

Discipling in the

PERSONAL GUIDE TO
PREACHING AND TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD
IN THE HOMES OF UNBELIEVERS

WORKBOOK

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Dear Fellow Believer

Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus

In the divinely inspired Word of God, we are encouraged to grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ and to not continually lay the foundation of the principles of the doctrine of Christ, but to go on unto perfection as disciples of the Lord, that is, to be able to disciple others into the kingdom of God.

Jesus charged His disciples to teach the nations to observe all things that He had commanded them. **Matthew 28:18-20** - *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Whilst the Lord most definitely calls many into the mission fields of far away countries, there exists a mission field which is often overlooked by the church. This mission field starts in the homes of our next door neighbors, our work colleagues, our friends and our unsaved family members. We truly don't need to move too far out of our immediate neighborhood and family circles to find these fields, which are ripe unto harvest, and to shine as lights in the world, steadfastly holding forth the word of life, the word of truth.

This workbook is a culmination of years of outreach work conducted in the homes of unbelievers and is based on the practical and simple, yet effective, methods of starting and conducting what could be termed as “home based outreach meetings”. Through the steadfast application of some very simple biblical principles and truths, may we strive to be counted among those labourer's for Christ who would labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life, bringing forth much fruit unto the glory of our Father in Heaven. May we desire to be as the disciples in Acts 5:42, who ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ daily in the temple, and in every house.

May God richly bless you as you 'Disciple others in the Son' for His glory.

Yours in His service

Peter Michell

INTRODUCTION

Witnessing for Christ takes courage and commitment and it is the aim of this workbook to assist you in being able to learn from the experience of many who have gone before and to equip you with an effectual approach to starting, running and completing outreach meetings in the homes of unbelievers.

The biggest aspect in going out into the world is that of holding out the Word of Truth, that is, standing for and being persuaded yourself in and of the truth. Luke 14:28 says that we should count the cost, and, it is early on that it must be said that there is a price to pay in discipling others in Christ. It would not be advisable to start such meetings if you yourself are not sure what you believe, are not fully persuaded in the truth of the doctrine of Christ and are not sure whether you will be able to be committed to what can sometimes be up to two years of discipling others in a home environment.

The following is a brief, and by no means exhaustive, list of factors which must be taken into account when considering discipling others in Christ:

1. You must be prepared to be available – God looks for availability, not for ability
2. You must be prepared to commit yourself - you can't bail out when YOU feel like it
3. You must have a burden for souls – this is imperative, pray for this burden
4. You must know for what reason you want to reach souls
5. You must know the truth, believe it and show it - the reality of it will only grow
6. You are not in competition with anyone – all you need to present is the Word
7. Other methods may work for others, but this method has proven effectual for countless others who have gone before
8. This application is scriptural – preaching and teaching every man in all wisdom
9. It is imperative that the message of truth gets OUT

PURPOSE

The purpose of establishing outreach meetings in the homes of unbelievers covers many aspects. Below are just a few of these aspects:

1. To reach people for Jesus – that God can add them to the Body (The Church)
2. It is a wonderful training ground where you can learn to relate to people
3. To be sensitive to people's needs and problems. (believers and unbelievers)
4. To exercise ministry gifts of preaching, teaching and encouraging
5. To impart the truth of the Word of God that it may set others free

PREPARATION

This workbook is not intended to encourage individuals to work outside of their local Body of Christ, but, rather, it is vital that this be a burden of the church and that it be undertaken under the covering and blessing of the oversight of your local church.

As the local Body of Christ commits itself to reaching souls, there will need to be a change of attitude, a change of heart and a change of focus in certain areas:

- Have to refocus the prayer meetings towards praying for effectual open doors and having a burden for souls (if not already there)
- Members of the Body need to be prepared for new believers coming in
- Must be fully persuaded in what you believe, that it is the only truth, and know why you believe what you do – the foundation, the ministries, the body plan, etc
- Must want to be taught and want to teach regarding reaching souls
- Oversight need to support, motivate, encourage and be involved
- Fields are there, ready to be worked in (need to recognise them)
- Look for open doors, speak to all who would be willing to open their homes – preferably outsiders, contacts etc – the last resort should be the homes of the believers, unless they are willing to use their home to invite unbelievers
- Must never have a “We’ve got it “ attitude – we’ve got nothing, it is by Grace alone
- Need to be pro-active and “step out in faith”, getting off your back foot and onto the front foot as you preach and teach the Gospel – only Jesus!
- Prepare your heart for one purpose – to win souls for the master (don’t try to convince or conform people to traditions or religious ceremony)

PROBLEMS

You will encounter problems along the way and some of these are highlighted as follows:

- Oversight / brethren too busy with everything else or feel threatened
- Lack of support
 - Responsibility for reaching souls always shifted to others
 - Not the fellowship’s top priority – way down the list
- Lack of confidence - Not properly equipped, taught, as to how, where, when etc
- Wrong mind set, attitude – we think because it is the last days that people are hard and won’t hear what we have to say whilst there are countless wanting the truth

- Some try to build personal little empires, restricting others from getting involved in winning souls for Christ
- Preconceptions – wrong area, people too poor, too rich, all have heard, etc – don't forget, it is the Lord who builds His church, not you
- Resistance to change – generally older folk
- Folk are not taught, encouraged to reach outsiders/unbelievers
- Folk are not fully persuaded, confident re what they believe in or preach
- There will be resistance (mostly from believers who do nothing)
- Your testimony is in question. Your life does not measure up to what you are preaching. Sin
- Dealing with bigger problems right now – Will get to winning souls later/another time

HOW TO GET GOING

The failure of most outreach efforts often resides in actually getting going. Many have the heart to win souls, are persuaded of the truth and are wonderfully in love with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, yet, they just can't seem to get going in preaching and teaching the Word of God to others.

Some basic guidelines are outlined below to assist you in stepping out of the boat and confidently walking toward the calling of the Lord Jesus as you grow in His knowledge and grace.

WHO should go

- Those who have a desire to be used of the Lord and to win souls for His kingdom
 - Preferably no more than two should go together, otherwise it is seen as a delegation – too many will intimidate
 - Take a younger brother with you who can learn from this experience
- Never smother the outreach meeting with other old believers (unless they are new folk in your local body who are not necessarily persuaded in the truth). No passengers!
- Prime motive initially is to win the confidence of folk (never presume this), this attitude will keep you focused on the end goal of winning souls for Christ
- Don't bring in someone else to take your place – rather cancel the meeting if you really cannot be there – this is why it is good to, where possible, have two people going together so that the meeting doesn't have to be cancelled
 - The reason for not just letting anyone run the meeting is that everything you have built up over time can be broken down in one night. (Unless the brother supporting you, can fill in, having been with you from the start)
- Invite those who have born fruit in these areas to teach you (from other likeminded Body's of Christ)

WHERE to have the meeting

- Preferably these meetings should be in outsiders homes (not believers) saved or unsaved
 - Contacts can be made from believers, work associates, neighbors, Sunday School, Breakfasts, etc
- Senior youth (bible studies) outreaches in homes (not junior youth)

- Old age homes, nursing homes, school hostels
- Lunch hour meetings, hospitals, workplace, etc
- Men's breakfasts, ladies breakfasts (Topics advertised – contacts from there)
- Contacts from calling / visitors cards at your meetings, folk wanting visits – can lead to outreach meetings
- Advertise with flyers / invitations

This confined situation (homes etc.) gives one an ideal opportunity to win folk with the message of the truth. **Remember:** the message of the truth is not a popular message, it takes time. It is not a message of doom and condemnation, but rather of God's wonderful love, grace and mercy and of Jesus Christ's compassion for those that are lost and His tremendous burden and obedience to do the will of His Father

WHEN to have the meeting

- Preferably in the evenings when everyone is relaxed and should not have any pressing issues to attend to
- Keep the time to 1 hour – you really shouldn't need more than that
 - Don't waffle or tell long stories, just preach and teach
 - You will spend more time afterwards speaking and answering questions over coffee and biscuits
- Start with holding the meeting fortnightly, unless those whose home the meeting is in would like to have the meeting every week – It won't be long before it is every week, as the Word of the Lord takes root in the heart of the people and they begin to desire more of the truth
- Obviously the outreach meetings should never take preference over the meetings of the local Body of Christ and they should never be set on the same night as a church meeting where you are a member of the Body operating effectually in the unity of the faith
- A week night is always the best to hold these meetings so as to ensure that most people are available to attend on a regular basis

CONDUCTING THE MEETINGS

Conducting outreach meetings must be undertaken with confidence in what you believe, but handled with a spirit of humility and thankfulness for the privilege of being invited into a person's home to share the truth of the Word of God. **Remember:** you are there by invitation and not by right, so, let the mind which was in Christ Jesus also be in you.

HOW to conduct the outreach meetings

It is important that these outreach meetings be conducted correctly so as not to let those who might be hearing the truth of the Word of God for the first time feel as if they are under any pressure to commit to anything and or are being recruited to join your church. Being in the home means that you should keep it informal and casual in approach, let the Word of God do the work

- Dress – casual. This is important - so that every one feels at ease. Unless there is an understanding and people know that you are coming straight from work, arriving in a suit with a brief case is more than likely going to make people feel uncomfortable
- Small white board / black board – this is really important
 - This is one of the most effective tools you can use in the outreach meetings
 - You don't have to be an artist to draw fancy pictures, but to even write a few words on the board or draw a few sketches (no matter how rough they may be) truly opens up so much in the heart of others
 - It also keeps those attending, and you, focused on what you are sharing
 - You can also leave it in the home for the next week
- Open in prayer – ask one of those attending to do so, if not yourself
- Close in prayer - have coffee and biscuits, if on offer, and then leave – don't linger and make every meeting into visit, this may hinder the continued meetings being held in that particular home
- Always leave them 'a carrot' of what you are going to share the next week. They will hold you to it, with expectation – just make sure that you do then share what you have said you would the following week
- No matter what your day has been like you must show enthusiasm:
 - That you are excited to be there
 - That you are prepared
 - That you are also expectant of what the Lord has to say
- ALWAYS pray before you go - that you might be full of the Holy Ghost and have the discernment to be exercised in being 'Spirit led'

- Be faithful and committed - YOU ARE IN FOR THE LONG HAUL
 - Discipling others into the fullness of Christ is not a one month job
 - Don't even start if you are thinking of when to stop
 - The Lord will lay it on your heart when the time is right to move on
 - Until then, your faithfulness and punctuality must be 100%
 - Come rain or snow, be there – your witness in faithfulness will do much for others

What to do

- Always be prepared, prayed up and full of the Holy Ghost – don't try and make things up on the drive over to the persons home
- Know what you are going to share – it is not a hit or miss situation, but should truly be what the Lord has laid on your heart to share with those who are in attendance
- Be confident in the Lord, knowing that what you have is from Him
- Always preach Christ and Him alone
- Strive to win their confidence by the word you preach / not by your knowledge or theological understanding, this will only confuse those who are babes in Christ
- Always open yourself to questions any time in the meeting - This will open many things for you to share – remain in control though, as you might often get those who would continually try and side track to what they are wanting to know – Maybe rather have a cup of coffee or breakfast with that person to answer questions later
- ALWAYS answer with the WORD alone – if you don't know the answer to any particular question, tell them that you will check with other likeminded believers what the Word of God says on that particular matter
 - Always get back to them on that which they have asked
- Always read the word - or sometimes even get them to read
- Preach and teach – say “this is what the word says!”

What not to do

- As difficult as it may sometimes be to do:
 - **NEVER** share YOUR opinion / or your pet doctrine
 - **NEVER** say, “WE or I believe this or that” – it is what the word says and the word alone
 - **NEVER** try to change their thinking or beliefs (let the Holy Spirit/Word do the convincing – not you)
 - **NEVER** invite them to your church or try to persuade them to join (The Lord will do the adding, not you)

- **NEVER** condemn any other church or become confrontational – stand back.
- **NEVER** feel threatened or intimidated – (know what you believe)
- **NEVER** let the meeting become a discussion. Preach and teach, don't discuss (If there is an awkward question you cannot answer – tell them you will answer them next week)
- **NEVER** say that your church has got it right. Avoid any reference to your church if possible
- **NEVER** allow opinions to be discussed. Refer to the WORD only
- **NEVER** share beyond your measure. Rather share that which you are persuaded in, the word will grow in you and the Lord will let you share what He will at the time He wants you to
- **NEVER** try to reason or teach and preach from an intellectual platform – do it from the WORD only
- **NEVER** have a proud attitude, it will quickly be seen and you will be rejected
- **NEVER** react to that curved ball (and there will be many of these). They will always come – other doctrines, books, beliefs, personalities - AVOID entering into discussion over anything which is based on man's opinion - just keep referring to the WORD
- Don't expect others to be on your wavelength, they may be coming from backgrounds where they have never heard the Word of God or may have been hearing another doctrine (other than the doctrine of Christ) for their whole life - Don't expect things to happen quickly – it takes time
- Don't try and correct their doctrine or their understanding in what they believe – just allow the Holy Ghost to do His work – stand aside here and just preach and teach
- Don't try to prove that you are always right and they are wrong - You will send them running for the hills – let the WORD do the work
- Avoid debating what is acceptable or not out there – there are many Christ's / beliefs – remember that even the devils believe there is one God
- Don't give your advice on what you think to be the right lifestyle to live – for example, there will be questions such as: how many glasses of wine are you allowed?, how often must you go to church?, which church must you go to? – always just refer to the WORD and let the Holy Spirit do the work in the heart of those who are in attendance

WHAT TO TEACH AND PREACH

Whilst we must always be 'Spirit led', the Word of God indicates that we should be grounded in and founded on the basic gospel and principles of the doctrine of Christ in order to then move on to become mature believers. You must always teach and preach from your persuasion and from your God given revelation, knowledge and experience – always confirmed through the scriptures. Remember that you can never exhaust the Word of God, so you will never know everything there is to know. Just share within the measure you have, that is enough, it will grow. Whilst we have included some basic guidelines as to what to teach and preach, always wait on the Lord for the right word for the right time.

Preaching the gospel

1	The light	1-3 weeks	8	Forgiveness	1 week
2	The Way, Truth and Life	1 week	9	Christian confidence	1 week
3	Believing and confessing	1-2 weeks	10	Living to give	1 week
4	Matthew 5, 6 & 7	1-3 weeks	11	What is sin	1 week
5	Knowing God	1-2 weeks	12	Sin – repentance	1-3 weeks
6	Faith, Grace & Love	3 weeks	13	Sin – how to deal with it	1 week
7	God's eternal plan	1-2 weeks	14	Sin – free from sin	1 week

Teaching basics

Bring in scriptural terms - Body of Christ, Bearing fruit etc

1	Taking up your cross Hath God said – questioning	1-2 weeks	9	Abiding in Christ	1 week
2	God	1 week	10	Heart of man	4 weeks
3	How God speaks OT & NT	1-2 weeks	11	Temptation	1 week
4	Blood sacrifice – cross etc	1-2 weeks	12	Our attitude	1 week
5	Judging others/ourselves	1-2 weeks	13	Loosing & finding our lives	1 week
6	Bearing fruit	1-2 weeks	14	Renewed minds	1-2 weeks
7	Spirit of Christ not Holy Ghost	1-2 weeks	15	Old man – New man	1 week
8	Walking / Living in the Spirit	2-3 weeks			

First Principles of the doctrine of Christ and beyond

1	First Principles	8 weeks	7	The Godhead	1 week
2	Strongholds of the mind	1-2 weeks	8	Serving the Lord	1 week
3	Breaking of bread	1 week	9	Tithing and offerings	1 week
4	Body ministry	2-3 weeks	10	Acts 2 v 42	1 week
5	Second coming	1-2 weeks	11	Ministry of the Holy Ghost	2 weeks
6	The will of God	1-2 weeks			

The above should take +/- 18 months

If you are excited, persuaded, know in what you believe and are prepared to let the Holy Ghost lead you, great things will happen beyond more than you ever thought possible.

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Should you have any questions regarding the studies contained within this workbook, please do not hesitate to contact **Christian Truth Ministries** by way of the details listed below

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