- Why?
 1. Governments against conversion from original state religion.
 2. Rising tide of nationalism against Christianity due to its imperialistic history.
 3. Volatile situation of nations pressure the missionary to be 'involve' in politics.

Hence, the need for tentmaking:

1. Entry into restricted access countries
2. Provides natural sustained contact with potential believers
3. Conserves scarce mission funds
4. Multiplies personnel

3. The Tentmakers Preparation & Vision

- Who can be a tentmaker?

3.1 Job takers, makers & fakers

Tentmakers are people who are

- Job takers - take what is available without being too fussy because the primary concern is to go and share the Gospel
- Job makers – where there is none, they create just so they can enter the country to share the Gospel. E.g. starting a business / institution.
- Not job fakers – the job is not a cover-up. Col.3:17.

3.2 Tentmaking vision

1. Intent – must be clear that it is to “make disciples of all peoples.”
2. Integrity - do your work & live your life in such a way that it *demand*s an explanation of your faith
3. Integration – work is ministry

3.3 Spiritual preparation

- Develop home support – work with your pastor, allow the church to guide
- Learn discipleship
- Learn evangelism
- Learn the Bible

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- Learn to pray

3.4 Professional preparation

- Strive for excellence
- Learn to network to be effective in your work
- Learn to integrate work & ministry

4. Challenges & Advantages

4.1 Myths and objections

- It's an easy option
- It's only part-time missionary work
- Any Christian working overseas is a tentmaker
- It promotes individualism and disunity in the body of Christ, since they are able to go without the blessing of their home assemblies.
- They can bring greater disruption to the on going work in host country due to insensitivity or over zealousness.

4.2 Guidelines

Guidelines to tentmaking are vital to prevent myths and objections:

1. Tentmakers are not lone rangers.
2. They must get the spiritual covering and guidance of home church.
3. They must do a thorough research of the Christian situation in host country.
4. Link up with existing Christian church / ministry in host country through your home church.

4.3 Advantages

1. No closed countries
2. Acceptance by host countries (credibility)
3. Natural relationships with nationals (identification)
4. Being models for national believers (modeling)
5. Resources and benefits from job

4.4 Disadvantages

1. Limited religious freedoms
2. Relatively short stays
3. Time constraints
4. Lack of accountability
5. Juggling between work and ministry

5. Conclusion

- Are you cut out to be a tentmaker?

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LESSON 7: MOBILIZING

1. What is Mobilizing?

- What does it mean to mobilize? Give some examples.

To mobilize is to rally, muster, gather together and activate the people to do a particular activity rather than doing it by one or a few people. E.g. In a gotong-royong, the community is mobilized to clean up the area rather than just depending on a few DBKL workers. During war time, the government mobilizes civilians by recruiting them for particular jobs such as administration, combat, logistics, etc. After a natural disaster, the international community is mobilized to help the survivors.

The whole idea in mobilizing is that the job is too huge for one or a few person to do. It would either be impossible or take too long. Thus, by getting more people, it makes the task possible and complete faster.

“Making disciples of all peoples” is a humongous task. With over 6 billion people, out of which at least 2 billion have never heard the Gospel, **the task to finish God’s work is way beyond a single Christian or a single church.** If it is to be finished, the key is that every Christian must be mobilized for the task.

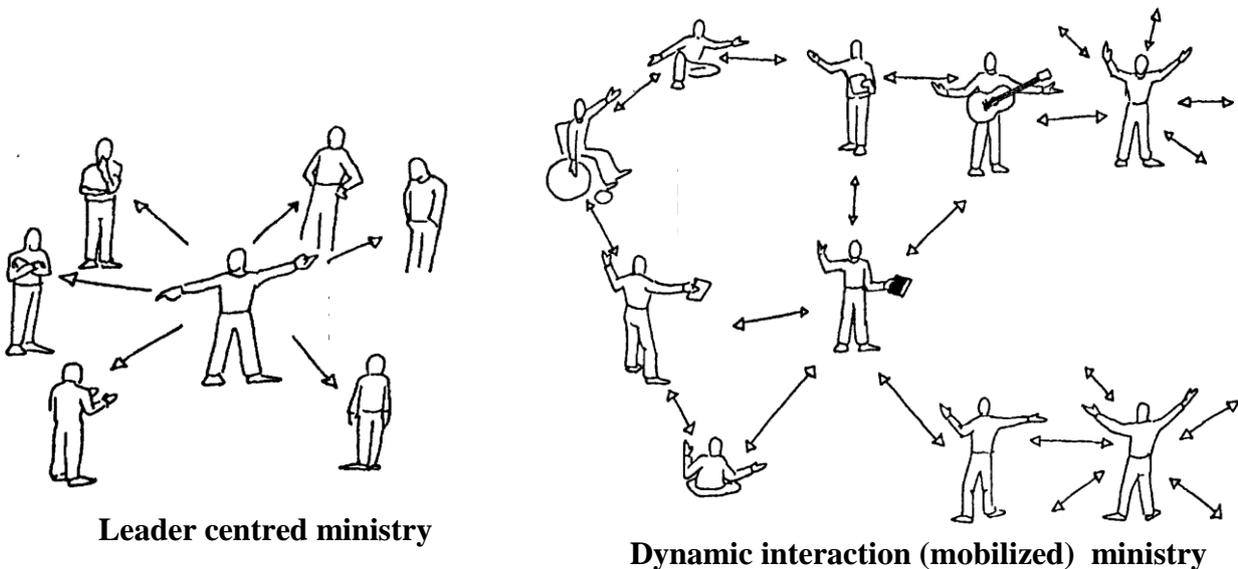
Illustration

1 Christian	10 Christians	100 Christians	1,000 Christians	10,000 Christians
<i>Praying</i> Prays for 5 souls weekly	<i>Praying</i> Prays for 50 souls weekly	<i>Praying</i> Prays for 500 souls weekly	<i>Praying</i> Prays for 5,000 souls weekly	<i>Praying</i> Prays for 50,000 souls weekly
<i>Witnessing</i> Shares Gospel to 1 person weekly	<i>Witnessing</i> Shares Gospel to 10 person weekly	<i>Witnessing</i> Shares Gospel to 100 person weekly	<i>Witnessing</i> Shares Gospel to 1,000 person weekly	<i>Witnessing</i> Shares Gospel to 10,000 person weekly
<i>Giving</i> Gives RM100 to missions monthly	<i>Giving</i> Gives RM1,000 to missions monthly	<i>Giving</i> Gives RM10,000 to missions monthly	<i>Giving</i> Gives RM100,000 to missions monthly	<i>Giving</i> Gives RM1,000,000 to missions monthly
<i>Church planting</i> Cannot do alone	<i>Church planting</i> Maybe plant 1 in 5 years	<i>Church planting</i> Plant 5 in 5 years	<i>Church planting</i> Plant 50 in 5 years	<i>Church planting</i> Plant 500 in 5 years

Mobilizing people is NOT necessarily having more people do the same job (as might be implied in the above illustration). Mobilizing is looking at the overall job, and getting people who may perform different functions, in order for the overall job to be accomplished. E.g. For us to plant a church, we need evangelist, children’s worker, pastor, administrator, translator, etc.

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

2. Jesus, the Mobilizer



- Which model above best represents Jesus' ministry?
1. Mark 1:14-20 One of the first things Jesus did in His ministry was to mobilize others into the ministry. If God needs to mobilize, how much more of us, the church?
 2. Mark 3:13-15 Out of the many followers, Jesus appointed 12 "that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons."
 3. Mark 6:6b-13 After the 12 disciples had followed and learned from Jesus, they were mobilized and sent out to "make disciples of all nations." Apart from this, they were mobilize in 'crowd control' wherever Jesus went, sail across the Sea of Galilee when Jesus wanted to, helped in the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000, etc. Though seemingly non-spiritual, these are all important in accomplishing God's purposes.
 4. Luke 10:1-3, 17 From the 12, Jesus expanded His mobilization to 72.
 5. Acts 2 Disciples fully mobilized on Day of Pentecost

Consider this:

- If Jesus had not mobilized the disciples, His ministry would have ended after the ascension! Would the church have existed?
- If the churches of the West had not mobilized missionaries to come to Malaysia, where would you be today?
- If you are not mobilized today, where would those who have yet to accept Christ be?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

3. Mobilizing Passion, Prayer, Participation and Finances

- What exactly are we mobilizing Christians to do in view of the overall purpose to “make disciples of all nations”?

Anything and everything that would accomplish the said purpose according to God’s will, way and timing.

We are very familiar with these 3 terms in missions: prayer, participation and finances. They are extremely needful and necessary. But prior to these, and together with these, is needed something even more important: passion. Passion for God’s glory through the “making of disciples.”

Divide the class into 4 groups. Each group takes one area: passion, prayer, participation, and finances. Each group is to come up with as many effective ways to mobilize its particular area. Write down in a piece of paper (attached) and return to the teacher. Discuss. Julie, please give me the papers with ideas.

4. Conclusion

- Who can you mobilize this weekend to be part of God’s plan to “make disciples of all nations?” In what area: passion, prayer, participation or finances?

Pray for the students to successfully mobilize the person they are thinking of for missions even as they themselves have been mobilized. Pray also for openness to the Holy Spirit to be further mobilized for greater involvement in missions.

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

LESSON 8 CHURCH PLANTING

In Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission is to “make disciples of all peoples...baptize...teach”. This means to plant a church. The disciples are the church. Where there are believers gathered together in the name of Jesus, there the church is.

1. Common objections to church planting

- i) Better to build own church to become a mega church than to plant many small churches. *“Small churches are weak and lack impact. Better to have a mega church.”*
- ii) To plant a church, we need a professionally seminary trained pastor. *“We don’t have any Bible school graduates.”*
- iii) We need just one church in one town. *“To have more churches in the same area will cause conflict and confuse people.”*
- iv) Help the ‘dying churches’ first. *“If existing churches are declining, why plant new ones?”*
- v) The people are already reached. *“The peoples must be reached already because there are churches there. The lost can always go to them.”*

2. Why plant churches?

- i) Obedience to the command and heart of the Lord.
- ii) It is the most effective means of extending God’s Kingdom.
- iii) It challenges believers to reach out and not be self-absorbed.
- iv) New churches reproduce themselves better than established churches.
- v) New churches contextualize the Gospel more effectively.
- vi) New churches can effectively make disciples as discipleship is a priority.
- vii) Expanding populations need new churches.
- viii) No one church can reach everyone.
- ix) New churches encourage established churches.

3. What is a church?

- i) A church is defined not by what we do, but what we are
- ii) It is a family – 1 Timothy 5:1-2 – love each other (not an organization)
- iii) It is a fellowship - Acts 2:42-47 – build each other up (not for personal gain)
- iv) It is a flock – John 10:1-31 – led and care for by Jesus, the Chief Shepherd
- v) It is a body – 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27 – everyone is different but has its part under the headship of Christ.

A church can take all kinds of form but it must always be a family, fellowship, flock and a body.

4. Process of becoming indigenous

Every newly planted church must strive to be self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating. This is known as the church becoming indigenous and can be described in three stages: pioneering, nurturing, and maturing

4.1 Pioneering stage

- i) Objective is to gather the first converts together to form a core group
- ii) Build on foundational message of the Gospel for newborn babies

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

- iii) This stage should take from a month to six months, depending on receptivity of people
- iv) The outreach pastor / worker will be carrying out all the tasks of the outreach
- v) The outreach pastor / worker role is primarily an evangelist and shepherd

4.2 Nurturing stage

- i) Objective is to disciple all the initial Christians
- ii) Spend more time on visitation, one on one / small group fellowship and Bible study
- iii) Identify potential leaders and encourage them to serve
- iv) Ensure the outreach is integrated into the community, not foreign nor syncretic
- v) This stage should take from six months to fifteen months
- vi) The outreach pastor / worker begins to share the tasks of the outreach with the congregation
- vii) The outreach pastor / worker role is primarily a discipler

4.3 Maturing stage

- i) Objective is to raise up local leaders to assume all major leadership roles
- ii) Focus on leadership training of locals and reaching out
- iii) Commissioning of leaders and deacons chosen
- iv) Outreach becomes self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating (as per order)
- v) This stage should take twelve months to fifteen months
- vi) The outreach pastor / worker role in this stage is initially a trainer
- vii) As leaders are commissioned, the outreach pastor / worker begins to release increasing responsibilities to the local leaders, striving for independence
- viii) The final role in this stage is as a guest

4.4 Indigenous status

The Mother Church decides if an outreach is deemed ready for indigenous status.

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

LESSON 9: SOCIAL CONCERN

1. Evangelism or Social Concern?

<u>For evangelism</u>	<u>For social concern</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Matthew 28:19-20▪ Acts 1:8▪ In the Old Testament, God sent many prophets proclaiming His words to draw people unto Himself. In contrast, there were only 3 miracle workers – Moses, Elijah & Elisha – who did minimal to help the needy.▪ When David and Solomon built the temple, there were many poor who had yet to be helped.▪ Paul and the early church, though helping the poor, concentrated more on evangelism.▪ Jesus did not heal nor physically help everyone who was needy.▪ In Revelation, the end of the matter is those who are saved are eternally worshipping God. Nothing on the poor who were physically helped.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10-11▪ Isaiah 61:1-2▪ Matthew 11:4-5▪ Matthew 26:6-11▪ Matthew 25:31-46▪ Mark 12:29-31

History of the debate. Early church was in a well-to-do society. Missions seldom involved social concern. Only when started to reach out to the rest of the world, they realised the great social need. But focusing too much on social concern took emphasis away from evangelism. Thus, the debate.

2. The Biblical Model

- Look at the life of Christ. What was His approach towards evangelism and social concern?
- What was His missions in life?
- How did He go about achieving His mission?

Reaching the lost for Christ (making disciples) is our primary goal in life as set by God. The main vehicle to this is evangelism (Rom. 10:14-15). They must know Jesus. Remember that evangelism has 3 facets: presence, proclamation and persuasion. In the midst of the needy, presence evangelism is very important. In this case, it would be social concern.

- What is your opinion of Christians helping the needy for the sole motive of wanting the people to become Christians?

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

We must love people for who they are – God’s creation – regardless of race, religion, culture, etc. Afterall, Christ loved us while we were still sinners (Rom.5:8). And love compels us to meet their immediate physical needs. More than that, love compels us to meet their eternal needs for love wants the best for the person. Is not eternal life in Christ Jesus the best?

We should make no apologies in helping people solely for the reason of wanting them to be Christians because that is the greatest help a person can and must receive.

3. Social Ministries of Today

Social ministries have developed through the years. Traditional ministries such as orphanages, schools, medical, food for the hungry and emergency relief are still vital. In addition to these have arisen a host of ‘specialised’ social ministries such as ministering to drug addicts, prostitutes, terminally ill, children with special needs, illiteracy, single parents, etc.

Watch Calcutta Mercy Ministries video “Healthcare video” (6min).

4. Conclusion

Do not think of social ministry as a specialised church ministry – something which you choose whether to participate or not. Remember that **Christ did not separate evangelism from social ministry. Social ministry is a means to reaching people for Christ.** Where there is a need extend your help tangibly for it is a bridge to eternal help. If you feel inadequate, do not turn your back, but help find appropriate help for the person.

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

LESSON 10: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Helping Others Help Themselves

- What is community development? How is it different from social concern?

In brief, community development is helping others help themselves, while social concern is helping others (period). Main areas of community development are:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Water | 5. Shelter |
| 2. Sanitation | 6. Income production |
| 3. Food | 7. Education |
| 4. Health | 8. Utilities (communication, transport, electricity, & fuel) |

- Why community development?

The goal of community development has always been and still remains **to bring a group to a place of self-reliance or self-sufficiency**; they find within themselves all that is needed to maintain a life of desired level.

Watch Tearfund video “Be Part of a Miracle” (10min).

Christians are uniquely equipped to do community development.

- i) We approach the task with the right motivation – love of Christ, not just humanly love. It is not a question of should we or can we, but *will we*.
- ii) We provide holistic development – physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. No other institutions or NGOs do these holistically.
- iii) We understand the importance of contextualization and respecting culture – as a Biblical mandate and after hundreds of years of trial and error learning.
- iv) We learn from our mistakes rather than shy away or hide them.

Although we are uniquely equipped for community development, that cannot be our reason for doing it. Our basis must be that community development is part of God’s command to “*go and make disciples of all nations.*” If it is not, we do not want to waste time on the wrong goal.

- Is there a Biblical basis for community development? What is it?

2. Biblical Development

Secularly, the premise for community development is that given the right circumstances and resources, mankind is capable of creating for himself a good society. The premise is wrong because man’s values are flawed by sin. Man is turned in on himself, concern for himself and his own welfare rather than that of the community. Thus, corruption, greed, abuse, fighting, back-biting, etc. This is not to say that all secular development is ineffective.

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?

It is a fact that governments seeking to develop communities look to churches, missions organizations and Christian NGOs for help rather than secular NGOs or other institutional bodies – even in Muslim states. Their reason:

- i) We, the Christian community, can be best entrusted with finances and resources to do the necessary job of ‘selfless’ community development
- ii) We yield the best results.

The actual reason though for the church being the best means for community development is because **changes in material standards must be accompanied by spiritual changes. The Biblical basis for community development is that salvation through Christ is fundamental for permanent community development**. It is not a prerequisite to extending physical help but the *core* of development. Biblical development is God-centred while secular development is man-centred.

We do not directly or specifically read about community development in the Bible. 2 reasons:

- i) God provides new and creative means to accomplish His work in line with the development of humanity. Community development was practiced but not as a definite field like it is today.
- ii) The priority message of the Bible is the glory of God through the making of disciples of all nations. There are many things the Bible does not address directly because they are on the sidelines of the main issue (reconciliation with God). When the main issue is dealt with, the sidelines come into picture quite naturally, just as we are dealing with community development.

3. Conclusion

For community development to function, there must be a pool of people with the necessary skills.

Technical skills

Water engineers

Irrigation

Laboratory testing

Building construction

Civil engineers

Health

Doctors

Nurses

Health educators

Medicines

Dieticians

Food

Agriculturalists

Farming

Food processing

Distributors

Education

Teachers

Administrators

Business

Micro-business

Trainers

Financiers

The list is endless. And it may not be you, but your business. Many NGOs are partnering with secular companies to provide much needed help for community development. Most importantly is that there must be an understanding that Biblical development is God-centred. Thus, if you are getting involved, you must first and foremost be a Christian.