

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Making It Happen

Darrow Miller
and
Bob Moffitt

HARVEST PUBLISHING
A Division of Harvest

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Workbook copyright ©2005 Harvest.

Portions of this material not copyrighted by others may be used or photocopied without expressed permission if the use will advance the Kingdom. Such use is encouraged. However, the product may not be sold for profit.

Produced and printed in the United States of America. Second printing - 8,000 copies.

Video copyright ©2003 University of the Nations (Kona, Hawaii). All rights reserved. Produced in association with Food for the Hungry International and Harvest.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Executive producers:	Jim Manthei, Brad Benbow
Video production:	John Damoose
Authors & video presenters:	Darrow Miller, Bob Moffitt
Introductory presenters:	Loren Cunningham, Gary Edmonds
Workbook editor:	Karla Tesch—Harvest
Workbook producer:	Brian Gammill—Harvest
Cover illustration:	Chris Julius
Art director (video):	Lyn Whitesell
Worldview graphics:	Tom Stefan
Special thanks:	Scott Allen—Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA) David Boyd—University of the Nations Christine Colby—Community Development Centre (YWAM) Loren Cunningham—Youth With A Mission, University of the Nations Gary Edmonds Davis Norment, Luke Moon—University of the Nations

Contents

Welcome.....	<i>vii</i>
Commitment.....	<i>viii</i>
How to Use the Workbook.....	<i>ix</i>
About the Video Series.....	<i>x</i>
The Authors and Video Teachers.....	<i>xiii</i>
How to Select the Best Introductory Session for Your Group.....	<i>xiv</i>

VIDEO SEGMENTS

Introductory Session: Option 1 (Loren Cunningham).....	1
Introductory Session: Option 2 (Gary Edmond)	13
Session 1: God's All-Encompassing Agenda.....	25
Session 2: God's Agenda and the Church	39
Session 3: The Transforming Story.....	51
Session 4: The Church is Failing to Fulfill God's BIG Agenda.....	65
Session 5: Worldview Shift.....	77
Session 6: The Cost to the Church.....	93
Session 7: The ABC's of Culture.....	107
Session 8: The Spread of Ideas.....	121
Session 9: The Church as a Window.....	137
Session 10: Kingdom Math.....	149
Session 11: The Gates of the City.....	163
Session 12: The Discipline of Serving Others.....	179
Follow-Up Session: Making It Happen.....	199

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

How to Facilitate the Series.....	213
Key Ideas for Each Session.....	217
Effective Facilitation & Discovery Learning.....	225

APPENDIX

Glossary.....	231
Biblical Worldview Resources.....	233
Now What?.....	237

Thy Kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth

as it is in heaven.

The church worldwide has done a commendable job of doing what she set out to do—evangelize, save souls for heaven, and plant churches. We live at a time in history when there have never been more professed Christians, more churches, and more large churches. And, yet, nation after nation is so very broken. *What has gone wrong?*

Welcome!

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven.*"

The Kingdom of God is in our midst! It is here—*on earth as it is in heaven*—as God's will is done and as biblical principles are integrated into every aspect of life.

We welcome you to join Darrow Miller and Bob Moffitt in an eye-opening look at God's BIG agenda, using the church—and people like you—to help fulfill this prayer. You will encounter something very big, yet very foundational. Your vistas will be enlarged, your spirits encouraged, and your paradigms challenged.

Bob and Darrow, friends for over thirty years, have been teaching together around the world since 1996. Darrow's message focuses on discipling nations with a biblical understanding of the world, not the deep-seated lies that corrupt and impoverish them. Bob teaches that the local church and individual Christians are the servants God uses to minister wholeness to broken society. Together, they encourage followers of Christ to saturate their societies with God's love and Kingdom agenda.

Through conferences, dedicated local church leaders, and written materials, this message has caught fire in nations all over the world! People have said: "This is what the church in our nation needs at this time!" They have heard it, and they are acting on it. God recently impressed a group of American friends that their nation and its churches were in serious need of a biblical worldview. They approached Darrow and Bob with the idea of a video series, useful for Sunday Schools, small groups, and training schools.

Though the video was taped as Bob and Darrow taught a group of North America Christians, the workbook you are holding has also been designed to spark international interest and use. The truths in the lessons apply to all followers of Christ. Wherever you make your home, we welcome you!

We do not need to watch helplessly as our societies march away from God. We are ambassadors, agents of reconciliation, members of the very body of Christ on earth, commissioned by our King. We invite you to look at the BIG picture and join in the progression of God's will being done . . . *on earth as it is in heaven.*

Listen to God speaking through Bob and Darrow as they unveil for us the whole story. It is a story that can disciple all nations—including yours.

Please review and fill out the Commitment form.



Commitment







This video course—if it is to be effective—requires a serious commitment of time, effort, and discipline on my part.

Therefore I, _____, with God's help, commit to do the following:

- Bring an open mind and heart to learn from and diligently apply the lessons.
- Attend and participate in all group sessions, unless urgent circumstances interfere.
- Complete the Advance Reading and Daily Devotions each week.
- Complete the SHARPen Your Focus action and journal each week.
- Encourage and pray regularly for other group members.
- Pray that God's Kingdom will be on earth as in heaven—through my life and my church.
- Pray for my church's impact on our culture.
- Other: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Before the Group Session	 Advance Reading	Read this section before the session. * "Preview" * "Quotes" * Readings "For Deeper Understanding"
During the Group Session	 Introduction	Be willing to tell about your application or devotions. Give your thoughts on the Opening Question.
	 Video	Take notes. Thumbnails of graphics are provided.
	 Group Exploration	Participate in group discovery. Brainstorm about ways to apply this.
	 SHARPen Your Focus	Meet with others to SHARPen your focus with prayer and action.
After the Group Session	SHARPen Your Focus	Carry out 1 SHARPening action. Fill out the journal in Daily Devotions.
Day 1—Day 5	 Daily Devotions	Read, reflect, and respond daily. Memorize the Key Verse.
Day 6	Bridge & Advance Reading	Review Bridge and proceed to next lesson's Advance Reading.

HINTS

1. **GROUP FACILITATORS:** Study THIS SECTION and FACILITATOR'S GUIDE section of this workbook. Also read how to select the best INTRODUCTORY SESSION to prepare *your* group. There are two options.
2. The last page of EACH session gives SUGGESTED RESOURCES and ENDNOTES.
3. The APPENDIX contains a GLOSSARY and a list of OTHER RESOURCES.

About the Video Series...

**"This is something that will not only change your life.
It will change your family. It will change your community.
And it will begin to change your nation—and the nations of the earth."**
—Introduction by Loren Cunningham, founder, Youth With A Mission

**"Many times, the people in our churches don't understand the great adventure
that God has called us into—to be involved in changing life;
to bring His Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven;
and to bring the significance of life as Jesus intended it."**
—Introduction by Gary Edmonds, executive director, Churches Together

The video series is about God's will—carried out "on earth as it is in heaven." It is about God's principles—integrated into every aspect of life. It is about personal and cultural transformation that is deep, broad, and biblical.

Session 1: Those who claim to follow Christ should understand God's purpose—His agenda—for the world.

If we reflect God's concern for spiritual brokenness—and no more—we do not reflect His broad agenda to restore "all things." The good news is that God's all-encompassing agenda *will* be fulfilled. What is this broad agenda? Are we engaged in it?

Session 2: The *church* is the key agent in accomplishing God's BIG agenda.

Jesus brought healing and restoration to *all things* through the cross, says Scripture. The church is God's principal vehicle for carrying out His agenda. The church must bring the whole Gospel to the whole person. The church must disciple whole nations. What could this mean?

Session 3: We have a story to tell to the nations— but we are not telling the whole story.

The biblical narrative has the ability to transform individuals; to lift communities out of poverty; and to build nations that are free, just, and compassionate. But we have not been telling the whole story. What have we missed?

Session 4: Most growing churches today are NOT transforming the society around them—the society in which they minister.

Historically, God used the church to set the stage for significant societal transformation—the Roman Empire, the Reformation, the Wesleyan Revival, the Great Awakenings. Today, countries experiencing great church growth are often countries with great brokenness, political instability, societal corruption, material poverty, and disease. The church has done a good job in evangelism, spiritual discipleship, and church planting—but society is not transformed. Why?

Session 5: The church is not telling the whole story—the story that reflects God’s BIG agenda.

The church has had two distinct responses to the rise of secularism in the West: (1) the liberal wing of the church embraced it; (2) the evangelical wing adopted a dualistic view that set spiritual ministry apart from the rest of life. The church has not reflected a biblical worldview or lived according to God’s BIG agenda. What has happened?

Session 6: The church has paid an enormous price for not telling the whole story.

Not living by a biblical perspective of the world, we have lost the Christian mind, the meaning of the church, the Great Commandment, the role of the church in society, the Great Commission, God’s BIG agenda, and the Kingship of Christ in the present. How should we live, now?

Session 7: Lies form the foundation for enslaved, corrupt, and cruel societies.

***Truth* is the foundation of free, just, and compassionate societies.**

Satan lies not only to individuals, but to nations. When a nation believes his lies, it is enslaved, impoverished, and fails to reach its God-given potential. Satan lies to nations at the level of culture, so the church must disciple nations at the level of culture. How?

Session 8: Ideas spread into societies and shape the very values by which those societies function.

Ideas have consequences! They spread *horizontally*—around the world. They travel through *time*—from one generation to another. And they travel *vertically*—they penetrate cultures. All Christians have a role to play in the spread of Kingdom culture. How can we permeate our society with the Kingdom?

**Session 9: The church is a window through which
broken people see God's good intentions.**

Sin has created a wall between God and His broken creation, but God has placed a window in that wall—the church. Through the window of your church, the broken people of your community should be able to see God's care for all parts of their lives. Some churches preach about future redemption from brokenness, but people who are hungry, sick, unemployed, oppressed, depressed, and suffering ask, "Isn't there any good news for me, now?" Yes, there is! God's desire is that His will be done *on earth, now, as it is in heaven*. To the degree that God's will is done on earth, heaven's conditions appear. Church, how can we wash our windows?

**Session 10: God requires all believers to give God
whatever they have, wherever they are.**

God is concerned that we make available to Him what we have in our hands, be it large or small. He multiplies and uses it for His Kingdom purposes. What can we sacrificially invest?

**Session 11: The church is called to enter the gates of the city
—the domains of society—
with the whole story, with God's BIG agenda.**

Christ has called the church to impact its world by being "*in* the world, but *not of* the world." Many churches are "*in* the world and *of* the world." Other churches have disengaged from the world—they are "*in* the church (building) and *out of* the world." But the church is a people who gather for worship and then scatter into the community, marketplace, and public square—as the heart, mind, hands, and feet of Jesus Christ. How can we affect all the domains of our societies?

**Session 12: There is a keen relationship between God's agenda,
His fullness in Christ, and His people being a body of servants.**

Christ accomplished God's agenda through servanthood. Christians, created in the image of God, are called to voluntary and sacrificial servanthood. God's agenda will be accomplished through His people, the serving church. How can we develop a lifestyle of sacrificial, voluntary, loving service? How can we develop our ability to reflect this essential element of God's image in man?

**Follow-Up Session: The church is a window. Through this window,
the world should be able to understand
God's wonderful intentions to heal its brokenness.**

Churches everywhere can carry out simple Seed Projects to express God's love for their neighbors. How can your church be an embassy for the Kingdom of God?

The Authors and Video Teachers

Darrow Miller

Darrow has served in various capacities with FHI since 1981 and is currently vice president. Darrow's heart beats around two critical themes:

- As a nineteen-year-old college student on a work team in Mexico, his heart was broken for the poor and hungry of the world.
- Darrow knows that God exists and, therefore, objective truth exists—which God wants to speak into every area of life. Thus, Darrow's calling is found where biblical worldview intersects with the world of hunger and poverty.



Darrow is not a scholar or academic. He is a social activist who has come to see the power of ideas in shaping people's lives. Darrow was a pastor and student pastor before beginning his work at Food for the Hungry. For the last 35 years, he has lived, studied, worked, lectured or traveled in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Bob Moffitt

Bob founded Harvest in 1981 and has served as its president since that time. For over thirty years, he has developed and directed Christian organizations that were designed to encourage and enable Christians to demonstrate God's love, especially to broken people and their communities. He writes and teaches curricula designed to enable lay-Christians, particularly in the context of their local churches, to live out their faith in practical terms.



Bob has his Ph.D. in adult education from Union Institute in Ohio and has also studied public administration, apologetics, missions, and biblical studies in the U.S., Israel, and Switzerland. Bob's professional experience includes development and wholistic ministry strategy; volunteer programs; and Peace Corps in Malawi, Africa; and teaching. He has lived, studied, traveled, and lectured extensively in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Together, Darrow and Bob are founding partners and leaders of the Disciple Nations Alliance.

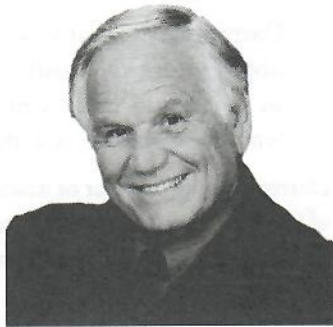
How to Select the Best Introductory Session for Your Group

There are TWO options for your Introductory Session. Choose the ONE most suitable for your group.

- Read the biographies and emphases of each introduction, below.
- Preview both lessons and videos.

Introductory Session, Option 1—Loren Cunningham

Loren Cunningham emphasizes the power of the Word of God and the potential of individuals to change societies—to “disciple nations.” Individuals, says Loren, can make a godly impact on the major spheres of society—social groups, religion, education, media, celebration, economics, and government. Loren encourages viewers that the principles in this video series can change their lives, families, communities, and nations. He uses personal examples from Norway, Benin, and the Philippines.



Loren is the founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), a large, global “family of ministries.” He is also the founder and president of the University of the Nations.

Introductory Session, Option 2—Gary Edmonds

Gary Edmonds focuses on the local church as God’s sustaining instrument for the transformation of cities and nations. As the people of the church live according to God’s will in all sectors of society, Gary states, their cities and nations experience greater justice, dignity, sufficiency, and righteousness in social structures. Gary encourages viewers that they are preparing to present their transformed cities and nations as offerings to God and that they are actually participating in the fulfillment of the Lord’s Prayer—that God’s Kingdom would come and His will be done, on earth as in heaven. He gives an example of individual and church outreach from Seattle, Washington.



Gary is executive director of Churches Together, helping churches work together against HIV/AIDS. He is former secretary general of the World Evangelical Alliance. Gary has lived and served internationally and has also pastored at Mariner’s Church in California.

Introductory Session

On Earth AS IT IS IN Heaven—Option 1*

**“This is something that will not only change your life.
It will change your family. It will change your community.
And it will begin to change your nation—
and the nations of the earth.”**

—Loren Cunningham



Advance Reading

Preview

This video series is about God’s will—carried out “on earth as it is in heaven.” It is about God’s principles—integrated into every aspect of life. It is about personal and cultural transformation that is deep, broad, and biblical.

This opening session features an introductory message from Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM):

- Several generations ago, a young farm boy in Norway, Hans Nielsen Hauge, was given a Bible. He taught his fellow countrymen to integrate God’s principles into every aspect of life. They were positioned to lead Norway as it changed from one of the poorest nations of the world—to one of the freest, richest, and most educated.
- The Word of God first changes individuals, who take His principles into every sphere of society. Individuals are disciplined and mentored. Towns are “baptized” into the worldview of Jesus and Scripture. Nations are changed as they operate according to the Word of God.

For a half-century, Loren Cunningham has seen the Word of God change individuals, communities, and nations. He describes the potential of this series: “This is something that will not only change your life. It will change your family. It will change your community. And it will begin to change your nation—and the nations of the earth.”

**Select either the Option 1 or Option 2 Introductory Session.*



For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read Part Two Prelude, in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt. From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“I am convinced that one of the primary purposes of the Church, of the community of followers of Jesus, is to be a snapshot of the Kingdom. When folks look at the Church, they should get a glimpse of the Kingdom. When people see you and me following Jesus, they should see wallet-size pictures of the coming Kingdom.”

—Steve Rodeheaver (U.S.)¹

“If Jesus is Lord of this universe, then He must be made the Lord of the whole of our lives and society; His will must be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

—Vishal Mangalwadi (India)²

“Jesus taught us to pray to our Father: ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ God wants His will done on earth—now—as it is in heaven. He desires this because He loves us and the world He created.”

—Bob Moffitt (U.S.)³

“It is important to remember that much of the good that we take for granted in modern life has been part of the influence of the kingdom that Jesus inaugurated.”

—Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)⁴

People have to change at the grassroots level to see governments and nations change. So if we begin to understand the power of the Word of God, it will start changing the lives of individuals, from greed to generosity, from corruption to honesty, and from injustice to justice.”

—Loren Cunningham⁵



Introduction

Get acquainted with . . .

- The video series
- This workbook
- Activities between sessions
- Today's theme



10 min.

Opening Questions

- When you pray the prayer now known as the Lord's Prayer, what are you asking God to do on earth?
- Is God's will done in heaven? To what degree? If God's will were done on earth as in heaven, what changes might you expect in your life, your family, your community, your nation, and the world?



Video



25 min.

1. Introduction
2. Transformation of a Nation by the Word of God
3. Power of the Word of God



4. Truth—A Valuable Resource

5. The Word of God Changes
Individuals and Societies

Seven Major
Spheres of Society

- Social Groups
- Religion
- Education
- Media
- Celebration
- Economy
- Government

Fig. 0-1

6. Discipling Individuals and Nations

7. Conclusion



Group Exploration

1. What impressed you about Norway's story? What was the role of the Word of God in Norway's transformation? What areas of society were affected? Do you believe that social change can still begin with one individual and the Word of God?



15 min.

2. How would the Word of God change greedy, corrupt individuals, nations, or governments? How would you know when a nation has been "discipled"?
3. What are the seven major spheres of society?
4. How could you disciple another individual, 120 individuals, or a nation? What pattern could you use?
5. What predominant philosophies influence or shape your culture? Does the Bible agree with them? If your society will not listen to Scripture, how could you influence it to handle these issues with biblical principles?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we promote God's will "on earth"? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen
Your Focus



10 min.

- Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:*
- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
 - 5 Daily Devotions
 - 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps advance God’s will being done “on earth.” This is a “personal application”—but it may affect your family, church, community, nation, or any sphere of society. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I often lack concern for others and think about myself. As I do the Daily Devotions this week, I will ask God to give me His heart for people. I will then do something kind for my next-door neighbor.*

Example: *I will read the Word of God to gain insight about the problem of increased violence at a nearby school. I will visit the school administration and express my concern and support.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.





Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your life.*

Key Verse

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.

Matthew 28:18-20a

Day 1

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1

Reflection: How could individuals disciple nations? How could you disciple your nation, beginning in your family or your workplace? What would you need, personally, in order to do this?

Response: Ask God for the willingness and wisdom to be the kind of follower, leader, and discipler He wants. Summarize your thoughts.

Day 2

Reading: John 1:1; John 8:32; John 17:17; Psalm 119:9,105

Reflection: What do you observe about Jesus, the Word, and truth? Why would following the truth bring freedom? Can “truth” be whatever you want to believe?

Response: Ask God for a greater grasp of His truth about yourself and the world around you.

Day 3

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27; Psalm 1:1-3; James 1:22-25

Reflection: How can you best follow God’s Word in all aspects of life? What do you need? What attitude and level of commitment do you need?

Response: Ask God if your “house” is built on the right foundation, and ask Him to forgive and change you where you have fallen short. Make notes.



Day 4

Reading: Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 13:23-24; Matthew 5:16

Reflection: What are some things that occur when the Word of God is obeyed? Can you think of others, either from Scripture or your experience?

Response: Pray to know and apply the living Word in ways that bring the kind of results God intends. Write your prayer, desire, or intentions. Ask God to show you specific ways you can carry out His will in the spheres of society. Note your insights.

Day 5

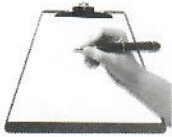
Reading: Acts 13:36a; Acts 17:26; Matthew 25:23; Philippians 4:13

Reflection: Do you believe God can use you—one person? Would you like to hear Him say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant”? Write your reflections.

Response: Praise God for His purposes and plans! Ask Him to give you a vision for what He wants to accomplish through you—in your generation and nation. Record your thoughts.

Day 6: Bridge

A vision for your life, family, community, society, generation, or nation—this is a large vision! But God has an all-encompassing agenda for the world, and those who follow Christ should understand it. What have you seen in Scripture that reveals the enormity of God’s agenda?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Endnotes for Introductory Session—Option 1

- ¹ Steve Rodeheaver, *Snapshots of the Kingdom* (Kansas City MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1998), 11.
- ² Vishal Mangalwadi, "Introduction: Recovering a Robust Spirituality for the 21st Century," in Abraham Kuyper, *The Crown of Christian Heritage: Stone Lectures* (India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1994), 12.
- ³ Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 13.
- ⁴ Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 30-31.
- ⁵ Loren Cunningham, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, Introductory Session, Option 1.

Introductory Session

On Earth AS IT IS IN Heaven—Option 2*

“An unbelievable dream—isn’t it?—to imagine that God’s people can move to saturate society, to penetrate and influence all spheres of societal life in such a way that we’ve got new attitudes, behaviors, systems, and structures that reflect the goodness, the kindness, and the grace of our God.”

—Gary Edmonds



Advance Reading

Preview

This video series is about God’s will—carried out “on earth as it is in heaven.” It is about God’s principles—integrated into every aspect of life. It is about personal and cultural transformation. It is about the role and power of the local church.

This session features an introductory message from Gary Edmonds, executive director of Churches Together:

- Throughout biblical history, people of faith were used by God to rebuild, restore, and renew the devastated cities and nations of the world.
- The Bible tells us that the people of the church will one day present our cities and nations as a beautiful gift to God! We want to offer transformed nations that fear God; love people; and enjoy sufficiency, justice, dignity, and righteous social structures.
- God has called the people of the church to be involved in bringing His Kingdom and carrying out His will, on earth as it is in heaven.
- God has strategically placed churches as His sustaining instruments for the transformation of their cities and nations. How? The people of the church, equipped for works of service, must spread out into all spheres of society—reflecting truth, justice, and righteousness everywhere they live and work.

Gary Edmonds describes the potential of this series: “This series is going to help you to unleash the collective power of God’s people. An unbelievable dream—isn’t it?—to imagine that God’s people can move to saturate society, to penetrate

**Select either the Option 1 or Option 2 Introductory Session.*



and influence all spheres of societal life in such a way that we've got new attitudes, new behaviors, new systems, and new structures that reflect the goodness, the kindness, and the grace of our God."

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read Part Two Prelude, in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt. From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“I am convinced that one of the primary purposes of the Church is to be a snapshot of the Kingdom. When folks look at the Church, they should get a glimpse of the Kingdom. When people see you and me following Jesus, they should see wallet-size pictures of the coming Kingdom.”
—Steve Rodeheaver (U.S.)¹

“If Jesus is Lord of this universe, then He must be made the Lord of the whole of our lives and society; His will must be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”
—Vishal Mangalwadi (India)²

“Jesus taught us to pray to our Father: ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ God wants His will done on earth—now—as it is in heaven. He desires this because He loves us and the world He created.”
—Bob Moffitt (U.S.)³

“It is important to remember that much of the good that we take for granted in modern life has been part of the influence of the kingdom that Jesus inaugurated.”
—Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)⁴

“Many times, the people in our churches do not understand their role. They don’t understand the great adventure that God has called us into—to be involved in changing life; to bring His Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven; and to bring the significance of life as Jesus intended it.”

—Gary Edmonds⁵



Introduction

Get acquainted with . . .

- The video series
- This workbook
- Activities between sessions
- Today's theme



10 min.

Opening Questions

- When you pray the prayer now known as the Lord's Prayer, what are you asking God to do on earth?
- Is God's will done in heaven? To what degree? If God's will were done on earth as in heaven, what changes might you expect to see in your life, family, community, nation, and world?



Video

1. Introduction—"Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done"



25 min.

2. An Astonishing Vision—Presenting Your Nation as a Gift to God



3. Transformation—Changing Minds, Behaviors, and Social Structures

4. The Church—God's Sustaining Instrument to Transform Cities and Nations

5. The Church—Equipping People for All Spheres of Society

6. The Great Adventure—Participating in the Prayer

7. Conclusion



Group Exploration

1. Picture the nation that you would want to present as an offering to God (Revelation 21:23-26). What characteristics would you want in this nation?
2. What is a “converted mind”? How does a “converted mind” view the purpose of life? Would you say that your mind is “converted”?
3. Do you think God has placed *your* church in your community, state, and nation to be the “sustaining instrument for transformation” for this time in history? How do you feel about *participating* in the prayer that God’s Kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth as in heaven?
4. After the church equips people for service, what are they to do? If all the Christians in your city did this, how would your city change? What attitudes, behaviors, and social structures would change? *Use your imagination!*
5. What can we learn from Corina? From Sarah? From the pastor? What actions convinced Sarah that God cares about her? What did Corina learn about her purpose in life?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we promote God’s will “on earth”? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?



15 min.

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen
Your Focus



10 min.

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps advance God’s will being done “on earth.” This is a “personal application”—but it may affect your family, church, community, nation, or any sphere of society. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

- S**IMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week
- H**ANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
- A**DDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
- R**EALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities
- P**URPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I often lack concern for others and think about myself. As I do the Daily Devotions this week, I will ask God to give me His heart for people. I will then do something kind for my next-door neighbor.*

Example: *I need to bring justice into my workplace. I will stop taking advantage of a co-worker who helps me with my work and then has to stay late to finish her own. I will carry out my own responsibilities and offer to help her, instead.*

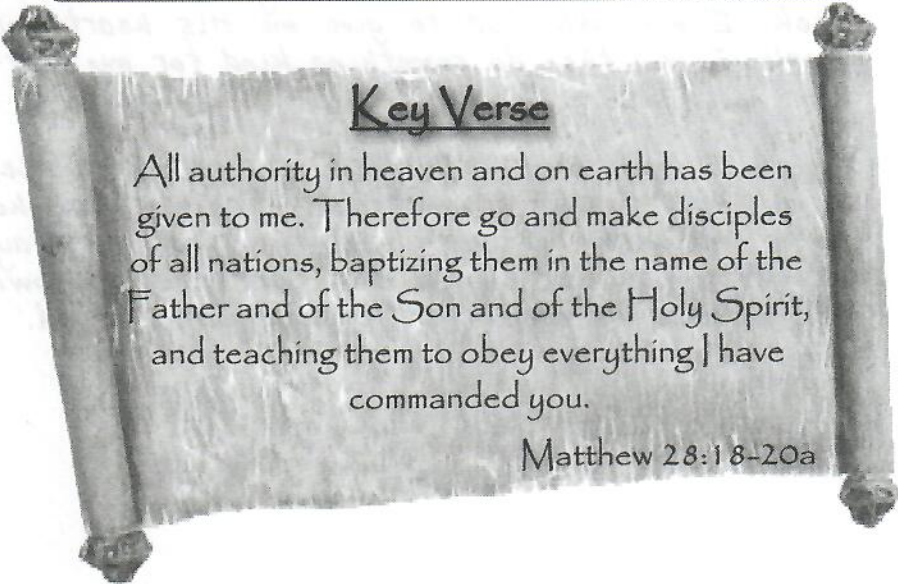
5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.





Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your life.*



Key Verse

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.

Matthew 28:18-20a

Day 1

Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:1

Reflection: How could individuals disciple nations? How could you disciple your nation, beginning in your family or your workplace? What would you need, personally, in order to do this?

Response: Ask God for the willingness and wisdom to be the kind of follower, leader, and discipler He wants. Summarize your thoughts.

Day 2

Reading: Matthew 6:10; Matthew 6:33; Revelation 11:15; 1 John 2:5-6; Matthew 22:37-39

Reflection: What do you observe about the Kingdom and the King? What do you observe about God's will and commands?

Response: Pray Matthew 6:10. Thank God that He allows us to participate in fulfilling the prayer—that His Kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth.

Day 3

Reading: Matthew 6:11-13; Proverbs 30:8; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Reflection: Jesus taught His disciples to pray about “daily bread,” forgiven relationships, and victory over evil. Are these consistent with God's will for life on earth? (*Note:* “Daily bread” teaches us about contentment, trust, sharing, generosity, and God's provision.)

Response: Pray Matthew 6:11-13. Confess a shortcoming—perhaps a lack of trust in God's provision, a broken relationship, or a temptation. Pray that His Kingdom will rule in your life.



Day 4

Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Revelation. 21:23-26; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 16:18

Reflection: What do you learn in these passages about God’s plan for nations? How can God’s people spread His light and goodness in their nations? Why would Christ establish something long-lasting and strong, like the church, to carry out His grand plan for the world?

Response: Pray that God will heal your nation and allow it to flourish. Pray that His church will be strong, prepared for its task. Finally, pray that the people of the church will saturate your nation with God’s light and life. Make note of your impressions.

Day 5

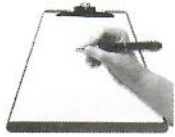
Reading: Acts 13:36a; Acts 17:26; Matthew 25:23; Philippians 4:13

Reflection: Do you believe God can use you and your church? Would you like to hear Him say to you, “Well done, good and faithful servant”? Write your reflections.

Response: Praise God for His purposes and plans! Ask Him to give you a vision for what He wants to accomplish through you—in your generation and nation. Record your thoughts.

Day 6: Bridge

A vision for your life, family, community, society, generation, or nation—this is a large vision! But God has an all-encompassing agenda for the world, and those who follow Christ should understand it. What have you seen in Scripture that reveals the enormity of God's agenda?



Application Journal

Date: _____



Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.



Description:

Observations:



Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Endnotes for Introductory Session—Option 2

- ¹ Steve Rodeheaver, *Snapshots of the Kingdom* (Kansas City MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1998), 11.
- ² Vishal Mangalwadi, "Introduction: Recovering a Robust Spirituality for the 21st Century," in Abraham Kuyper, *The Crown of Christian Heritage: Stone Lectures* (India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1994), 12.
- ³ Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 13.
- ⁴ Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 30-31.
- ⁵ Gary Edmonds, *On Earth as it is in Heaven*, Introductory Session, Option 2.

God's All-Encompassing Agenda

SESSION

1

Those who follow Christ should understand God's purpose—His agenda—for the world.



Advance Reading*

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked what you have seen in Scripture that reveals the enormity of God's agenda.

Preview

God has a large, broad, and all-encompassing agenda. His agenda, or purpose, is reflected throughout Scripture. This session examines five pictures in Scripture that provide an insight into God's concern and intentions for all of His creation:

- The first picture is creation itself. God's agenda is reflected in His pleasure about each stage of creation. He expressed His concern for all of creation as He evaluated what He had made (Genesis 1). His purpose was that all creation would enjoy the blessing that comes from living as He intends—but mankind fell, and all of creation experienced brokenness.
- The second picture is God's covenant with all of life. God's concern for all creation was again expressed after the Flood, when God made a covenant with the earth, with all living things, and with Noah and his posterity (Genesis 9:8-17). God wanted to restore all things to His loving intentions for them at creation.
- The third picture reviews God's concern that the nations enjoy the blessing that comes from knowing and honoring Him (Deuteronomy 4:5-8). God's all-encompassing agenda includes the healing of nations and their societies.

**Please review Advance Reading section before group session.*



- The fourth picture reveals that God’s image, fullness, and agenda for creation are also reflected in Christ. God’s all-encompassing agenda is again reflected—this time, in the shedding of Jesus’ blood for the reconciliation of “all things” (Colossians 1:15-20).
- The fifth picture is the all-encompassing love of God (Ephesians 3:17b-19).

These five pictures illustrate that God’s agenda extends beyond the healing of individuals’ spiritual brokenness. Spiritual healing is central—but God’s agenda is broader. In fact, Jesus ministered to the various kinds of brokenness He encountered on earth. Just as all of creation experienced brokenness at the Fall, God’s restorative agenda includes the redemption of all creation from its physical, spiritual, and social brokenness. When Christians reflect only the spiritual aspect of God’s concern, we do not reflect God’s agenda to restore all things.

The good news is that God’s all-encompassing agenda will be fulfilled (Matthew 16:18 and 28:18). Our role depends on our understanding and our participation. People should be able to see God’s big agenda when they look at our lives. As individual believers—and as the church of this generation—are we engaged in fulfilling God’s great purpose?

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read two chapters from *If Jesus Were Mayor*,* by Bob Moffitt:

- Chapter 2, “If Jesus Were Mayor”
- Chapter 4, “God’s BIG Agenda”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

* May be ordered from www.harvestfoundation.org.

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“God was beginning to show me that the gospel had to be more than just ‘evangelism.’ The gospel, rightly understood, is [w]holistic—it responds to man as a whole person; it doesn’t single out just the spiritual or just physical needs and speak only to those.”
—*John Perkins (U.S.)*¹

“There is nothing outside the scope of God’s agenda. The restoration of all things represents a total, global transformation. The entire world is to be purified of evil. It is to be full of the glory of God. The scope of God’s redemptive work encompasses all of creation, including all mankind, all relationships, and the stewardship of all creation.”
—*Bob Moffitt*²

“If compassion had meant for Christ merely what most Christians understood by it today, then Jesus would never have been killed. He would have been a fit candidate for a Nobel prize, not the cross. . . . In many cases, the ‘Sunday-school Jesus’ confines Himself only to the changing of men’s hearts; the Jesus of the Gospels aimed at changing both human hearts and human society.”
—*Vishal Mangalwadi (India)*³

“An individual gospel without a social gospel is a soul without a body and a social gospel without an individual gospel is a body without a soul. One is a ghost and the other a corpse.”
—*E. Stanley Jones (missionary to India)*⁴

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”
—*John Wesley (England)*⁵

“When a person becomes a Christian, even the situation around him needs to change because of him.”
—*Local church leader (Uganda)*⁶

“Christians who are faithful to Scripture should be patriots in the best sense of the word. They are ‘the salvation of the commonwealth,’ said Aristotle, for they fulfill the highest role of citizenship. Not because they are forced to or even choose to . . . but because they love and obey the King who is above all temporal leaders. Out of that love and obedience they live in subjection to governing authorities, love their neighbors, and promote justice.”
—*Chuck Colson*⁷





Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

- What things happening in the world today matter the most to God?



Video

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Five Biblical Pictures of God's All-Encompassing Agenda



25 min.

a. The Creation - First Picture

Creation		
	What was created?	Evaluation
Day 1	Light - Day and Night v 3-5	Good
Day 2	Sky v 6-8	
Day 3	Land, Sea, Vegetation v 9-13	Good
Day 4	Sun, Moon, Stars v 14-19	Good
Day 5	Animals v 20-25	Good
Day 6	Man v 26-31	Very Good

Fig. 1-1

b. God's Covenant with All of Life - Second Picture

Covenant with All of Life	
Genesis 9:8-17	
9	Noah and his sons
10	Every living creature
11	All life
11	The earth
12	Every living creature
12	The earth
15	All living creatures
15	All life
16	All living creatures
17	All life living on the earth

Fig. 1-2



c. God's Concern for the Nations
- Third Picture

God's Concern for the Nations

- All the nations blessed - Genesis 22:18
- Israel a priest - Deuteronomy 4:5-8
- Nations an inheritance - Psalm 2:8
- God's reputation among nations - Ezekiel 20 & 36
- Gospel as testimony to nations - Luke 24:47
- Make disciples of all nations - Matthew 28:19
- Nations walk by glory of God - Revelation 21:23,24

Fig. 1-3

d. God's Agenda Reflected in Jesus
- Fourth Picture

God's Agenda Reflected in Jesus
Colossians 1:15-20

- Christ, the image of God - v 15
- God's fullness (intentions) dwells in Christ - v 19
- Christ created and holds all together - v 16-17

Significance?

- All things reconciled by Christ's blood - v 20

Fig. 1-4

God's Agenda—
Physical, Spiritual, and Social

Agenda Covers the Physical,
Spiritual, and Social

- The creation - Physical
- The healing of our land - Social
- Our redemption - Spiritual
- God's agenda is redemption! Of all!

Priority?

Fig. 1-5

e. God's Agenda is All-Encompassing
Love - Fifth Picture

God's Agenda - Encompassing Love
Ephesians 3:17b-19

- Love that is wide, long, high, and deep - v 17b
- Love that surpasses knowledge - v 19
- Love represents the fullness of God - v 19
- His love is made complete in us - 1 John 4:12

Fig. 1-6

3. The Challenge



Group Exploration

1. What responsibilities did God give the people He created (Genesis 1:28; 2:15)? What are some ways the world could be different today if people would steward creation?



15 min.

2. Why did God extend His covenant beyond Noah and Noah's descendants (Genesis 9:8-17)?
3. How was Israel to be a "priest" to the nations (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)? What do you think is included in the healing of the "land" in 2 Chronicles 7:14?
4. Why did Christ shed His blood on the cross (Colossians 1:20)? Is this a new perspective for you? Do you think that most Christians understand that God has an all-encompassing agenda?
5. *Individually*, consider these questions and quickly list five activities, abilities, topics, loves, concerns, or interests: What is your "passion"? What drives you? What do you treasure? What captivates your thoughts and heart?


As a group, discuss: Do we as individuals care deeply about many different things? Does God care deeply about many different things? Did Christ shed His blood to redeem even the things we have listed?

6. **Brainstorm!** How could we more closely demonstrate God's all-encompassing agenda through our lives? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen

Your Focus



10 min.

- Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:*
- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
 - 5 Daily Devotions
 - 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you more closely demonstrate God’s all-encompassing agenda. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

S	IMPLE	— a short activity that can easily be completed this week
H	HANDS-ON	— an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
A	DDITIONAL	— a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
R	REALISTIC	— a commitment that fits into your other priorities
P	PURPOSEFUL	— a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I'll invite a colleague to lunch and express my concern as he deals with his difficult teenage son. This man is not a Christian. I'll remain open to discussing spiritual concerns, but I won't manipulate our discussion about his son to "hit" him with his own spiritual need.*

Example: *I'll pick up trash in the park on my walk tonight. If anyone comments, I'll simply say that God made a beautiful creation!*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your life.*

Key Verse

And through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making
peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:20



Day 1

Reading: Genesis 1

Reflection: How do you see God's concern for His creation in the opening chapter of the Bible?

Response: Thank God for His loving concern for creation. Make notes of your insights, or write a prayer of thanks.

Day 2

Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Reflection: What could explain why many Christians see this passage as God's covenant with Noah, rather than God's covenant with creation?

Response: Ask God to give you the same concern for all of His creation that He has. Jot down your new insights, or write a prayer of repentance.

Day 3

Reading: Genesis 22:15-18; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Isaiah 52:7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Jonah 3:8-4:2; Luke 24:47

Reflection: In what ways do these passages show God's concern for nations?

Response: Ask God to give you His heart for the peoples of the earth. Then, pray for them. What are your new insights?

Day 4

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Reflection: How does this passage demonstrate God's larger concern for His creation?

Response: Thank God for the breadth of reconciliation made possible through the death of Christ. Make note of specific areas of reconciliation for which you thank Him.

Day 5

Reading: John 3:16

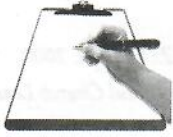
Reflection: What are possible meanings of the word "world"? In John 3:16, the Greek word for "world" (*kosmos*) often speaks of the broad creation. If that is the case, who or what does God love? How are the *people* of God's creation related to His larger creation?



Response: Ask God to help His church see the link between individuals' salvation and God's broader creation. What might change if the church had this understanding?

Day 6: Bridge

Prayerfully reflect on the role God has given His church in achieving His all-encompassing agenda. Write your thoughts.



Application Journal

Date: _____

Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

Description:

Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. Moffitt, Bob. "The Role of the Church in Society." Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2000.
2. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - A Narrow View of the Gospel
 - God's Intentions for the Church
3. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Wholistic Ministry
 - The Comprehensive Impact of the Fall—and God's "Big Agenda"
 - Regaining Biblical Wholism
4. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.
5. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.

Session 1 Endnotes

- ¹ John Perkins, *With Justice for All* (Ventura CA: Regal Books, 1982), 23.
- ² Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International Edition), 73.
- ³ Vishal Mangalwadi, *Truth and Social Reform* (New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1996, third edition), 11,20.
- ⁴ E. Stanley Jones, cited in Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 24-25.
- ⁵ John Wesley, cited in Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2002), 259.
- ⁶ Patrick Byakika, 2001, cited in Moffitt, 120.
- ⁷ Chuck Colson, *Kingdoms in Conflict* (Zondervan, 1987), 246.

The *church* is the key agent in accomplishing God's BIG agenda.



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to prayerfully reflect on the role God has given His church in achieving His all-encompassing agenda.

Preview

Using the book of Ephesians, this session examines how God's broad agenda is to be carried out by the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 proposes several interesting truths, including:

- The church is Christ's body.
- The church is the fullness of Christ (who is the fullness of God).
- God placed all things under Christ for the church.

The first truth is clear and understood by most Christians. The second and third truths are less clear. How is the church the "fullness of Christ"? And why would God place everything under Christ "for the church"? It is easy to understand why God would place everything under Christ. But why would He do it "for the church"?

Paul answered these questions later in Ephesians:

- In Ephesians 3:17-19, the fullness of Christ in the church is expressed in one word—"love." Then, in Ephesians 4:11-13, the fullness is expressed as "works of service." The overarching job description of church leaders is to equip the members of the church, wherever they are, for works of service. Acts of loving service build up the church and lead it to unity, maturity, and the fullness of Christ. Though the church does not always represent the fullness of Christ, His fullness comes to the church, progressively, as it applies His love and carries out His works of service.



- Paul clarified why God placed all things under Christ “for the church.” In Ephesians 3:9-10, Paul revealed that the church is the administration of God’s all-encompassing agenda (“the manifold wisdom of God”). God placed everything under Christ for the church because it is the church that He has ordained as the principal agent to accomplish His agenda. The church is the primary institution God ordained for this purpose. The family, government, and other institutions are important and vital. Yet, the church is God’s principal vehicle for carrying out His agenda to reconcile all things.

How can the church serve as His agent of restoration? First, the people of the church must be given a clear and multifaceted vision of God’s BIG agenda. Second, they must be equipped by the church to represent and advance God’s agenda in the spheres where they live and work. The church fulfills its role as it equips its people to move into all creation, doing works of service that advance God’s agenda to restore all things to Himself.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read:

- Primary reading: Chapter 6, “The Purpose of the Church,” in *If Jesus Were Mayor,** by Bob Moffitt.
- Secondary readings: Chapter 11, “Stewardship” and Chapter 13, “History Makers,” in *Discipling Nations,** by Darrow Miller.

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

*May be ordered from www.harvestfoundation.org or www.ywampublishing.com.

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“God wants to accomplish His redemptive purpose, His big agenda, through the church. . . . Therefore, the church is far more important for the transformation of a society than the president of the nation, its legislators, or its business leaders.”

—*Bob Moffitt*¹

“Just as there are no limits to God’s care for his creation, so there should be no limits to the mission the church carries out in God’s world.”

—*Alberto Fernanco Roldán (Argentina)*²

“We need not go very far down the corridors of history to realize that without the church acting as the conscience of society, we would all be sitting in darkness still, languishing in dungeons fashioned by tinpot dictators.”

—*Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)*³

“There’s no one else like you here. Even our Muslim brothers from abroad come and spend millions of dollars, but they aren’t helping the people. They’re building mosques from one end of the country to the other; but they’re not feeding us; they’re not clothing us; they’re not building our homes like you are. You’re the only ones who really care about us.” —*Kosovo official, speaking to church leaders*⁴

“God’s instrument of change has always been the church. Changed people bring change.”

—*Dennis Tongoi (Kenya)*⁵

“The church is the community that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord of everything and everyone and lives in the light of this confession in such a way that in it may be seen as the inauguration of a new humanity.” —*C. René Padilla (Ecuador, Argentina)*⁶

“If the church turns inward now, if we focus only on our own needs, we will miss the opportunity to provide answers at a time when people are sensing a deep longing for meaning and order. It is not enough to focus exclusively on the spiritual, on Bible studies and evangelistic campaigns, while turning a blind eye to the distinctive tensions of contemporary life. We must show the world that Christianity is more than a private belief, more than personal salvation. We must show that it is a comprehensive life system that answers all of humanity’s age-old questions.”

—*Chuck Colson*⁷



Notes



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

In your opinion, what should be the main purpose of churches?



Video

1. Introduction
2. The Significance of Fullness



Significance of Fullness

1. Church = Christ's Body = Fullness of Christ
Ephesians 1:22-23
2. Fullness of God/Christ is love
Ephesians 3:17b-19
3. Works of Service → Unity → Maturity/Fullness
Ephesians 4:11-13
4. Immeasurably more: All things; Our nations
Ephesians 3:20

Fig. 2-1

3. The Church—the Vehicle of God's Purpose

Vehicle of God's Purpose
Ephesians 3:9-10

The administration of God's agenda

Fig. 2-2

4. How a Nation is Discipled

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN



5. The Church's Role in Discipling Nations

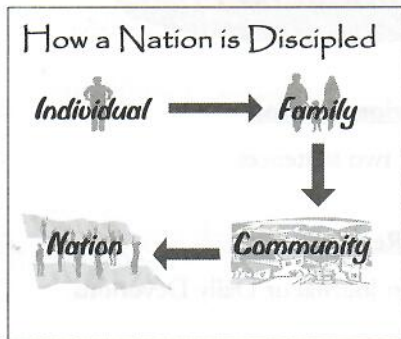


Fig. 2-3

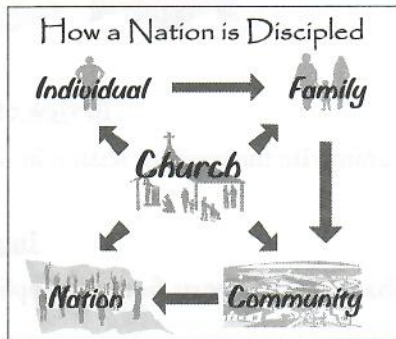


Fig. 2-4



Group Exploration



15 min.

1. What is the essential quality of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 3:17b-19)?
2. How is the fullness of Christ reflected in and by the church (Ephesians 4:11-13)?
3. Is there hope that the church can accomplish this huge task (Ephesians 3:20)?
4. Identify several social issues facing your community, nation, or world. Do you think the church should respond to these kinds of issues?
5. What impact would there be in your community if the churches expressed the fullness of Christ?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we more closely reflect God's BIG agenda through our church? What are specific ways that we as individuals could encourage our church to practice this lesson this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen

Your Focus

- Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:*
- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
 - 5 Daily Devotions
 - 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you encourage your church to reflect God’s BIG agenda. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.



4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I'll meet with my pastor to ask if our church has a plan to equip individuals from our congregation to go out and serve our community. I'll offer to be on a planning or equipping team.*

Example: *I'll attend the city council meeting and introduce myself as a concerned citizen and church member. I'll listen carefully for ways our church might be able to help with a community problem. I'll tell my church leaders what I heard.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your life.*

Key Verse

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 3:10

Day 1

Reading: Ephesians 1:22-23

Reflection: What does this passage imply about the relationship between Christ, the church, and Christ's fullness?

Response: List some questions you have as you consider this topic. Then, ask God to help you increasingly understand the implications of His decision to put everything under Christ for the church.

Day 2

Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

Reflection: Give a recent example you have seen or experienced in which God's love has been made complete.

Response: Ask the Lord to show you how to strengthen your ability to love other believers. Write down the impressions that come to your mind after prayer.

Day 3

Reading: Ephesians 3:17b-21

Reflection: What are some descriptions of God's love—from these verses and in your own words?



Response: Write your response to this beautiful passage of Scripture. Ask the Father to give you greater ability to grasp and understand His love.

Day 4

Reading: Ephesians 4: 11-13

Reflection: What is the overarching job description of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers?

Response: Ask the Lord to reveal *your* role in the church, and ask Him if it includes equipping other believers for ministry. Summarize your thoughts, and give a few reasons for these conclusions.

Day 5

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-10

Reflection: How would you define the “mystery of Christ”? What is the relationship of that mystery to the church?

Response: Ask the Lord to help your local church more clearly understand and act on God’s agenda. Write down your insights after a time of prayer and reflection.

Day 6: Bridge

List two clear examples: (1) the church *fulfilling* God's agenda; (2) the church *not fulfilling* God's agenda. (These should be examples of which you are personally aware.)



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description: _____

Observations: _____

Please review next session's Advance Reading.

Suggested Resources

1. Moffitt, Bob. "The Role of the Church in Society." Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2000.
2. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - A Narrow View of the Gospel
 - God's Intentions for the Church
3. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Implementation through the Local Church
4. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International version.

Session 2 Endnotes

- ¹ Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 93-94.
- ² Alberto Fernanco Roldán, "The Priesthood of All Believers and Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation* (Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004), 171.
- ³ Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 30.
- ⁴ Kosovo official, cited by R. Beckham in Moffitt, 99.
- ⁵ Dennis Tongoi, *Mixing God with Money* (Nairobi, Kenya: Bezalel Investments Ltd., 2001), 118.
- ⁶ C. René Padilla, "Introduction: An Ecclesiology for Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation* (Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004), 33-34.
- ⁷ Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), xi.

**We have a story to tell to the nations—
but we are not telling the whole story.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to list two clear examples: (1) the church *fulfilling* God's agenda; (2) the church *not fulfilling* God's agenda.

Preview

In this session, we will see the importance of the *whole* biblical narrative for God's transforming story.

The Bible is God's story—HIStory. The opening line, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," establishes the story line of the biblical narrative. A narrative is a story with a beginning, middle, and end.

The Bible's narrative begins with creation and ends as Christ returns for His church. The Gospel—the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—is the focal point of the biblical narrative and of all human history, but it is not the whole story. The Bible begins in the book of Genesis and ends in the book of Revelation. It begins in a garden (the Garden of Eden) and ends in a city (the City of God). It begins with the first couple (Adam and Eve) and ends with the marriage of Christ and His bride (the church).

The Bible is not only a narrative—it is a worldview!¹ It is not only a narrative—it is a grand story of inestimable scope and depth.

- The scope of Scripture reveals the flow of biblical history. It began at Creation, continued through the Fall and Redemption, and will end at Consummation.²
- The depth of Scripture answers questions about the nature of God; the nature of creation; the nature of man;³ and the nature of truth, goodness, and beauty. This is the metaphysical⁴ story of Scripture.



We are no longer telling the whole transforming story. Today's churches often use only the New Testament or only the Gospels. The biblical narrative has the ability to transform individuals; to lift communities out of poverty; and to build nations that are free, just, and compassionate. It has the ability to disciple the nations. But if the church is not discipling the nations, the nations are discipling the church! Why is transformation not happening more today? Perhaps it is because we have not been telling the whole story.⁵

Endnotes are located at the end of each chapter.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read two chapters from *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow Miller:

- "Introduction"
- Chapter 3, "The Transforming Story"

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

"QUOTES"

Read and reflect on "QUOTES" from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

"We need to begin our message where the Bible begins—with the dignity and high calling of all human beings because they are created in the image of God. ... Beginning with sin instead of Creation is like trying to read a book by opening it in the middle. . . . [If we do,] we will not be able to explain Redemption—because its goal is precisely to restore us to the high dignity originally endowed at Creation."
—Nancy Pearcey (U.S.)⁵

[Transformation] begins through the proclamation of the gospel and involves the exchange of lies for the truth (repentance) and death for life (regeneration). But contrary to the incomplete paradigm of so many Bible-believing Christians today, that is just the beginning. God intends that whole cultures be reformed to reflect His goodness and glory. To get there, individual Christians must begin thinking about worldviews and laying a kingdom foundation for culture.”

—*Darrow Miller*⁶

“Do we want people of all nations and cultures to come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord? Then we should proclaim and demonstrate that Jesus is the renewer of the whole creation, the whole face of the earth. Salvation is that big. . . This is the Gospel of total healing—the healing of creation; the restoration of all things. This is truly the whole Gospel for the whole world.”

—*Howard A. Snyder (U.S.)*⁷

“The Church, we say, is such a straggling minority to take upon Herself the task of changing society. [But] this overlooks the fact that the powers of the Kingdom are already present. The Kingdom is not entirely future, a sudden invasion from outer space at the end of time. It is here, leavening history in a powerful way.”

—*Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)*⁸

“Metamorphosis is the word used to describe the phenomenal transformation that happens when a chrysalis becomes a butterfly! Biblical transformation envisions just such a change in persons, social structures and nations of our world because of the Gospel of the Kingdom and the work of the Holy Spirit.”

—*Chuck Van Engen (U.S.)*⁹

“We must acknowledge and then act on the fact that if Christ is our Savior, he is also our Lord in all of life. He is our Lord not just in religious things and not just in cultural things such as the arts and music, but in our intellectual lives, and in business, and in our relations to society, and in our attitude toward the moral breakdown of our culture.”

—*Francis Schaeffer*¹⁰



Notes



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Questions

- Do you see any purpose in the flow of history, or does history repeat itself?
- What is truth? Can truth be known? In what ways would knowing truth benefit a person or a culture?



Video

1. Introduction
2. The Story
3. The Problem and the Solution



25 min.

The Story

- The Creation (Chapter 1)
- The Rebellion (Chapter 2)
- The Mission (Chapters 3-9)
- The Cross (Chapter 10)
- The Task (Chapter 11)
- The Return of the King (Chapter 12)

Fig. 3-1

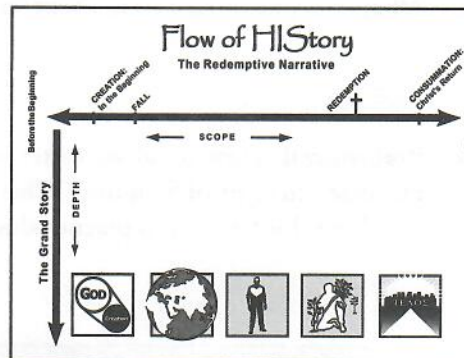


Fig. 3-2



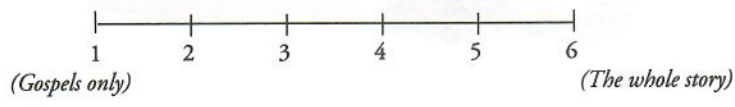
Group Exploration



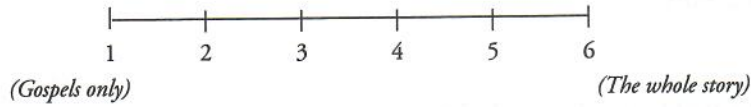
15 min.

1. Does the Bible present a larger narrative—or worldview—than you imagined? In what ways?
2. What is meant by the *scope* of Scripture? The *depth* of Scripture?
3. Many evangelical Christians have an awareness of the Bible that is limited to the New Testament. For some, it is limited to the Gospels. Circle the number that you think most closely reflects the *scope* and *depth* of biblical understanding—first, in your own life and, second, in your church.

My personal understanding of the scope and depth of Scripture:



How I perceive my church's understanding, in practice, of the scope and depth of Scripture:



4. What does this reveal to you about yourself and your church?
5. **Brainstorm!** How could we better understand and influence others about the *scope* and *depth* of Scripture? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen
Your Focus

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you reflect more of the *scope* and *depth* of Scripture. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I will have our family read the first chapter of Genesis at dinner - to discover and discuss something we didn't know about God, man, and creation.*

Example: *I will talk with a young woman who is graduating from college but is unsure about the next step. We will look at her "whole story" - past, present, and future. I will ask what influenced her to choose her major and encourage her that God has a purpose for her life and future.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your life.*

Key Verse

In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Day 1

Reading: Genesis 1; Genesis 2:19-20; Genesis 22:14

Reflection: The Bible is called “The Word of God.”

1. How did God use words (speech, language) in Genesis 1?

2. What does this signify about the nature of words?

3. What do these passages reveal about *our* ability to use language to create culture? (*Note:* People were created in the image of God. – Genesis 1:27)

4. In what other ways do these passages relate to the Transforming Story?

Response: Thank God for giving us HIStory. How do you respond to God’s Transforming Story? Make notes of your impressions, or write a prayer of praise to God.

Day 2

Reading: John 1:1-3, 14; 2 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-4

Reflection:

1. What do these passages reveal about Jesus?

2. In what ways is the passage from John similar to Genesis 1? Is this significant? Explain.

3. How do these passages relate to the Transforming Story?

Response: Ask God to help you see how your life story connects to the Transforming Story. In what ways have you limited the impact of God's story in your life? Write your insights or prayer of personal dedication.

Day 3

Reading: Genesis 2:8-17; Genesis 3:1-7,21-24; Acts 5:30; Galatians 3:13-14; Revelation 22:1-6,12-21

Reflection: Consider how these passages relate to the *scope* of the Transforming Story.

Response: Ask God to show you how each aspect of the Transforming Story is important. What is your response? Note the thoughts you find most significant.

Day 4

Reading: Genesis 1:31; 1 Chronicles 16:25-29; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 19:17; John 8:31-32; John 14:6

Reflection:

1. What do these Scriptures reveal about truth, goodness, and beauty?

2. Read Genesis 1 again. What does this chapter reveal about the nature of God, man, and the creation?

Response: Ask God to reveal to you the importance of having truth, good, and beauty in your own life. As you pray, what specific ways to manifest truth, good, and beauty come to your mind?

Day 5

Reading: 2 Kings 22 (especially verses 10-19)

Reflection: How does this relate to the lessons of the Transforming Story?



Response: Ask God to challenge you and your church to be “people of the Book.”
Take time to listen and reflect. Write your intentions or insights below.

Day 6: Bridge

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to give you an understanding of the Transforming Story for *your* society—and the church’s role in it. Make notes that reflect your thinking.



Application Journal

Date: _____

Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● _____

● Observations:

● _____

● _____

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: The Nations
 - “The Nations”—A Thread through History
 - God’s Command to the Church—Make Disciples of All NationsSection: Worldview
 - The Worldview of the Kingdom
2. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *God’s Remarkable Plan for the Nations*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2004.
3. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *The Worldview of the Kingdom of God*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2003.
4. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
 - Chapter 3: The Transforming Story
5. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
 - Chapter 5: The Mind of a Modernizer

Session 3 Endnotes

¹*Worldview*: A set of assumptions, held consciously or unconsciously, about the basic makeup of the world and how the world works.

²*Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation*: The flow of biblical history. *Creation* occurred in the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth. The *Fall* describes man’s rebellion against God (Genesis 3) and the consequences of that sin for man and creation. *Redemption* includes Christ’s life, death, and resurrection to reconcile all things to Himself. Finally, *Consummation* will be the end of history, when Christ comes back in His glory to judge the living and the dead, to marry His bride the Church, and to bring to completion the process of redemption.

³*Man*: The image of God, male and female (Genesis 1:27). Synonymous with “mankind” and “human.”

⁴*Metaphysical*: Literally means “beyond the physical.” Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that answers the question, “What is real?” The metaphysical story of Scripture describes the nature of God, man, and creation. It defines truth, goodness, and beauty.

⁵ As we examine worldviews in this series, it is important to note that the sessions were taped in North America, where culture is dominated by secularism. In a *secular* context, “nature” refers to the physical, material world. In an *animistic* context, “nature” is believed to be inhabited by spirits.

⁶ Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 88- 89.

⁷ Darrow L. Miller, *Discipling Nations* (Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001), 70.

⁸ Howard A. Snyder, “Creation and Transformation: Salvation Means Creation Healed,” in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church’s Mission* (Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004), 32-33.

⁹ Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 105.

¹⁰ Chuck Van Engen, “Toward a Missiology of Transformation,” in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church’s Mission* (Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004), 102.

¹⁰ Francis Schaeffer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1984), 39.

The Church is Failing to Fulfill God's BIG Agenda

SESSION
4

Most growing churches today are NOT transforming the society around them—the society in which they minister.



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were encouraged to ask God to give you an understanding of the Transforming Story for *your* society—and the church's role in it.

Preview

In this session, we will see that God has used the church of history to set the stage for significant societal transformation—and we will explore why the church of today has a greatly diminished influence on its society. Examples from history include the early church of the Roman Empire, the church of Reformation Europe, the church of the Wesleyan Revival in England, and the church of the Great Awakenings in America.

In this generation, we are seeing the highest level of new converts and church plants in world history, especially in the evangelical/Pentecostal/charismatic wing of the church. Shockingly, the countries of the world in which this growth is taking place are also countries of growing brokenness, political instability, corruption, material poverty, and disease. If God intends His church to be the principal instrument to advance His Kingdom's agenda, we would expect to see the growth of the church linked to evidence of His Kingdom's presence (Matthew 6:10). Instead, we often see less evidence of God's will being done. Something is wrong.

Is it possible that the people of God—the people of the church—are not fulfilling God's intentions, that they are not being the church that Christ intends? Isaiah 58 gives us an insight into this question.

In Isaiah 58:1-4 God told the “church” of the Old Testament, His people Israel, that they had misunderstood what it means to worship Him. God does not want only “religious” activity, piety, or such spiritual disciplines as prayer, fasting, or seeking to know His will. These, by themselves, are unacceptable worship.

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN



65

Instead, Isaiah 58 spells out worship that is acceptable to God: demonstrating His concern for the oppressed; ceasing from “pointing of the finger and malicious talk” (Isaiah 58:6-7); and, yes, honoring God with traditional expressions of worship (Isaiah 58:13). In other words, *doing* God’s will is the right kind of worship. This is worship that is acceptable to God, and it is the condition in which He hears the prayers of His people and brings them healing.

Another insight into unacceptable worship comes as we look at the six New Testament passages that summarize the Law and the Prophets. Three of these passages include *both* parts of the Great Commandment—loving God and loving our neighbor. The other three list only what Jesus called the second most important part—loving our neighbor. Why? God wanted us to know that the most important way we show our love for Him is by demonstrating that love to others.

Both Isaiah 58 and the Great Commandment emphasize the same truth: God is equally concerned that His people reflect His character of love *and* that they exhibit godliness. Much of the church growth of this generation is characterized by a focus on the beginning steps of extending the Kingdom of God—evangelism, spiritual discipleship, and church planting. The church has been weak, though, in reflecting God’s concern to heal the world’s brokenness. It has frequently neglected Jesus’ command to love its neighbors. Is it possible that church growth is seldom linked to societal transformation because the church has focused on the early steps—but has failed to fulfill God’s BIG agenda?

We know that the Kingdom of God will not come in its fullness until Christ returns, but we are warned by Jesus to be found busy with our Master’s BIG agenda when He comes (Matthew 24:46, Ephesians 3:10).

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read two sections in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt:

- A section in Chapter 3, titled “How the Church Changed Ancient Rome”
- The final section of Chapter 7, titled “A Shout to Turn from Incomplete Worship”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“It is not difficult to understand why a church would want to disconnect from the world around it. . . Yet the church is not called to survive history but to serve humanity. . . When the church refuses to serve the world, she begins to waste away.”

—*Erwin McManus (U.S.)*¹

“A teenage girl told her story. Christians had come to her village—doing traditional evangelism—perhaps even before she was born. The people in her village rejected the message. Recently, a group of people had come to the village simply to minister lovingly to the needs of the people. The impact was so powerful that a number of villagers came to Christ. She concluded with an unforgettable question: ‘What took you so long?’”

—*Teenage girl (Philippines)*²

“Of all the things Paul did, he was really eager to do only two things—preach the gospel (Acts 26:28-29) and remember the poor (Acts 24:17). He didn’t need to compromise or sacrifice one to accomplish the other. He was eager to do both. He engaged in both.”

—*The Externally Focused Church*³

“We don’t really need more churches like the ones among my [Quiche] tribe. There are churches on every street corner in some villages. . . The problem is not evangelism, but immature believers and weak churches. We have babies making babies! New churches think their first responsibility is to plant a new church. But neither the believers nor the churches are spiritually mature.”

—*Isaias C. (Guatemala)*⁴

“There is no question that the church has been marginalized. . . the church is generally not viewed as an important part of the fabric of the community. In most places the church has lost any voice on the issues and needs facing the community. The church isn’t on the list of resources community leaders consult when looking for assistance in resolving the challenges they face.”

—*The Externally Focused Church*⁵

“When done in a fully biblical way, evangelism creates new persons who turn from sin, live new lives, experience new dignity and worth, and consequently challenge structures of oppression in the name of the biblical God who, they know now, lives in their hearts and reigns in the world.”

—*Ronald J. Sider (U.S.)*⁶



“Unless this generation of American evangelicals confronts its centuries-old habit of anti-intellectualism, we don’t have the slightest chance of penetrating modern society for Christ.”
—Os Guinness⁷

Notes



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

- In general, how much do you think churches contribute to the health of a society?



Video

1. Introduction



25 min.

2. The Early Church and the Roman Empire

The Early Church vs. The Roman Empire

Year	Church	Empire	%
32	120	63 million	.000002
40	1,000	63 million	.002
313	6 million	63 million	10

Fig. 4-1

2. Critical Beliefs

Critical Beliefs

1. God loves those who love Him
2. Merciful God requires mercy
3. Incompatible with casual cruelty
4. Culture stripped of ethnicity
5. Men were to love wives as themselves
6. Rejection of abortion and infanticide
7. Love believers and beyond

Fig. 4-2



3. Acceptable Worship

Acceptable Worship - Isaiah 58
"You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high." v 4b
Unacceptable Worship v 1-5
Acceptable Worship v 6-7
Promise of Healing v 8-9a
Acceptable Worship v 9b-10a
Promise of Healing v 10b-12
Acceptable Worship v 13
Promise of Healing v 14

Fig. 4-3

4. The Great Commandment

The Great Commandment
Love God and Neighbor
Matthew 22:36-40
Mark 12:28-31,33
Luke 10:27
Love Neighbor
Matthew 7:12
Romans 13:9
Galatians 5:14

Fig. 4-4



Group Exploration




15 min.

1. From Rodney Starks' descriptions, which beliefs in the early church were most important in drawing pagan citizens to faith in Christ?
2. *Individually*, think of a person you love deeply. Think what it means to love that person—and how your love is evident.
As a group, explore: Can a person *love* with only feelings and words? Why or why not? Can a person *worship* with only feelings and words?
3. What does the passage in Isaiah 58:6-10,13 say about the specific ways God said that He wants to be worshiped?
4. What promises did God make to those whose worship conforms to His desires? (Refer to Isaiah 58:8-14.)
5. What kinds of changes do churches today need to make, in light of Isaiah 58?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we better give God acceptable worship in our lives and our churches? What are some ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen

Your Focus

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you or your church offer acceptable worship to God. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.



4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I have been overly judgmental of a Christian brother. I have been "pointing my finger" at him and treating him with disrespect. I'll ask his forgiveness for my poor attitude and behavior.*

Example: *I will locate and read one of the suggested Resources listed at the end of the lesson. Based on my reading, I will select an Isaiah 58 way to worship God this week.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

You cannot fast as you do today and expect
your voice to be heard on high.

Isaiah 58:4b

Day 1

Reading: Isaiah 58:6,7,9b-10a

Reflection: What contemporary “fasting” (worship) equivalents are *acceptable* to God?

Response: Ask the Lord to show you how you can more acceptably worship Him. Make notes of these insights.

Day 2

Reading: Isaiah 58:3b,4,9b

Reflection: What contemporary worship or behaviors are *unacceptable* to God, according to this passage?

Response: Ask the Lord to reveal “finger pointing” in your life, repent, and ask for forgiveness. Make a note of anything specific that He has shown you.

Day 3

Reading: Isaiah 58:13

Reflection: What contemporary behaviors are *unacceptable* worship, according to this passage? What are *acceptable*?



Response: Ask the Lord to help you understand and act on what it means to “call the Sabbath a delight.” Think of specific changes that would be pleasing to God.

Day 4

Reading: 1 John 3:17-18

Reflection: Describe this passage’s parallels to the Great Commandment—to love God and neighbor.

Response: Ask God to show you where you are not living up to His “irreducible minimum” in your life. Write your response or prayer of repentance. Be specific.

Day 5

Reading: Matthew 24:46

Reflection: In your own words, describe what Jesus meant when He warned us to be found faithful when our Master returns.

Response: Ask the Father to strengthen you as you steward opportunities to represent His Kingdom where you live and work. In what specific ways can you rely on Him for strength and wisdom?

Day 6: Bridge

Spend some time praying and reflecting why we are not telling the whole story. Why is the church not engaging in God's BIG agenda?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. Moffitt, Bob. "The Role of the Church in Society." Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2000.
2. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - A Narrow View of the Gospel
 - God's Intentions for the Church
3. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
 - Section: Wholistic Ministry
 - Section: Implementation through the Local Church
4. Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1997. (Originally published: Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.)
5. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.

Session 4 Endnotes

- ¹ Erwin Raphael McManus, *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church GOD Had in Mind* (Flagship Church Resources, Group Publishing), 23.
- ² Teenage girl from the Muslim-dominated island of Mindinao in the Philippines, cited in Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 52.
- ³ Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 113.
- ⁴ Isaias C., 1995, cited in Moffitt, 100.
- ⁵ Rusaw and Swanson, 104.
- ⁶ Ronald J. Sider, "An Inseparable Partnership," in *One-Sided Christianity?* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 1993), 120.
- ⁷ Os Guinness, "The Devil's Gauntlet," in David J. Gyertson (ed.), *Salt & Light: A Christian Response to Current Issues* (Christian Broadcasting Network, 1993), 41.

**The church is not telling the whole story—
the story that reflects God’s BIG agenda.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to spend some time praying and reflecting why we are not telling the whole story. Why is the church not engaging in God’s BIG agenda?

Preview

In this session, we will continue to explore biblical worldview. The Bible communicates a comprehensive worldview. It reviews the scope and flow of biblical HIStory, and it reveals the depth of this grand story as it reveals the nature of God, man, and creation. Unfortunately, though, the church has not been telling the whole transforming story, the story that reflects God’s BIG agenda.

For centuries, the Bible created the framework for European life and thought. Informed by Scripture, people worked and intentionally lived their everyday lives *Coram Deo*—before the face of God. They sought to do their work with excellence, as if serving God Himself. But the Bible’s influence diminished with the French Revolution. In the Western world, biblical theism (in which God is Lord of all creation) was replaced by deism¹ (which believes God is separate from creation), which has now been replaced by secularism² (where only physical nature is real).

By 1859, Charles Darwin had introduced a new meta-narrative³, a new grand story. His theory of evolution, explaining origins of life without a Creator, made secularism seem plausible. But instead of defending the biblical worldview, the church-at-large made two responses. Those in the first group accommodated and embraced the secular worldview and became the liberal or social gospel wing of the church. Those in the second group rejected secularism in society and the social gospel in the church. Embracing a narrow gospel of the salvation of souls, they unknowingly adopted the Greek worldview of dualism⁴ or evangelical gnosticism⁵, in which the spiritual is sacred and the physical is profane. (This



thinking promotes the false idea that only some Christians are in “full-time Christian service.”) This second group became the evangelical/Pentecostal/charismatic wing of the church.

These conflicting paradigms influenced Bible schools, seminaries, pastors, and missionaries who were sent all over the world to plant churches that reflected their own paradigms. Some planted churches with gnostic paradigms; others planted churches with naturalistic paradigms. One group ministered to spiritual needs; the other to physical and social needs. Lacking a comprehensive biblical worldview, the divided church of the past 150 years has not yet been able to serve and advance God’s BIG purpose and agenda to restore all things to Himself.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read:

- Primary reading: Chapter 1, “Everyone Has a Story,” in *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow Miller.
- Secondary readings: From Chapter 7’s opening page through the section titled “Church Ministry in the Two-Thirds World,” in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt.

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“Do we lift Lebanon up to the Lord in prayer? Do we commend Poland to the One who is the rightful ruler of that geography and those people? Do we intercede quietly for wisdom in handling Mexican and Haitian and Salvadoran refugees? . . . When we, with all our knowledge of the world, make no response to world events, we deny Christ’s lordship over them.” —*Miriam Adeney (U.S.)*⁶

“Developing strategies for achieving justice is the responsibility of the entire Body of Christ. The task calls for a great variety of gifts, a broad spectrum of experience and training.”
—*John Perkins (U.S.)*⁷

Missionary Amy Carmichael arrived in India in the early twentieth century and found young girls sold as temple prostitutes. She established a ministry to protect them, but other missionaries said her efforts were “worldly activity” that distracted from the “saving of souls.” Her reply: “Souls are more or less firmly attached to bodies.”
—*Amy Carmichael (missionary to India)*⁸

“If Jesus Christ is Lord of the whole universe and has been granted sovereignty in heaven and on earth, his dominion extends over the economic and the political spheres, over the social and the cultural, over the aesthetic and the ecological, over the personal and the communal.”
—*C. René Padilla (Ecuador, Argentina)*⁹

“Most of the twentieth century was a story of separation. Of an either/or Christianity. But isn't the cross a bridge? . . . For liberals, that will mean painfully re-embracing orthodoxy. For evangelicals, that will mean humbly re-engaging the community and addressing real needs. . . It is time to re-embrace the both/and. . . truth and proof, proclamation and incarnation, common grace to the needy and amazing grace to the receptive.”
—*Robert Lewis (U.S.)*¹⁰

“If Jesus Christ came to this planet as a model of how we ought to live, then our goal should be to act like Jesus. Sadly, few people consistently demonstrate the love, obedience, and priorities of Jesus. The primary reason that people do not act like Jesus is because they do not think like Jesus.”
—*George Barna (U.S.)*¹¹

“False ideas are the greatest obstacles to the reception of the gospel. We may preach with all the fervor of a reformer and yet succeed only in winning a straggler here or there, if we permit the whole collective thought of a nation or of the world to be controlled by ideas which. . . prevent Christianity from being regarded as anything more than a harmless delusion.”

—*J. Gresham Machen*¹²





Introduction

Review of Previous Sessions

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.
Summarize the first four sessions in three or four sentences.



Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Questions

- What is a worldview?
- What happens to its society when the worldview of a nation changes?



Video

1. Introduction

2. The Shift

a. Biblical Theism

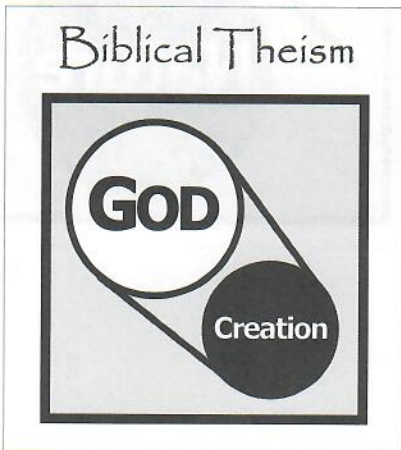


Fig. 5-1

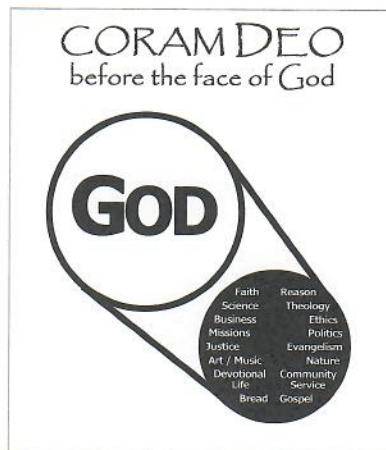


Fig. 5-2



b. Deism

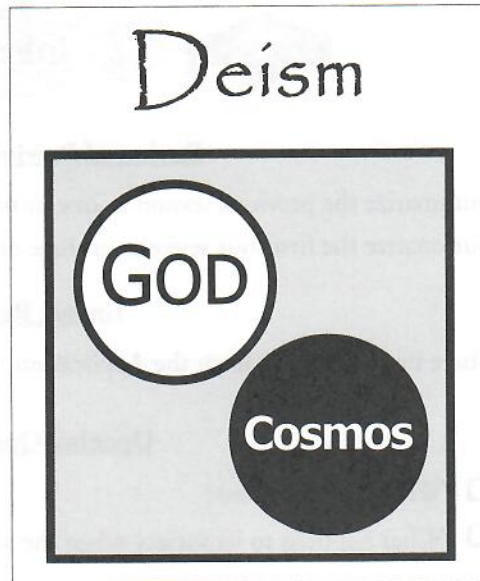


Fig. 5-3

c. Secularism

(Note: In secularism, "nature" refers to the physical world. In animistic cultures, where it is believed that spirits inhabit nature, "nature" refers to the spiritual realm.)

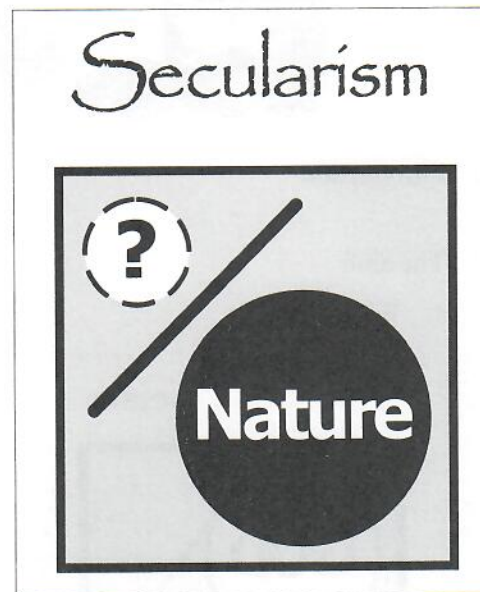


Fig. 5-4

3. Two Responses to the Rise of Secularism

- a. Accommodation: Liberalism
- b. Reaction: Evangelical Gnosticism



Fig. 5-5

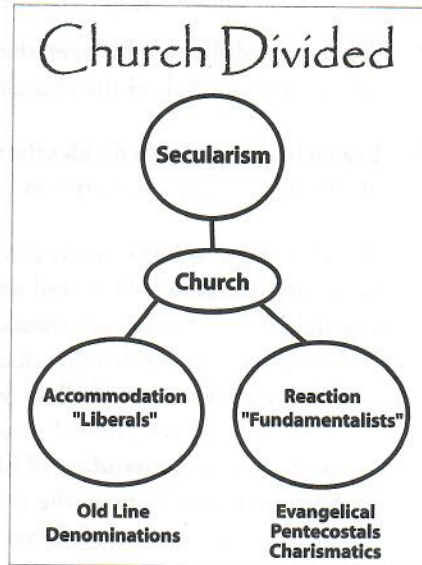


Fig. 5-6

4. Conclusion

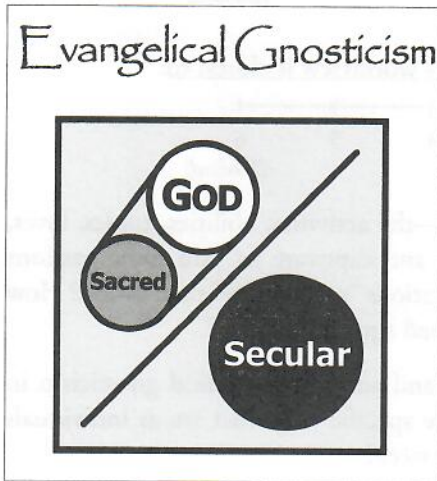


Fig. 5-7

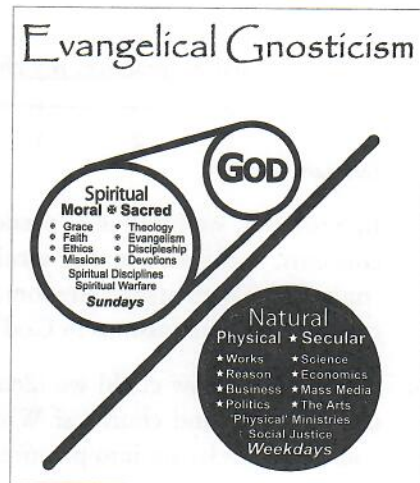


Fig. 5-8





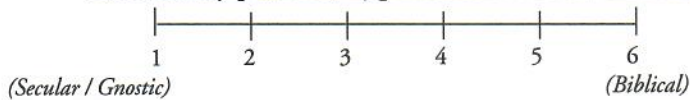
15 min.



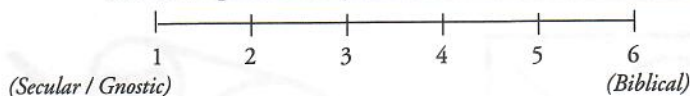
Group Exploration

1. What does it mean that a person would live *Coram Deo*?
2. What is the difference between theistic, deistic, and secular worldviews? What happened as a result of the church limiting its responses to secularism?
3. Evangelical gnosticism divides the natural and spiritual realms. What examples of this division do you notice in your life or your church?
4. Which worldview most closely describes the actual practice (activities, lifestyles, behaviors, decisions) of you and your church?
 - (a) Circle *either* “secular” or “gnostic”—to best describe the actual practice.
 - (b) Circle *one* number that describes how much these worldviews influence you. If you circle 6, you believe your actions are based solely on a biblical worldview. If you circle 2, you believe your actions are based on a secular or gnostic understanding of life, with minor biblical influence.
 - (c) Add the numbers from the two graphs. Stop and ask God to reveal how to “change your score.” What steps could you or your church take to live according to a more biblical worldview?

Based on my practice, my *personal* worldview is closest to:



Based on practice, my *church's* worldview is closest to:



5. In Session 1, we listed our “passions”—the activities, abilities, topics, loves, concerns, and interests that motivate and captivate us. Are some passions “more holy” than others? Are some vocations “more godly” than others? How can you use your passions in God’s broad agenda?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we identify and address evangelical gnosticism in our own lives and churches? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen

Your Focus

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you identify and address secularism or evangelical gnosticism in your life or your church. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.



4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I will select a different task each day this week to do coram Deo - making phone calls, paying bills, fixing meals, disciplining children, answering e-mails, exercising, driving in traffic.*

Example: *My daughter and I will review her textbooks for influences of secularism. I will possibly offer to locate a guest speaker for her class, one representing a more biblical worldview.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds [castles or fortresses in the mind]. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Day 1

Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 16:5-12, 21-23; Romans 8:5-8;
2 Corinthians 4:4; Romans 1:18-32

Reflection: What sources of understanding, knowledge, or thought does Scripture warn believers to avoid? What drastic consequences are faced by those who suppress the truth and knowledge of God?

Response: Ask God to help you examine your mind. How do you look at and understand the world? What are your sources of knowledge and thought? Ask God to show you that ideas have consequences! Write your new insights, or write a prayer for God's truth and wisdom.



Day 2

Reading: 2 Kings 6:15-17; Isaiah 42:7; Luke 24:30-32,44-49; John 12:16; Acts 9:1-18

Reflection: What happened in these passages as people received sight?

Response: Ask God to continually open your eyes to things to which you are blind. Stay aware and record areas of blindness that God reveals to you.

Day 3

Reading: Mark 10: 32-45

The disciples and Christ had very different expectations about many things because they were functioning from very different understandings. Consider this text, along with other Scriptural knowledge you have of Christ.

Reflections:

1. Messiah

a. What did the disciples expect of the Jewish Messiah?

b. What did Jesus understand?

2. Kingdom of God

a. What did the disciples expect of the Kingdom of God?

b. What did Jesus understand?

3. Leadership

a. What did the disciples expect of leaders?

b. What did Jesus understand?

4. Engaging the World

a. How did the disciples expect to engage the world?

b. What did Jesus understand?

Response: Ask God to reveal to you the power of ideas and worldviews! Make notes of significant insights.

Day 4

Reading: Proverbs 1: 1-7; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:13a

Reflection: Describe a mind that operates according to a biblical view of life.

Response: Ask God for wisdom. Write your prayer or your impressions.



Day 5

Reading: Micah 6:8; Matthew 7:24; John 1:14; James 1:22-25; 1 John 3:16-18

Reflection: What is the strong emphasis in these passages?

Response: Pray for opportunities and obedience, for yourself and your church. Write your response here.

Day 6: Bridge

Ask God to reveal to you what has happened to the church in light of our divided message and lives. What has this cost the church? What are some of the consequences of the church not functioning from a biblical worldview? Write your reflections.



Application Journal

Date: _____

Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

Description:

Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Worldview
 - Worldviews and How They Work
 - God's Command—"Put On" the Worldview of the Kingdom
2. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *The Worldview of the Kingdom of God*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2003.
 - Session 2: Worldviews at Work in the World
3. _____. *Wholistic Life and Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2005.
 - Session 1: The Divided Mind and Life
 - Session 5: Enemies of Wholistic Ministry
4. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
 - Chapter 1: Everyone Has A Story
5. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
 - Chapter 5: The Mind of a Modernizer
6. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.

Session 5 Endnotes

- ¹*Deism*: The worldview that assumes that God created the universe and then left it alone. God is Creator, but not Lord and Savior.
- ²*Secularism*: The worldview that the universe is only physical. There is no God or spiritual reality. A synonym for naturalism.
- ³*Meta-narrative*: The grand story or worldview of a culture that explains the nature of God, creation, and man and that also describes what is true, good, and beautiful.
- ⁴*Dualism*: The Greek worldview that the universe is divided between the spiritual and physical realms. The spiritual realm is high; the physical realm is low. Dualism is a synonym for *evangelical gnosticism*.
- ⁵*Evangelical gnosticism*: A synonym for *dualism*.
- ⁶Miriam Adeney, *God's Foreign Policy* (Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Co., 1984), 128.
- ⁷John Perkins, *With Justice for All* (Ventura CA: Regal Books, 1982), 178.
- ⁸Amy Carmichael, from George Grant, *The Micah Mandate* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 241.
- ⁹C. René Padilla, "Introduction: An Ecclesiology for Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation* (Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004), 27.
- ¹⁰Robert Lewis, *The Church of Irresistible Influence* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001), 208,211.
- ¹¹George Barna, Barna Research Institute, "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life," December 2003. Available from www.barna.org. Internet.
- ¹²Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), 27

**The church has paid an enormous price
for not telling the whole story.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked what our divided message and lives have cost the church. What are some of the consequences of the church not functioning from a biblical worldview?

Preview

Christians have become dichotomized. We live in two different worlds. We have lost much of what it means to be Christian and what it means to be the church. Many of us have succumbed to gnosticism in our religious lives and a secular worldview in our work lives. Our dichotomized message and lives have cost the church greatly.

In this session, we will examine the cost that the church has paid for its dichotomized message and life—and identify steps to regain its essential principles.

With its incomplete worldview, the church has lost many essentials—the Christian mind, the dynamic picture of what it means to be the church, the Great Commandment, the role of the church in society, the Great Commission, God's BIG agenda, and the Kingship of Christ in the present. The church has paid an enormous price for not telling the whole story!

What must change? The church needs to restore and return to and live according to its basic principles:

- Jesus is King. He reigns over heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18, Isaiah 9:7).
- His primary agenda is to advance the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:9-10).
- The Kingdom advances by making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).
- The key agent in this task is the local church (Ephesians 3:9-11).



- The ministry of the local church must be wholistic¹ (Colossians 1:19-20)
- The ministry of the local church must be incarnational² (John 17:15-19).
- The church must operate intentionally from the biblical worldview (Colossians 1:15-16).

Ultimately, the biblical worldview is the necessary foundation on which to build all of the basic principles. The whole story is the essential framework for the church that serves its King.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read several sections from *Discipling Nations* and *If Jesus Were Mayor*:

- Primary reading: “Breaking the Web of Lies,” a section in Chapter 3 of *Discipling Nations*.
- Secondary readings: “The Great Loss to the Church,” “Reversing the Reversal,” and “Today’s Prophets for God’s Larger Agenda,” three sections in Chapter 7 of *If Jesus Were Mayor*.

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“An informal survey was taken on a downtown American street. Many people were asked: ‘If you were facing a major crisis in your life, where would you turn for help?’ . . . No one thought to mention the church! People do not know the church as the church that Jesus intended. The loss to the church has, indeed, been great.”
—Bob Moffitt³

“The Gospel not only has ‘social implications;’ its very substance has a social character. Social action is not just an implication, an addendum to the Gospel; it is an intrinsic part of the Gospel. The preaching of the Gospel is more than a verbal exercise; it is an engagement, a living among men and women that serves notice of the Kingdom that has come.” —Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)⁴

“In today’s pluralistic world . . . it’s more likely than ever that the church will become increasingly marginalized. Left to the current state of affairs, the gap between church and society will only widen. . . . This presents a wonderful opportunity for the church to show up with a basin and towel.”

—*The Externally Focused Church*⁵

“Nearly 90 percent of children raised in evangelical homes abandon church after high school. Many children leave feeling their parents regarded going to church as a hobby or habit, without authentically living principles of Christ.”

—*U.S. newspaper*⁶

“As the chief moral guardian of the community, the church must implore men to be good and well-intentioned and must extol the virtues of kindheartedness and conscientiousness. But somewhere along the way the church must remind men that, devoid of intelligence, goodness and conscientiousness will become brutal forces leading to shameful crucifixions. Never must the church tire of reminding men that they have a moral responsibility to be intelligent. . . . We are commanded to love God, not only with our hearts and souls, but also with our minds.”

—*Martin Luther King, Jr. (U.S.)*⁷

“One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying. . . . How often are our lives characterized by a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds!”

—*Martin Luther King, Jr. (U.S.)*⁸

“Understanding Christianity as a worldview is important not only for fulfilling the great commission but also for fulfilling the cultural commission—the call to create a culture under the lordship of Christ. God cares not only about redeeming souls but also about restoring his creation. He calls us to be agents not only of his saving grace but also of his common grace.”

—*Chuck Colson*⁹





Introduction



10 min.

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Questions

- How many churches are there in your community?
- Considering the general availability of churches, why is there still brokenness in your community?



Video



25 min.

1. Introduction

2. The Seven Losses

a. The Christian Mind (See Fig. 6-1.)

(Note: This revised graphic provides results from more recent research from the same group. Information differs from the video.)

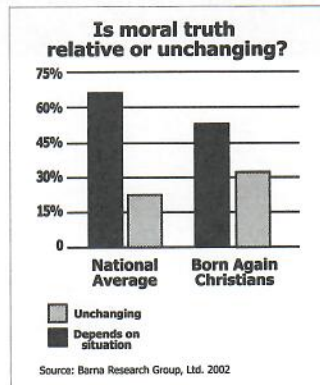


Fig. 6-1

- b. The Concept of the Church
- c. The Great Commandment
- d. The Role of the Church in Society
- e. The Great Commission
- f. God's BIG Agenda
- g. Christ is King Today!

The Loss

- of the Christian mind
- of the concept of the church
- of the Great Commandment
- of the role of the church in society
- of the Great Commission
- of God's big agenda
- of Christ as King

Fig. 6-2

3. Restoring the Basic Principles

- a. Jesus is King.
- b. His primary agenda: the Kingdom of God.
- c. The Kingdom advances by discipling nations.
- d. The key agent in this task: the local church.
- e. The ministry of the local church must be wholistic.
- f. The ministry of the local church must be incarnational.
- g. The church must operate intentionally from a biblical worldview.

Basic Principles

Jesus is King.
Matthew 28:18

His primary agenda is to advance the Kingdom of God.
Matthew 6:9-10

...by making disciples of all nations.
Matthew 28:19

The key agent in this task is the local church.
Ephesians 3:9-11

The ministry of the local church must be wholistic.
Colossians 1:19-20

The ministry of the local church must be incarnational.
John 17:15-19

The local church must operate intentionally from the biblical worldview.
Colossians 1:15-18

Fig. 6-3





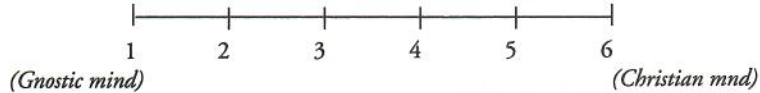
Group Exploration



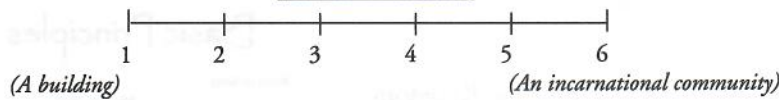
1. Briefly explore the basic principles. What do you think it means that Jesus is King? What does it mean to advance the Kingdom of God? What does it mean to disciple nations? What does it mean that the local church should be wholistic and incarnational? What is a biblical worldview?

2. In each of the following questions, **circle** the number that most closely reflects the *practice in your personal life*, and put a **box** around the number that most reflects the *practice of your church*:

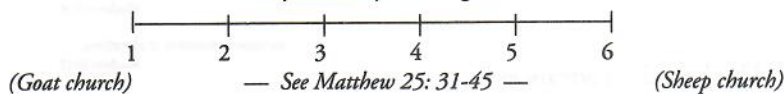
What kind of mind do you have?



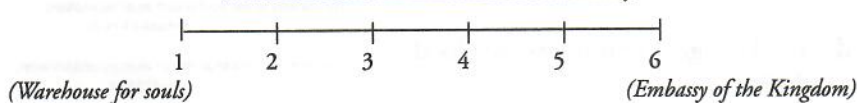
What is the church?



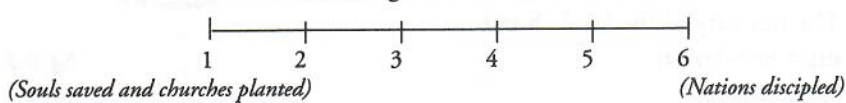
Do you love your neighbor?



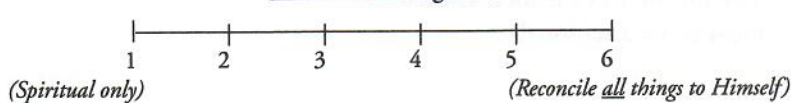
What is the role of the church in society?



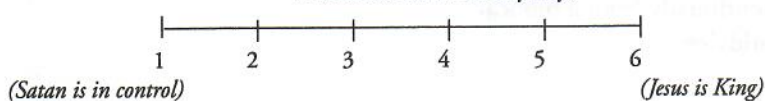
What is the end goal of the Great Commission?



What is God's agenda?

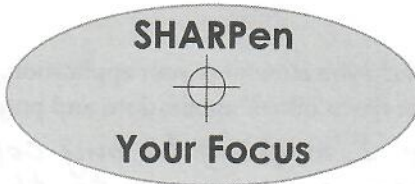


Whose world is it, anyway?



3. Look at the numbers you circled. What do your answers tell you about yourself and your daily life? Discuss your response.
4. Look at the numbers you placed in boxes. What do your answers indicate about your church? Discuss your response.
5. Add all the numbers in circles and add all the numbers in boxes. Stop and ask God to reveal how to “change your score.” What steps could you or your church take to become more like the church was intended to be?
6. **Brainstorm!** How can we gain a biblical worldview? How can we influence our churches with a biblical worldview? How can we tell the whole story? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



0 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you or your church operate from a biblical worldview. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:



- SIMPLE** — a short activity that can easily be completed this week
- HANDS-ON** — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
- ADDITIONAL** — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
- REALISTIC** — a commitment that fits into your other priorities
- PURPOSEFUL** — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.
4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I'm going to buy copies of a book that is opening my eyes to the church's role in culture. I'll give a book to each of the people in my small group, urge them to read it, and ask them to discuss it next month.*

Example: *I will read Matthew 25:31-45 and ask God to show me how I can serve Him as I do a simple act of service for "one of the least of these" this week.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-18

Day 1

Reading: Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 19:16

Reflection: What do you learn about the Kingdom of God in these passages?

Response: Pray for the church to recognize the *present* reign of Christ. Record your vision or dreams for such a church.

Day 2

Reading: Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 9:6,7; Matthew 6:9-10,33; Matthew 9:35; Luke 4:43; Galatians 3: 8

Reflection: What was Jesus' focus? What else do you notice about the Kingdom of God in these passages?

Response: Pray that your church would have Christ's passion for the present coming of the Kingdom of God. Pray, with conviction, that God's Kingdom comes and His will is done "on earth as it is in heaven." Declare your convictions to the Lord by writing a prayer based on the principles you are learning.

Day 3

Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalms 8: 3-8; Matthew 28:19; Romans 16:25-26; Colossians 1:18b

Reflection: What do you learn in these passages about our responsibility as image-bearers of God, disciples, and members of the body of Christ?

Response: Pray that your church will understand and accept the task to advance the Kingdom of God by discipling *nations*—one person, one community, one sector of society at a time. Record your insights.

Day 4

Reading: Matthew 16:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20,27; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 3:8-11; Ephesians 4:11-13

Reflection: Write your observations on the key role of the church in accomplishing God's purposes.

Response: Pray that your church will increasingly understand the central role the *local* church plays in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. As you pray for your church, what do you think is happening in you, your church, and its members?



Day 5

Reading: Genesis 1: 31a; Matthew 4:23-25; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 4:18-21; Romans 8: 18-23; Colossians 1:19-20

Reflection: What do you see in these passages about the scope of God's concerns?

Response: If your church is a *goat* church, pray for its transformation to a *sheep* church. In what specific ways do you think God wants to advance your church's impact?

Day 6: Bridge

Reading: John 1:14; John 17:15-19

The church worldwide has done a commendable job of doing what it set out to do—evangelize, save souls for heaven, and plant churches. There have never been *more* professed Christians, more churches, and more large churches. And, yet, nation after nation is very broken. What do you think has gone wrong?

Response: Pray that your church will move outside the walls of the building and *into* the community, the marketplace, and the public square—with the mind, heart, hands, and feet of Jesus. What is your vision for your church?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.

Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Wholistic Ministry
 - The Divided Mind and the Divided Life
 - Consequences of the Divided Mind for the Church
 - Regaining Biblical Wisdom
2. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *God's Remarkable Plan for the Nations*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2004.
 - Session 1: God's Remarkable Plan for the Nations
 - Session 2: Israel's Important Role in God's Plan
 - Session 3: Jesus, the Center of God's Plan
3. _____. *Wholistic Life and Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2005.
 - Session 1: The Divided Mind and Life
 - Session 5: Enemies of Wholistic Ministry
4. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
5. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.

Session 6 Endnotes

- ¹*Wholistic ministry*: Ministry that reflects God's concerns for whole persons and the whole of creation.
- ²*Incarnational ministry*: Jesus was God in human flesh, and the church—the body of Christ—is to represent Christ “in the flesh” as it serves the people of its community, nation, and world.
- ³Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 114.
- ⁴Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 11.
- ⁵Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 107.
- ⁶Lawn Griffiths, “Reaching a prodigal child,” *East Valley/Scottsdale Tribune*, 18 December 2004, F1. (Book review of *Why Christian Kids Rebel* by Dr. Tim Kimmel.)
- ⁷Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love* (New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1964), 38.
- ⁸*Ibid.*, 31.
- ⁹Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), 33.

**Lies form the foundation for enslaved, corrupt, and cruel societies.
Truth is the foundation of free, just, and compassionate societies.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were given the following scenario and question:

The church worldwide has done a commendable job of doing what it set out to do—evangelize, save souls for heaven, and plant churches. There have never been *more* professed Christians, more churches, and more large churches. And, yet, nation after nation is very broken. What has gone wrong?

Preview

In this session, we will examine a critical factor behind the brokenness of nations—their foundations have been built on cultural lies.

If knowledge and truth form the foundation for a nation's development and flourishing, then ignorance and lies form the foundation for a community's or a nation's destruction. Satan, the father of lies, lies not only to individuals, but also to nations. When individuals believe his lies, they are enslaved and impoverished. To the extent that nations believe his lies, they are likewise enslaved, impoverished, and fail to reach their God-given potential.

The Bible uses the Greek word, *stoicheia*, to describe the fundamental principles upon which societies are built. *Stoicheia* are the ABC's—the first and elementary principles—of a culture. These can be compared to children's building blocks. A culture based on Kingdom building blocks is built on truth. A culture based on Satan's counterfeit building blocks is built on lies.

Kingdom building blocks are at the foundation of strong nations—nations that are free, just, and compassionate. But Satan lies to nations at the level of culture. His counterfeit building blocks—false foundational principles—enslave whole



nations, cause destruction, and bring about injustice. Counterfeit building blocks that lie to cultures include unbiblical beliefs about race, gender, and quality of life. “Men are better than women” for example, is a cultural lie that causes dire poverty throughout the world. Every society’s foundation has both truth and lies. The more truth there is in a society, the more that freedom, justice, and compassion are found. The more lies there are, the more that enslavement, corruption, and cruelty abound.

If Satan lies to nations at the level of culture, then the church must proactively disciple its nation at the level of culture. God has given us a cultural mandate¹. He has charged us to be makers of culture. Culturally held beliefs—truths and falsehoods—enter into the laws and structures and institutions of our societies. We must identify cultural lies and replace counterfeit building blocks with Kingdom principles at the very foundation of our nations. Only Kingdom foundations will lead our nations to develop, flourish, and be all that God intends.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read two chapters in *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow Miller:

- Chapter 2, “Poor Stories”
- Chapter 8, “Creation’s Laws”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“God has created us to be multifaceted people, not just evangelists. He intends us to enjoy his world. He also commissions us to battle for his dominion, his reign, over his own property and people.”
—Miriam Adeney (U.S.)²

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

—*Abraham Kuyper (Holland)*³

“We have learned that cultures can change—and this means that we can have hope!”

—*Brazilian student of wholistic ministry*⁴

“The rule of Satan begins in our minds, when we choose to believe his deception, and culminates in the oppressive political institutions we build. This means that untruth is the foundation of slavery. Proclamation of truth, therefore, is the basic means of setting people free from oppression and exploitation. Jesus said: ‘Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’ (John 8:32).”

—*Vishal Mangalwadi (India)*⁵

“The poor little man of Assisi conquered by that strange power called Love, and overthrew a political theory on which the whole fabric of European statecraft rested. Feudalism fell, democracy began, and society, instead of falling to pieces, became purer, stronger, and freer than before.”

—*about St. Frances*⁶

“The point of church growth is not to collect new people and cage them with church programs. . . . The church exists to equip people in order to release them back into the world, grounded in truth and community, dangerous for the gospel.”

—*Kirbyjon Caldwell (U.S.)*⁷

“Christians care for creation not because it is ‘mother earth’ (New Age paganism), nor because its care guarantees the survival of the human race (secular humanism), but rather because it is the creation of, and is care for and supported by our heavenly Father in Jesus Christ.”

—*Chuck Van Engen (U.S.)*⁸

“There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.”

— *C.S. Lewis*⁹





Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

Think about the following accounts and then answer the question below:

In the *United States*, there are churches in most communities, and there are thousands of churches in major cities. You can drive from Los Angeles to New York, listening to Christian radio most of the way. There are Christian television stations in major cities. There are Christian grammar schools and secondary schools, Bible schools, colleges, seminaries, and even universities. If you were to “color” an American map by religion, it would be colored “Christian.” Yet, we kill 1.5 million babies a year through abortion, and 30 percent of aborted babies had mothers who are professed Christians. Euthanasia and infanticide loom on the horizon. The breakdown of the family—even Christian families—and the rise of drug and alcohol abuse all pave the way for the moral and spiritual death of the United States.

In *Brazil*, the Gospel began to penetrate the unreached peoples of the Amazon basin at the end of the twentieth century. Many communities now have churches. Yet, the men in those communities—even Christian men—often sell the sexual services of their adolescent daughters for cash.

In *Kenya*, 80 percent of the people are professed Christians, and a majority of these attend church. Yet, under former President Daniel Moi—a professed Christian—Kenya had been ranked among the three most corrupt nations in the world.

In *Rwanda*, there had been a great revival. Eighty percent of Rwandans professed Christ. The country had been evangelized and churches planted. Yet, between April and mid-July of 1994, genocide occurred. In a nation of seven million people, one million were killed and two million were made refugees.

In all cases, what happened? What has gone wrong? Is this the end to which the Great Commission was given?





Video



25 min.

1. Introduction

Foundations for Community Development

- # Knowledge
- # Truth

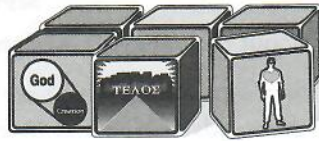


Fig. 7-1

2. Stoicheia

Foundations for Community Destruction

- Ignorance
- Lies

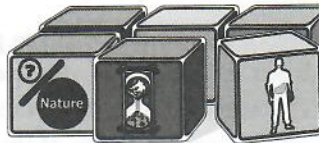


Fig. 7-2

3. Growing Healthy Cultures¹⁰

Growing Healthy Cultures

T Truth the culture embraces.
Principles of the Development Ethic

LIE Lies a culture holds to be true

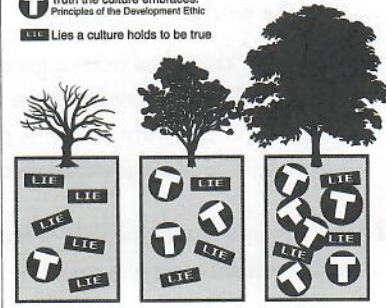


Fig. 7-3



Group Exploration



15 min.

1. Why are some nations rich, and others are poor?
2. Who is Satan? What does he do? What happens to a nation when it believes Satan's lies?
3. Identify one of Satan's lies in your culture—on the level of worldviews and belief systems. Look for lies about the nature of God, creation, man, truth, goodness, or beauty. *Examples:* (a) *Man is an animal.* (b) *There is no absolute truth.* (c) *White people are superior.*

One of Satan's lies in our culture: _____.

- Where do you see this lie most prevalent in your culture?
 - What kind of *values* does this promote?
 - What kind of *behavior* does this promote?
 - What are the *consequences* of this behavior?
 - What is the *Bible's perspective* on the same issue?
4. Review the soil and tree graphic (see Fig. 7-3).
 - Where would you place your country on this graphic?
 - Why did you decide to put it there?
 - Do you see your nation moving towards—or away from—its potential?
 5. **Brainstorm!** How could we more closely reflect God's truth and oppose lies that our culture believes? What are specific ways that we as individuals could practice this lesson this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen Your Focus



10 min.

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you more closely reflect God’s truth and oppose the lies that your culture believes. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

S IMPLE	— a short activity that can easily be completed this week
H ANDS-ON	— an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
A DDITIONAL	— a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
R EALISTIC	— a commitment that fits into your other priorities
P URPOSEFUL	— a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I have believed the lie that I have the "right" to have my own way. This week, I'll visit a neighbor with whom I've differed and agree to solve the problem to his satisfaction.*

Example: *I'll have my family keep a chart of TV viewing for the week, listing both positive and negative values promoted in each show. On Saturday, we will discuss which values were promoted and look for ways our culture is being "disciplined."*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world... But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles?

Galatians 4:3,9



Day 1

Reading: Genesis 3:1-4; Isaiah 32:7; John 8:44; John 17:15; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:3,7,8

Reflection: What do you see in these passages about the means by which people are deceived?

Response: Pray for protection from the father of lies. Write your observations or your prayer for God's protection.

Day 2

Reading: Colossians 2: 6-15; Galatians 4:3-10

Reflection: What devices have kept people and societies in bondage?

Response: Pray that God would reveal to you some lies that have infiltrated your culture. List specific lies that come to your mind. ("Money can buy happiness," for example.) How have you *personally* been affected by a lie that your society or generation has embraced?

Day 3

Reading: Examine this quote from a former missionary to East Africa, Gailyn Van Rheen:

The systemic view [of spiritual warfare] sees the powers as personal spiritual beings who are actively impacting the

social, economic, and political structures of societies. These powers have established their own rules and regulations that pull cultures away from God. The elementary principles (*stoicheia*) spoken of in Pauline writings . . . are illustrated by legalistic observances of the law, worship of angels, and returning to pre-Christian animistic practices. *Stoicheia* within these contexts are the demonic contortions of human society. The powers, although personal spiritual beings, have invaded the very fabric of society. Thus even Christian institutions reflect these demonic influences when the powers invade human institutions.¹¹

Reflection: What things pull your society away from God? Have you begun not to notice that they are evil?

Response: Pray for discernment as you and your church's leaders see how Satan's lies have been institutionalized in your society. As you pray, what other lies are revealed to you?

Day 4

Reading: Use the Internet or other reference materials to research the phrases "sanctity of life" and "quality of life."

Reflection: What did you discover? What surprised you?

Do you think that slavery, racism, and abortion are related? What cultural lie do they share? If your church were in Nazi Germany during World War II or in the United States during the time of slavery, would



your church have stood against the death camps or slavery? Why or why not? If churches had stood against evil, what might they have done?

Response: Pray for wisdom and discernment. Pray that you and your church would have the courage to take concrete stands for life in the midst of the current culture of death. Express your thoughts and need.

Day 5

Reading: Matthew 7:16-20; Luke 6:43; Galatians 6:7

Reflection: What happens to a culture when its roots are corrupt?

Response: Pray that God will reveal how important it is for Christians to engage in the “cultural mandate.”¹

Day 6: Bridge

1. Why are ideas important?

2. How do ideas spread through society?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.

Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Worldview
 - Satan's Lies – Enslaving Peoples and Nations
2. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *The Worldview of the Kingdom of God*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2003.
 - Session 7: The ABCs of Culture
3. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
 - Chapter 2: Poor Stories
 - Chapter 8: Creation Laws
4. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
 - Chapter 2: A Tribute By An Indian Woman
 - Chapter 4: The Modernization of India

Session 7 Endnotes

- ¹*Cultural mandate*: God has a purpose for mankind on earth, established in Genesis 1:26-28. People were placed on earth to be God's stewards, to have dominion over creation. Mankind is to be a maker of culture. This mandate is called the "development mandate," "creation mandate," or "cultural mandate."
- ²Miriam Adeney, *God's Foreign Policy* (Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), 78.
- ³James D. Bratt, *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader* (Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1998), 461.
- ⁴Brazilian student of wholistic ministry, submitted by Cleiton and Eleuza Oliveira, Brazil, 2003-04.
- ⁵Vishal Mangalwadi, *Truth and Social Reform* (New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1996, third edition), 40.
- ⁶Joseph Fort Newton, "Social Saviors," *Union Life*, July/August 1990, 21.
- ⁷Kirbyjon Caldwell, Foreword to Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001), 9.
- ⁸Chuck Van Engen, "Toward a Missiology of Transformation," in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church's Mission* (Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004), 105.
- ⁹Wayne Martindale and Jerry Root, eds., *The Quotable Lewis* (Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publisher's Inc., 1989), Quotation #598.
- ¹⁰Vishal Mangalwadi (India) designed the diagrams that contrast the foundations for a community's development with the foundations for its destruction. This was a "play on words," developed as he guest-taught at a "Foundations for Community Development" school (Texas, 1995).
- ¹¹Gailyn Van Rheenen, *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts* (Grand Rapids MI: Baker Book House, 1991), 101.

**Ideas spread into societies and shape the very values
by which those societies function.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to reflect on these questions: “Why are ideas important?” and “How do ideas spread through society?”

Preview

In this session, we will see that the church must penetrate its culture with the culture of the Kingdom. *If the church is not discipling its nation, then the nation is discipling the church!*

Ideas have consequences, both in nature and in culture. A tree’s root determines its fruit, and the DNA of a seed is the same as that of its mature plant. Similarly, a culture’s root (beliefs) determines its fruit (consequences). A culture must change its culturally held ideas in order to change their consequences.

It is obvious to most Christians that ideas of all kinds can spread horizontally, around the world. (See Acts 1:8.) Some may also realize that ideas travel temporally, through time, from one generation to another. But few Christians consider that ideas travel vertically—they penetrate cultures. Throughout history, ideas have often begun with the intellectuals and have then been passed to the balladeers, then to the professionals, and finally to the common people. These ideas, it can be said, penetrated their culture. In the same way, Kingdom values can and should penetrate and direct our cultures, today.

The church has focused on getting the Gospel around the world but has forgotten that the Gospel is likewise meant to penetrate culture. Kingdom culture is to be lived and proclaimed by all Christians. In fact, the cross has redeemed the cultural mandate¹—Christians have been appointed by God to be makers of culture.



The Great Commission spreads through all the world, through all nations and people groups, and through all creation. It progressively brings Kingdom culture to all realms and is enlivened by “the three faces of culture”—truth, justice, and beauty.² Permeated by Kingdom culture, a society’s *truth* reflects God’s physical and metaphysical laws; its *justice* reflects God’s moral laws; and its sense of *beauty* reflects God’s aesthetic laws.

The ideas of Kingdom culture are to be lived, proclaimed, and spread throughout our societies. Ideas have consequences!

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read or review:

- Primary reading review: “How Worldviews Spread,” a section of Chapter 1 of *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow Miller.
- Secondary reading: Chapter 9, “Transformation through the Local Church,” in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt.

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“Worldviews do not stay in the dusty pages of the obscure tomes of a professor’s library. They are diffused across oceans, through societies, and over the centuries, shaping individuals, cultures, nations, and the flow of history.”—*Darrow Miller*³

“Jesus’ disciples are not distinguished by mere adherence to a religion, a Jesus cult, but rather by a lifestyle which reflects the love and the justice of the Kingdom of God. The church’s mission, therefore, cannot be reduced to proclaiming the ‘salvation of souls.’ Its mission is to ‘make disciples’ who will learn obedience to their Lord in all the circumstances of daily existence, private and public, personal and social, spiritual and material.” —*C. René Padilla (Ecuador, Argentina)*⁴

“A few women from a cell group said, ‘We’d like to do something to serve the police.’ The police asked them, ‘What can you do?’ ‘We can teach values and moral principles.’ ‘Then why don’t you teach them to our police cadets?’ For one whole year, they taught the cadets. The cadets did not even know they were being taught by the church! The police commissioner said, ‘This is the first year we have had no discipline problems with the cadets. We want you to do this every year.’ Imagine! The church was invited to ‘disciple’ the police cadets of the capital city of a distressed nation, using biblical principles.” —*Ugandan church women*⁵

“As ‘salt,’ we penetrate society and act as a preservative against social putrefaction, restoring and affirming whatever is good and just and lovely in the things around us . . . As ‘light,’ we stand before forces of darkness, a ‘sign’ of the truth about the human condition and the meaning and direction of history and existence. We bear witness, not only by what we do, but more by what we are, a redeemed people whose personal sanctity and corporate dealings reflect God’s own concern for justice and righteousness in the world.” —*Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)*⁶

“God wills our vigorous creativity to be among His instruments for subduing the earth. Every day that He keeps us alive is an opportunity to give Him delight or disappointment. So let us glorify Him by our stewardship of this perverse and broken world. By affirmation and judgment, by skillfully balancing our priorities, let us serve as the salt of the earth.” —*Miriam Adeney (U.S.)*⁷

“The return of the sense that Jesus is Lord of the marketplace has led to renewed visions of a relevant Christianity making an impact and transforming sick societies. Leavening power structures with the ethos of the Kingdom is certainly a major agenda.” —*Melba Padilla Maggay (Philippines)*⁸

“The Church’s potential to have a role in social development legitimizes the role of a national church in nation-building. The involvement of the Church of Pakistan in education, health, social work projects for orphans and widows, and its role in the struggle for justice and peace and upholding human rights in society has given the Church leaders exposure . . . at national and sometimes at international levels.” —*Pervaiz Sultan (Pakistan)*⁹

“The primary battle is a spiritual battle in the heavenlies. But this does not mean, therefore, that the battle we are in is otherworldly or outside of human history. . . . The spiritual battle has its counterpart in the visible world, in the minds of men and women, and in every area of human culture. In the realm of space and time the heavenly battle is fought on the stage of human history.” —*Francis Schaeffer*¹⁰

Notes



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

- What is the relationship between what peoples and cultures believe—and the kinds of societies they build?



Video



25 min.

1. Introduction
2. Ideas Spread In Three Ways
 - a. Horizontally
 - b. Through Time
 - c. Vertically

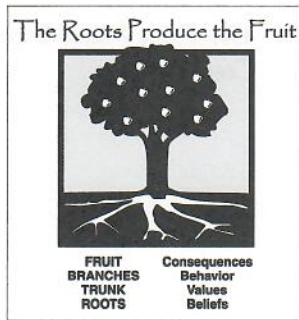


Fig. 8-1

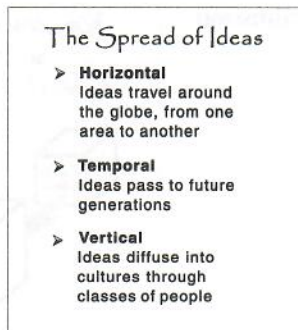


Fig. 8-2

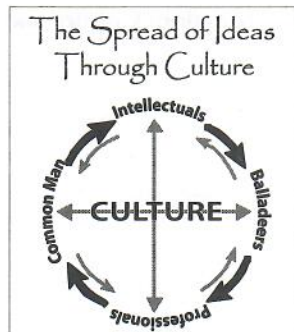


Fig. 8-3



3. The Gospel Redeems the Cultural Mandate of Genesis 1

a. The Three Faces of Culture



Fig. 8-4

b. Kingdom Culture



Fig. 8-5

4. The Three Major Expressions of the Great Commission

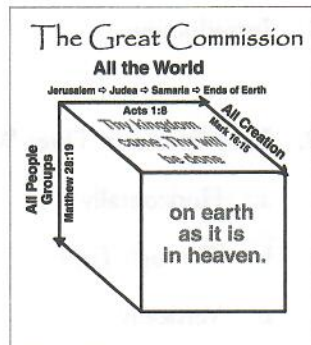


Fig. 8-6

5. Kingdom Culture and the Great Commission

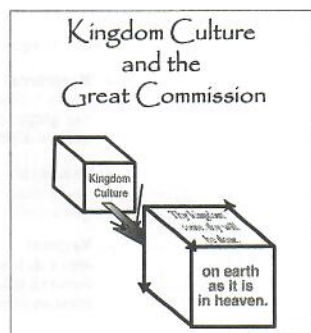


Fig. 8-7



Group Exploration



15 min.

1. How do beliefs, values, behavior, and consequences relate to each other?
2. It has been said that 95 percent of North American youth do not have a biblical worldview, but that their worldview is shaped by the music and movie industry. What is shaping *your* culture's worldview?
3. What are the three ways ideas spread? How does each way make disciples?
4. How do the "three faces of culture" reflect God's character and intentions for us?
5. "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,*" Jesus prayed. How does "Kingdom Culture" relate to the Great Commission?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we spread biblical ideas into our culture? How could we influence our church, community, or world? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen Your Focus



10 min.

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that will help you spread a biblical worldview into your culture. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

- S**IMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week
- H**ANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
- A**DDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
- R**EALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities
- P**URPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I will read the newspaper and identify a critical situation in our community. I will examine it from a biblical worldview and then write a letter to the editor, urging a just response.*

Example: *I will make a list of words, terminology, and concepts that are new to me, and I will look for definitions in dictionaries, concordances, and the Glossary of this workbook. I will discuss one new concept with friends at work this week.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



Day 1

Reading: Psalm 31:5; Psalm 86:11; Isaiah 45:18-19; John 1:17; John 8:31-32; John 14:6; John 17:17; John 18:37-38

Reflection: Consider these verses in light of modernism's¹¹ claim that there is no absolute truth and post-modernism's¹² claim that reality is defined only by the individual.

Response: Pray that God would use you to be a loving truth-teller in the midst of a culture that does not believe in truth. What might that mean for you in your circle of influence? How could you broaden your circle of influence?

Day 2

Reading: Isaiah 1:18; Mark 12:28-31

Examine this quote from J.I. Packer:

The Evangelical is not afraid of facts, for he knows that all facts are God's facts; nor is he afraid of thinking, for he knows that all truth is God's truth, and right reasoning cannot endanger sound faith. He is called to love God with all his mind; and part of what this means is that, when confronted by those who on professedly rational grounds, take exception to historic Christianity, he must set himself not merely to deplore or denounce them, but to out-think them. It is not his business to argue men into faith, for that cannot be done; but it is his business to demonstrate the intellectual adequacy of the biblical faith and the comparative inadequacy of its rivals, and to show the invalidity of the criticisms that are brought against it. This he seeks to do, not from any motive of intellectual self-justification, but for the glory of God and of His gospel. A confident intellectualism expressive of robust faith in God, whose word is truth, is part of the historic evangelical tradition. If present-day Evangelicals fall short of this, they are false to their own principles and heritage.¹³

Reflection: What devices have kept people and societies in bondage?

Response: Pray that you will understand the importance of loving God with all of your mind. What do you think it means to love God with your mind? What encourages you from these readings? What ways will you love God with your mind in the coming days?

Day 3

Reading: Romans 1:18-27

Reflection: 1. Why was God angry with man (v. 18)?

2. How does God reveal Himself to all mankind through general revelation (vv. 19-20)?

3. In what four ways did people reject God's clear disclosure of Himself (v. 21)?

4. Describe the two "great exchanges" (vv. 22-23, 25)?



5. What were the consequences of these exchanges (vv. 24, 26)?

Reading: Now, look at Romans 1: 18-32 in *The Message*:

Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. And then all hell broke loose: rampant evil, grabbing and grasping, vicious backstabbing. They made life hell on earth with their envy, wanton killing, bickering, and cheating. Look at them: mean-spirited, venomous, forked tongued God-bashers. Bullies, swaggerers, insufferable windbags! They kept inventing new ways of wrecking lives. They ditched their parents when they got in the way. Stupid, slimy, cruel, coldblooded. And it's not as if they don't know better. They know perfectly well they're spitting in God's face. And they don't care—worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!¹⁴

Reflection: How does this relate to the graphic, "The Roots Produce the Fruit"? (See Fig. 8-1.) What were the roots and trunk (beliefs and values)? What were the branches and fruit (beliefs and consequences)?

Response: Pray that God would reveal the importance of truth for your life and for your nation's life. Write a prayer that expresses your awareness, confession, need, and commitment.

Day 4

Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15,19-20; Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 21:23-26

Reflection: How broad was the cultural mandate¹ given by God to those He created?

Response: Pray that the church would realize that the cross has redeemed the cultural mandate. How would you explain this to someone in your church who has not studied this material?

Day 5

Reading: Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

Reflection: How do these passages help define the scope of the Great Commission?

Response: Pray for insights on the extent of the Great Commission—and the role that God may want you to play in the task. Write what you believe God is telling you.

Day 6: Bridge

1. List some of the ways that the unchurched people in your community are experiencing God's concern for their physical and social needs through the actions of your church.

2. Pray that your church increasingly lives out the commission: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!" How will you encourage church members to "put legs on" this benediction?





Application Journal

Date: _____

- Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

- Description:

- Observations:

- ---

- ---

- ---

Please review next session's Advance Reading.

Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations website: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: Worldview
 - Worldviews and How They Work
2. Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *The Worldview of the Kingdom of God*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2003.
3. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
 - Chapter 1: Everyone Has A Story
4. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
 - Chapter 4: William Carey and the Modernization of India

Session 8 Endnotes

- ¹*Cultural mandate*: God has a purpose for mankind on earth, established in Genesis 1:26-28. People were placed on earth to be God's stewards, having dominion over creation. Mankind is to be a maker of culture. This mandate is called "the development mandate," "creation mandate," or "cultural mandate."
- ²Douglas Jones and Douglas Wilson, *Angels in the Architecture* (Moscow, Idaho: Canon Press, 1998), 18.
- ³Darrow L. Miller, *Discipling Nations* (Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001), 39.
- ⁴C. René Padilla, "Introduction: An Ecclesiology for Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation* (Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004), 30.
- ⁵Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ, Harvest, 2004, International edition), 155.
- ⁶Melba Padilla Maggay, *Transforming Society* (Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996), 41.
- ⁷Miriam Adeney, "Culture and Planned Change," in Tom Sine (ed.), *The Church in Response to Human Need* (Monrovia CA: Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center, 1983), 172.
- ⁸Maggay, 48-49.
- ⁹Rev. Dr. Pervaiz Sultan, *Church and Development: A Case Study from Pakistan* (Karachi, Pakistan: FACT Publications), 312.
- ¹⁰Francis Schaeffer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1984), 25.
- ¹¹*Modernism*: Thought governed by philosophic atheism, rationalism, or secularism.
- ¹²*Post-modernism*: The current cultural mindset in the Western world, in which reality is defined in the mind of each individual. (There is no meta-narrative.)
- ¹³J. I. Packer, "Fundamentalism" and the Word of God (London: InterVarsity Fellowship, 1965), 34-35.
- ¹⁴Peterson, Eugene H. *The Message* (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1995), 308-309.



The church is a window through which broken people see God's good intentions.



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to list some of the ways the unchurched people of your community are experiencing God's concern for their physical and social needs through the actions of your church.

Preview

In this session, we will see that God has created us to demonstrate His glory—to honor Him through loving obedience, letting our community see God's full agenda by watching us, His church.

Instead of honoring God, though, every intention of the human heart became evil. We see this as early as Genesis 6:5-6—God was grieved that He had even created man! Romans 1:28-32 provides a litany of our brokenness that should cause us to shudder—our brokenness made us objects of God's wrath. Yet, incredibly, God loves us and sent His Son to redeem us—to redeem not only broken people, but the *effects* of our brokenness through all creation.

Many churches preach a bad-news/good-news message. The bad news is our brokenness. The good news, they say, will come in the future—when we get to heaven or when Jesus returns. People who are hungry, sick, unemployed, oppressed, and otherwise suffering, though, are desperate for hope in the present. They ask, "Why isn't there any good news for me, now?"

God's desire is that His will be done on earth, now, as it is done in heaven. To the degree that God's will is done on earth, heaven's conditions come to earth. That would surely be good news in the present! His will for the present includes His concerns about people's personal lives and their relationships with their families, their Christian brothers and sisters, their neighbors, their community, and even their enemies. Certainly, there would be a major transforming impact on our broken world if Christians would obey God's will in these areas!



To the degree that Christians disobey God's will in these areas, their sin creates a barrier, a wall, that keeps the broken world from knowing God's good intentions for both the future and the present. But God has placed a "window" in that wall—the church. In this case, the window has four panes. They represent God's concern for the whole person—the areas of Jesus' growth described in Luke 2:52. (God's concern for the whole person is known as *biblical wholism*.¹) It is only as the church is proclaiming and demonstrating God's concern for the whole of life that the broken people of the community can clearly see the panorama of God's Good News. (This demonstration is known as *wholistic ministry*.²)

Unfortunately, many churches around the world are ministering almost exclusively in the spiritual domain, and the broken people who look through the window of these churches see only God's spiritual concerns. They are not aware that God wants to minister to their physical and social brokenness. If churches have not been actively demonstrating God's agenda for all areas of His concern, they need to wash their windows! They need to repent. And they need to become active in each area of God's concern.

Several biblical metaphors illustrate how the church and followers of Christ can express God's agenda to a broken world:

- Ambassadors, embassies of the Kingdom (John 17:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Salt that purifies—and light in the darkness (Matthew 5:13-16)
- Legible letters of God's love (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)
- Good neighbors (1 Peter 2:12)

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read three sections in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt:

- Part Four Prelude
- Chapter 14, "Planning for Long-Range Impact"
- The final section of Appendix A, titled "From Seed to Tree"

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“A church in West Africa did a cleanup project to demonstrate God’s love in a slum community that lacked toilets and garbage collection. A great number of people came together, sang, collected garbage, and weeded. A Moslem opinion leader actively took part. The next day he told the pastors of the church: “You people really know the God you are serving!” —*Moslem opinion leader (Ghana)*³

“If your community is like ours, needs abound. And in our church are underutilized assets—people. . . . We have people with desperate needs, and we have people who long to make a difference. What if we could link them together?”

—*The Externally Focused Church*⁴

Compassion is an action that is best demonstrated rather than discussed.”

—*Dr. Marva Mitchell (U.S.)*⁵

“Korean churches have experienced amazing revival and growth in recent years. But, now, we face a crisis of secularization and consequent lack of influence on society. I am sure our Lord Jesus Christ, the head of His church, earnestly desires that Korean churches be wholistic churches that serve their communities and nation. . . . [This is] part of the recovery of God’s intention for His church.”

—*Pastor Paul H. Sohn (Korea)*⁶

“Churches don’t have the luxury of withdrawing from the community. Whether they feel wanted or not, churches must realize that the community cannot be healthy, and all God wants them to be, without their active engagement and involvement in community life. That’s the way God designed it.”

—*The Externally Focused Church*⁷

“The works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks Indeed, the menial housework of a manservant or a maidservant is often more acceptable to God than all the fastings and other works of a monk or a priest, because the monk or priest lacks faith.”

—*Martin Luther*⁸





Introduction



10 min.

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

- What image comes to your mind when you think of the churches in your community?



Video



25 min.

1. Introduction

2. Man and His Brokenness

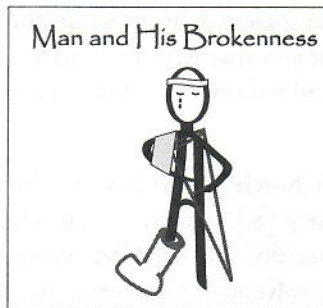


Fig. 9-1

3. God's Will and His Kingdom

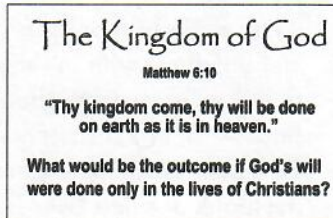


Fig. 9-2

4. Good News for the Present

Good News for the Present

- Personal	- Holy, quiet, productive lives – 1 Thessalonians 4:3,11
- Our families	- Submission, respect – Ephesians 5:21-6:4
- The church	- Love each other – John 13:34
	- Live in unity – John 17:20-23
- The world	- Love our neighbors – Romans 13:9
	- Care for widows and orphans – James 1:27
	- Advocate for those in need – Jeremiah 22:3,15-16
	- Government – respect authority – 1 Peter 2:13-21
	- Fair to those under our authority – Colossians 4:1
- Our enemies	- Bless without expectation – Luke 6:27,35

Fig. 9-3

5. God's Intentions for the Present and Future

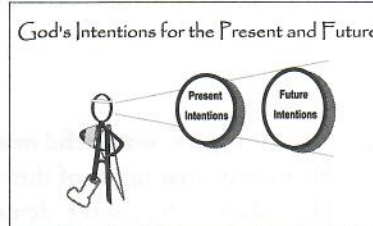


Fig. 9-4

6. The Wall of Our Sin

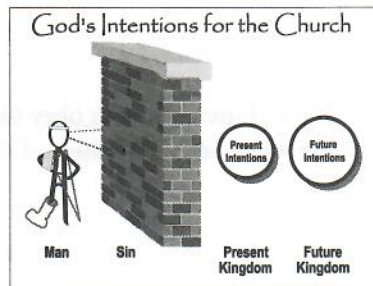


Fig. 9-5

7. The Church as a Window

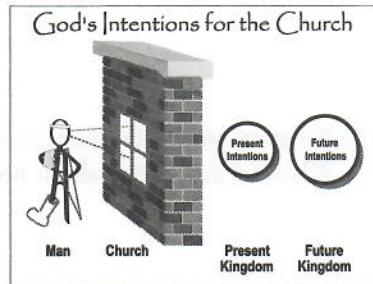


Fig. 9-6

8. Metaphors of the Church

Metaphors of the Church

- Embassy – John 17:18
- Purifying salt/lamp in darkness – Matthew 5:13-16
- Letter read by all – 2 Corinthians 3:2
- Good neighbor – 1 Peter 2:12
- First taste of something delicious – Romans 8:19

Fig. 9-7



Group Exploration




15 min.

1. Genesis 6:5 says that every inclination of man's heart had become evil. In spite of this, God sent His Son to reconcile all things that were broken in the Fall. What promises in Scripture describe this future good news? See Romans 8:21; Isaiah 11:4-9; Revelation 21:1-4.
2. God clearly has wonderful news—in the present—for those who are suffering. He intends that much of this news be revealed through His body, the church. How should the church demonstrate God's Good News for people who are suffering brokenness?
3. If the church does not obey God's will, what will happen to its ability to draw the world into the sphere of God's love?
4. How well does your local church demonstrate God's concerns for broken men and women in each of the four areas of Luke 2:52?
5. What are some Scriptural metaphors for the church and followers of Christ? What do they imply about how the church should function in society?
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we help our church "wash its windows" and demonstrate God's healing of the brokenness in our community? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen

Your Focus

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you or your church reflect God’s desire to heal the brokenness in your community. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

SIMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week

HANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection

ADDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing

REALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities

PURPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.



4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I will meet with one of my pastors or elders to learn what our church is doing in each of the four areas of Luke 2:52 and to ask how I can help.*

Example: *I will watch "The Church as a Window" DVD and write an e-mail to recommend it to our church leaders.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

Day 1

Reading: Galatians 5:16-21

Reflection: In one sentence, summarize Paul's description of evil.

Response: Thank Jesus for the incredible gift of our rescue from the horrible consequences of disobedience. What is your response to this gift?

Day 2

Reading: Revelation 21:1-4; Matthew 13:40-43; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; Romans 8:21

Reflection: When will there be the wonderful news of final liberation from evil? What is our future role?

Response: Thank God for the incredible, yet limited, vision He has given us of the future He has prepared for us. Write about your thankfulness.

Day 3

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-11; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; John 17:20-23

Reflection: Summarize God's present will for your personal life, for your relationships with your family, and for your relationships with other believers.

Response: Ask God to reveal where you are not doing His will in your personal life and in relationship with your family members and brothers and sisters in Christ. Write your insights here.



Day 4

Reading: Romans 13:9; James 1:27; Jeremiah 22:3,15,16; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Luke 6:27-35

Reflection: Summarize God's present will for your relationships with your neighbors, the needy and oppressed, your community, and your enemies.

Response: Search the depths of your heart: Can I love like this? Can I allow myself to be this inconvenienced in the quest to love my neighbor? How can I better follow God's will?

Day 5

Reading: John 17:18 and 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3; 1 Peter 2:12; Romans 8:19

Reflection: Discover metaphors for the church that can be implied from these passages.

Response: Ask God to show you metaphors that illustrate your life. Write them here.

Day 6: Bridge

On the basis of your “talents”—your material and nonmaterial resources—do you sometimes think you are unable to contribute as much as others to the Kingdom?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - A Narrow View of the Gospel
 - God's Intentions for the Church
2. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
 - Section: Wholistic Ministry
 - Section: Implementation through the Local Church
3. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.
4. *The Church as a Window: Seed Project Stories from Around the World*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest and Food for the Hungry, 2003. Videocassette, DVD.

Session 9 Endnotes

- ¹ *Biblical wholism*: A mindset that understands the world according to God's whole agenda, as revealed in Scripture.
- ² *Wholistic ministry*: Ministry that reflects God's concerns for whole persons and the whole of creation.
- ³ Provided by Chris Ampadu, cited in Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 275.
- ⁴ Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 84.
- ⁵ Dr. Marva Mitchell, *It Takes a Church to Raise a Village* (Shippensburg PA: Treasure House, 2001), 73.
- ⁶ Pastor Paul H., Sohn, "My Perspective about DNA Korea," 2003. Unpublished speech.
- ⁷ Rusaw and Swanson, 58.
- ⁸ Martin Luther, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. Nearly identical English translation available from <http://www.ctsfw.edu/etext/luther/babylonian.htm#about>; Internet; accessed 13 March 2003.

God requires all believers to give God whatever they have, wherever they are.



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked if, on the basis of your “talents”—your material and nonmaterial resources—you sometimes think you are unable to contribute as much as others to the Kingdom?

Preview

In this session, we will see that all believers are called to invest what they have in the work of the Kingdom. Nobody is exempt. Nobody is too insignificant or too lacking in talents or resources to be of use to God—because God Himself gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

All Christians have a “talent bank” of material and nonmaterial resources. It is not the size of our talent bank that is important to God. He is far more concerned that we make available to Him whatever is in our hand, whether we consider it large or small. In His wisdom, He has chosen to use us and our sacrificial, obedient giving.

Many Christians think that their internal and external talent banks are more empty than full. Consequently, they feel unable to contribute as much to the Kingdom as others who, according to their perceptions, have more talents or resources. God, however, does not ask us how many talents we have. He simply asks us to give Him what is in our hand—whatever we have, wherever we are. Nothing we give is too little or insignificant—talent, time, material things, prayer, love, or other resources (Mark 12:41-44).

- Moses thought he lacked the ability to lead Israel out of Egypt. After all, he left Egypt under a death sentence, and he didn't speak well! To show Moses that it was not his talents that mattered but his obedience, God asked Moses, “What is that in your hand?” It was only a walking stick, but God asked him to throw it down. When he did, it became a living snake!



- God showed Moses He would use what Moses considered insignificant to demonstrate His power before Pharaoh (Exodus 4 and 7).

When we give God the little we have, He takes our “weakness” and turns it into strength (Isaiah 40:29). This truth can be converted into a formula:

Our weakness x God = Strength

There are a number of biblical accounts that illustrate this truth. They include the feeding of the five thousand on the shore of Lake Galilee (John 6:1-14 and Matthew 14:21); the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:7-16 and 18:1); and the widow who gave her only two coins (Mark 12:41-44).

The principles taught in these stories could be illustrated by the following formula:

People as they are...

+ Love for God

+ Faith

+ Obedience and sacrificial giving

x God

= *Great multiplication of gifts!*

+ Blessing to others

+ Kingdom of God is extended

+ Personal blessing (not always)

+ God is praised and His Kingdom is advanced

There are drastic consequences for not giving sacrificially from even the few resources we have. This truth is shown in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The difference between the three servants could be illustrated by how they applied their faith in their master. The first two related their trust to his command to *risk*—they trusted him as they risked. The third was afraid, and what should have been his faith was replaced by *fear*. The servant who had the smallest portion of talents was reprimanded for not risking what he had, and he was thrown out of the Kingdom for his lack of obedience. This is significant!

What can we conclude?

- All believers must invest and risk what they have been given for the Kingdom.
- Nothing is too little or insignificant to give to God.
- God multiplies—turns into strength—what we give in loving obedience.
- It seems that the less we have, the more God multiplies.
- The consequences are drastic if we do not give back to God what He has given us.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read Chapter 11, "Kingdom Mathematics," in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt. From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“I was surprised to see that we can do so much with so little.” . . . “By simple and small actions, God transforms and multiplies resources to a point that we cannot control the results.”
—*Brazilian students of wholistic ministry*¹

“[Church members] challenged themselves with the question ‘What can we do that would cause people to marvel and say, *God is at work in a wonderful way, for no one could do these things unless God were with them?*’”
—*The Externally Focused Church*²

“Often the West’s tendency to fix things and fix them quickly has been reinforced by the nations in the developing world. It happens because the nations do not see their local potential. They hold lies as truth regarding their own sources of development. Poverty of mind can be worse than poverty of circumstances.”
—*Peruvian ministry trainer*³

“Our service today lacks power because it is often marked by self-love, or it is produced by compassion which does not understand the social roots of human misery . . . When we choose to live for others in such a way that we are willing to lay down our lives for them, we shall produce fruit for God.”
—*Vishal Mangalwadi (India)*⁴

The mind-set of scarcity short-circuits creative thinking, lets us off the hook too easily, or sometimes even puts us on the wrong hook. . . . The mind-set of scarcity applies to abilities as well as to funds, which is why I call it a mind-set about God. I have to keep reminding myself of one of those time-worn but tested rules: Where God guides, he provides.
—*Sue Mallory (U.S.)*⁵



“God has SO GREATLY multiplied resources . . . [A group of] Christians in the Democratic Republic of Congo purchased two pregnant sows. The pigs are multiplying, and the group is distributing pigs to people in need. The group also purchased a field to help a village raise its own food. They discovered that the land is rich in cobalt and copper. They are preparing to mine it and will have money for other projects!”
—*Group of Christians, Democratic Republic of Congo*⁶

“Imagine a ragtag collection of surrendered and transformed people who love God and others. They are mesmerized by the idea that this is not about them, but all about Jesus. They are transfixed by His story and His heart for their city. They are seedthrowers and firestarters, hope peddlers and grace-givers, risktakers and dreamers, young and old. They link arms with anyone who tells the story of Jesus. They empower the poor, strengthen the weak, embrace the outcast, seek the lost. They serve together, play together, worship together. Their city will change because God sent them. They are us. We believe that small things done with great love will change the world.”
—*Vineyard Community Church of Cincinnati*⁷

“The church today is beset by big problems and big issues, and these must be thought through carefully in light of the Word of God and the situation in our world today. We must forswear simple answers to tough questions and be prepared to pray, think and sweat intellectually in order to see where we are and what the Lord would have us to do.”

—*Os Guinness*⁸



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



15 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Video Story

View the short ministry story from Kenya on the separate DVD entitled "The Church as a Window." Do not discuss it at this point. Immediately ask the Opening Question and continue the session, below.

Opening Question

- Do you think the poor, rich, and middle class have the same amount of ability and responsibility to serve and impact their society?



Video

1. Introduction
2. Our Weakness, God's Strength
3. The Boy and His Lunch



25 min.

Scripture/Math
Conversion

"He gives strength to the weary and
increases the power of the weak."
Isaiah 40:29

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Our weakness} \\ \times \text{ God} \\ \hline = \text{Strength} \end{array}$$

Fig. 10-1

The Boy and His Lunch
John 6:1-14; Matthew 14:21

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Boy} \\ + \text{ 5 loaves \& 2 fish} \\ \times \text{ Jesus} \\ \hline = \text{ Food for 5,000 men} \\ + \text{ Food for women and children} \\ + \text{ 12 baskets} \end{array}$$

Fig. 10-2



4. The Widow and Her Last Meal
5. The Widow and Her Two Coins

The Widow and Her Last Meal	
1 Kings 17:7-16; 18:1	
Widow	
+ 1 cake	
x God	
=	1 cake
x 3 people (Elijah, widow, son)	
x 365 days	
x 3 years of famine	
=	5,475 cakes

Fig. 10-3

The Widow and Her Two Coins	
Mark 12:41-44	
Widow	
+ 2 coins	
x Jesus	
=	2,000 years of inspiration

Fig. 10-4

6. A Kingdom Formula for Our Weakness
7. The Talents

A Kingdom Formula	
Matthew 5:16	
<i>People as they are...</i>	
+ Love for God	
+ Faith	
+ Obedience and sacrificial giving	
x God	
=	Great multiplication of gifts!
+ Blessing to others	
+ the Kingdom is extended	
+ Personal blessing (not always)	
+ God is praised!	

Fig. 10-5

The Talents	
Matthew 25:14-30	
Servant	
+ 1 talent	
x 0 (zero)	
=	0 talents
+ Servant thrown into darkness	

Fig. 10-6

8. Conclusions
9. Faith: Fear or Risk

Conclusions	
• All believers must invest in the Kingdom	
• Nothing is too little or insignificant (talent, time, material, prayer, love, etc)	
• God multiplies what we give in loving obedience	
• The less we have, the more God multiplies	
• Consequences drastic if we do not invest	
• Faith is the equalizer – the grand resource/gift	

Fig. 10-7

Spelling of "Faith"	
"Fear"	
or	
"Risk"	

Fig. 10-8



Group Exploration

1. Can you think of examples in your own life in which God has taken your weakness and turned it into strength? How would you convert *your* own story into a mathematical formula?



10 min.

2. Which other Bible stories can you recall in which God multiplied what appeared to be weak? *Example:* Gideon's defeat of the Midianites (Judges 7).
3. What could be some of the consequences when church leaders or missionaries do not teach people—even those who have little materially—to sacrificially give God what they have?
4. What are the implications of the parable of the talents for your life? See Matthew 25:14-30.
5. **Brainstorm!** What could we do sacrificially, trusting God to multiply our sacrifice for His purposes? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen Your Focus



10 min.

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—SHARPen Your Focus
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you act sacrificially and trust God to multiply what you have given for His purposes. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPens your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

- S**IMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week
- H**ANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
- A**DDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
- R**EALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities
- P**URPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.

4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I've been saving to buy a new computer, but I'll donate what I've saved to help people in our community who lost everything in the flood.*

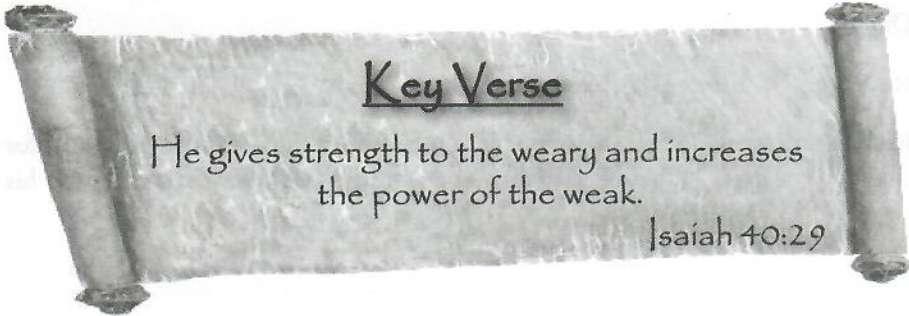
Example: *I had planned to go fishing this weekend, but I'll offer my pickup truck and services all day Saturday to help a colleague move.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*



Day 1

Reading: Exodus 4

Reflection: What was God's response to Moses' feeling of inadequacy?



Response: Ask God to show you areas of your life where you have looked at yourself as inadequate. What are they?

Day 2

Reading: John 6:1-14; Matthew 14:21

Reflection: Put yourself in the place of the boy with the lunch. How do you think you would have felt if Jesus had asked you for the only food you had to satisfy your rumbling tummy?

Response: Ask the Lord to give you the freedom to give your only “lunch” when He calls for it. What do you think the Lord is asking of you?

Day 3

Reading: 1 Kings 17:7-16 and 18:1

Reflection: Imagine your emotions if you had been the widow Elijah asked for food. Honestly, how do you think you would have responded to his request?

Response: Ask the Lord to give you the same spirit as the widow of Zarephath. Is this a fearful thought, or not? Why?

Day 4

Reading: Mark 12:41-44

Reflection: Calculate the multiplied value of the widow's two coins if each coin was worth \$.01 and if one billion Christians since her time have given an additional \$10 during their lifetimes because of her example. What do you observe here?

Response: Thank the Lord for the way He multiplies our weakness when we give it to Him. Write your prayer of release and thanksgiving.

Day 5

Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection: What is the meaning of this parable to Christians today?

Response: Is there anything "in your hand"—anything you have been holding—that you are afraid to lose if you give it to God? Ask the Lord if there is something He has given you that you are afraid to risk for His Kingdom. What is it? What would help you take the step?

Day 6: Bridge

Read John 17:15-18. Write a principle that captures what Christ established as the church's relationship to the world. How has the church responded to this principle?





Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.

Suggested Resources

1. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - Kingdom Math
2. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.

Session 10 Endnotes

- ¹ Brazilian students of wholistic ministry, submitted by Cleiton and Eleuza Oliveira, Brazil, 2003-04.
- ² Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 81.
- ³ Ruth Concha, cited in Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 113.
- ⁴ Vishal Mangalwadi, *Truth and Social Reform* (New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1996, third edition), 26.
- ⁵ Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001), 136.
- ⁶ John P. Wood, cited in Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 236.
- ⁷ Rusaw and Swanson, 148-149.
- ⁸ Os Guinness, "The Devil's Gauntlet," in David J. Gyertson (ed.), *Salt & Light: A Christian Response to Current Issues* (Christian Broadcasting Network, 1993), 31.



**The church is called to enter the gates of the city
—the domains of society—
with the whole story, with God’s BIG agenda.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to read John 17:15-18 and write a principle that captures what Christ established as the church’s relationship to the world. How has the church responded to this principle?

Preview

In this session, we will see that the church—representing Christ as His body on earth today—is to be in the world as Christ Himself was in the world. Like Him, the church is to be “*in* the world but *not of* the world.”

Many churches today have missed this balance. Indistinguishable from the world and conformed to the world, they are “*in* the world and *of* the world.” Still other churches have disengaged from the world. They are “*in* the church (building) and *out of* the world.”

The church is a people, not a building. The people gather for worship and equipping—and then scatter into the community, marketplace, and public square to work, love, and serve Christ and His Kingdom. The church that gathers on Sunday morning is the same church that scatters on Monday through Saturday!

As the church, we are to impact our culture, and our major point of influence is at the “gates of the city.” The gates of the city of the Old Testament were not only defensive points for the city, but they were places of public life. The elders, or leaders, sat at the gates to influence and govern the life of the city and the nation. Today, the city gates can be a metaphor for the domains of society.¹ Modern equivalents of the sectors of society include the social arena, government and law, education, health, art, business and economics, and science and health. Christians



are to be engaged at the gates of the city—in all of these sectors. And the church is to equip its people to serve Him in all domains of life.

Christ has equipped and commanded His followers to “occupy” the gates as they heed Christ’s word to love and serve Him. We are to connect our life and work to the gates of the city—for the sake of our communities and nations and for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ is calling His disciples to “occupy” the gates of the city—in all domains—so that His Kingdom may increasingly come to our cities and nations.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read or review two chapters in *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow Miller:

- Chapter 12, “Lifework”
- Chapter 13, “History Makers”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

The future leaders of this world will come from somewhere. Shouldn’t it be the church?
—*Erwin McManus (U.S.)*²

“What is proclaiming the Gospel if not re-asserting the authority that Christ already has in every sphere, both in heaven and on earth? This includes your office, your home, your finances, the government offices, the law courts, Parliament. Jesus Christ must be enthroned as Lord in all these places.”

—*Dennis Tongoi (Kenya)*³

“I simply argue that the Cross should be raised at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church....Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on the cross between two thieves; on the town’s garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan they had to write His title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek.”
—*George MacLeod (Scotland)*⁴

“We have preached only a salvation message—how to be saved, born again, shout hallelujah—and not a Kingdom message where we learn how to bring all of life—personal, marital, sexual, economic, political—under the kingship of Christ, so that wherever Christians are in any sector of society they are making a godly difference regarding how things actually function.” —*Michael Cassidy (Africa)*⁵

“The specific work to be done—whether it is making ax handles or tacos, selling automobiles or teaching kindergarten, doing investment banking, or serving in political office, evangelizing or running a Christian education program, performing in the arts or teaching English as a second language—is of central interest to God. He wants it well done. It is work that should be done, and it should be done as Jesus himself would do it.”
—*Dallas Willard (U.S.)*⁶

“We must see our jobs and careers as God’s vehicle for extending His good rule in the earth. Serving all humanity indiscriminately is serving Christ. Think in terms of meeting needs, not making money. Living out Kingdom values provides you with an opportunity to personify the fruit of the Spirit to the needy world.”
—*Dennis Tongoi (Kenya)*⁷

“Every day you and I are making decisions that help construct one kind of world or another. Are we co-opted by the faddish worldview of our age, or are we helping to create a new world of peace, love and forgiveness? . . . How now shall we live? . . . By embracing God’s truth, understanding the physical and moral order he has created, lovingly contending for that truth with our neighbors, then having the courage to live it out in every walk of life.”
—*Chuck Colson*⁸





Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Questions

- Can the average person help shape the future of a community or nation? If yes, how?
- Think about the following account. Was this a good decision or a bad decision? Why?

In 1520 a pamphlet by Martin Luther entitled *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church* began to circulate through parts of Europe. It brought profound ecclesiological, political, social, and economic transformation to Europe. One challenging part of the pamphlet read:

The works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the work of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks, but that all works are measured *before God by faith alone* . . . Indeed, the menial housework of a manservant or maidservant is often more acceptable to God than all the fastings and other works of a monk or priest, because the monk or priest lacks faith.⁹

It is said that, when two Roman Catholic priests in Holland read the pamphlet, they made a dramatic change in their parish. Their church had been open seven days a week for Mass. After reading Luther's pamphlet, they announced that, henceforth, the doors of the church would be open on Sunday and closed the other six days of the week.





Video



25 min.

1. Introduction

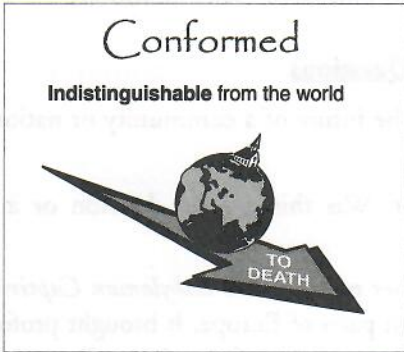


Fig. 11-1

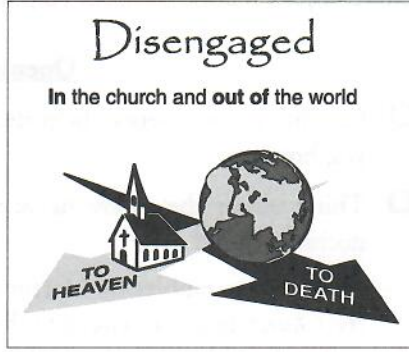


Fig. 11-2



Fig. 11-3

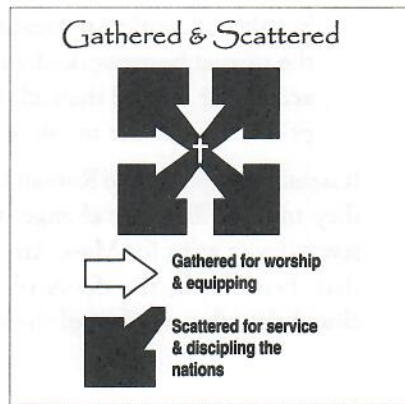


Fig. 11-4

2. The Gates of the City

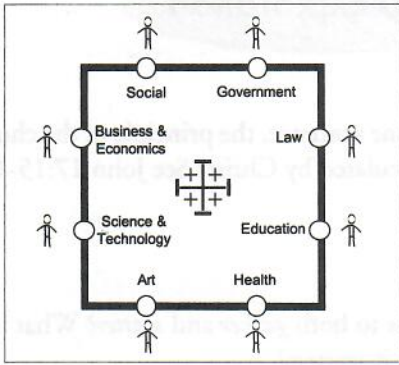


Fig. 11-5

The Gates of the City

- The Place of Public Life
 - Business and commerce
 - The Law read and adjudicated
 - Governing and administration
 - News and public announcements
 - Public meetings and discourse
- The defense of the city
- As a metaphor, represents the health of the city

Fig. 11-6

3. The Domains of Society

The Domains of Society

- Social
- Government and Law
- Education
- Health
- Art
- Business and economics
- Science and technology

Fig. 11-7

“... there is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over **all**, does not cry: ‘Mine!’”

Abraham Kuyper
Free University's inaugural
convocation, 1880

Fig. 11-8

The Social Domain

- The dignity of human life
- Emancipation of the slaves
- Dignity and respect for women
- Mercy and compassion for the poor
- The sacredness of sex and marriage

Fig. 11-9





Group Exploration



15 min.

1. How would you summarize, in one sentence, the principle of the church's relationship to the world, as articulated by Christ? See John 17:15-18.
2. What does it mean that the church is to both *gather* and *scatter*? What is the church to do when it gathers? When it scatters?
3. What do the "gates of the city" in Old Testament times represent in the modern world?
4. Abraham Kuyper said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ . . . does not cry, 'Mine!'" What did he mean? What are the implications for the church and for us, personally?
5. Are there people whose lives exemplify the principle of being in the world but not of it? Are there people whose lives reflect an impact on the domains of society? Describe these people and how they live. Think, for example, what you learn from the life of William Wilberforce.
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we more closely reflect God's BIG agenda through our vocations? How could we influence the domains of society? What are specific ways that we as individuals could put this lesson into practice this week?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .



SHARPen
Your Focus

Between group sessions, you will be asked to do:

- 1 Application—*SHARPen Your Focus*
- 5 Daily Devotions
- 1 Bridge



10 min.

1. Divide into small groups of two or three people. Prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like me to apply what I have learned?”
2. After prayerful reflection, choose a personal application that helps you influence the domains of society or reflect God’s BIG agenda through your vocation. Select from the group’s suggestions or any other activity that SHARPen your focus. Ask yourself if your application will meet the criteria:

- S**IMPLE — a short activity that can easily be completed this week
- H**ANDS-ON — an action that goes beyond personal reading and reflection
- A**DDITIONAL — a new undertaking, one you are not already doing
- R**EALISTIC — a commitment that fits into your other priorities
- P**URPOSEFUL — a response of loving obedience to God that reflects His concerns for people and that points them toward His goodness

3. Share your intended application with your small group and pray for each other.



4. If it will help you remember your application, make a note of it here. Or, you may write down others' applications and pray for each other.

Example: *I will interview a Christian I respect who has the same vocation as mine. I'll ask how this person serves God and tries to "Kingdomize" his/her work. I will "Kingdomize" my work in one new way this week.*

Example: *I will observe colleagues and people I deal with in my business. I'll look for instances in which they reflect God's intentions. I'll express my appreciation for their example, verbally or in a handwritten note.*

5. After you complete the application, please fill out the Application Journal in the Daily Devotions section.



Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

Proverbs 31:23

Day 1

Reading: Genesis 19:1; Genesis 22:17; 23:10; Genesis 24:59-60; Ruth 4:1; Proverbs 1:20-21; Proverbs 31:23

Reflection: What purposes did the gates of the city have in Old Testament times? What could they be in our day?

Response: Ask God to help you see the need to have godly Christians occupying the gates of the city—the domains of society—for the sake of the Kingdom of God. What are the domains of your society? Who occupies the “gates” now?

Day 2

Reading: Examine this quotation by Dr. Abraham Kuyper—Dutch pastor, theologian, journalist, educator, Member of Parliament, Prime Minister:

No sphere of human life is conceivable in which religion does not maintain its demands that God shall be praised, that God's ordinances shall be observed, and that every *labora* shall be permeated with its *ora* in fervent and ceaseless prayer. Wherever man may stand, whatever he may do, to whatever he may apply his hand, in agriculture, in commerce, and in industry, or his mind, in the world of art, and science, he is in whatsoever it may be, constantly standing before the face of his God, he is employed in the service of his God, he has strictly to obey his God, and above all, he has to aim at the glory of his God.¹⁰

Reading: Luke 19: 11-27

Reflection: What is our chief life assignment, as described in Luke and in the quotation? What could you apply to your own life?



Response: Ask God to reveal the *minas* (resources, talents, and abilities) He has invested in you so you may engage in the advancement of His Kingdom. Do you think you will be surprised as you discover the wealth He has put in you? (Don't list the specifics yet.)

Day 3

Reading: Exodus 40:33-34; I Samuel 3:1- 4:1; Esther 3:12-14; Isaiah 49:5-6; Jeremiah 1:4-5; John 4:31-34; John 17:4; Acts 22:10; Galatians 1:15-16

Reflection: What specific life assignments were given to the people in these passages?

Response: Pray that the Lord will progressively reveal His call upon your life. Pray for the courage to walk in His call. Write a letter to God, telling Him about this.

Day 4

Reading: Psalm 139: 13-16

Reflection: God has equipped you for service. Take time this week to prayerfully reflect on your “internal capital”—your “endowment” from God. This includes your conscience, heart and passion, ideas, divine calling, will, character and personality, and your spiritual gifts. Reflect, too, on your “external capital”—your body, gender, technical skills, relationships, networks, time, and more.

Response: Use the following charts. First, fill out one chart, listing your own “internal capital” in one column and your “external capital” in the other. Cover your completed chart and ask a friend or family member to fill out the *other* chart, listing his or her view of your internal and

external capital, using the explanation given in today's Reflection section. Compare and contrast the two lists.

Your List

Friend's List

Internal Capital External Capital

Internal Capital External Capital

Response: Thank God for how He has made you! Ask Him how He may want you to use your life to occupy a domain of society for the Kingdom. Make notes here!

Day 5

Reading: Genesis: 1:26-28; Matthew 6:10; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Revelation 21: 23-26

1. What strikes you about these passages?

2. How might God want to connect your life to the Transforming Story—to connect your life and work to the Kingdom of God?

3. What domain of society might He want you to function in, to occupy for Christ and His Kingdom?



Response: Ask God to call forth the church to occupy the gates of the city, in response to Jesus' prayer, "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" Specifically, what do you believe God is asking your church to do?

Day 6: Bridge

1. Associate the word "servant" with as many contexts as you can. What are some ways that "servant" is used in Scripture?

2. Pray that the Lord would increasingly give you a heart to be a servant-leader and that He would make your church a body of believers that would be known as servants in the community, marketplace, and public square. What will cause this to occur?



Application Journal

Date: _____

● Use the space below to record your SHARPening activity.

● Description:

● Observations:

Please review next session's Advance Reading.



Suggested Resources

1. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
Section: The Kingdom of God
 - The Kingdom Is On the OffensiveSection: Application in Life
 - Putting Your Talents To Work For the KingdomSection: Implementing Through the Local Church
 - God's Agency For Reformation: The Church
2. Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
 - Chapter 12: Lifework
3. Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.
 - Chapter 1: A Quiz: Who Was William Carey?

Session 11 Endnotes

- ¹ *Domains of society*: The domains of a society are the primary sectors that influence and shape the life of the society. Education, science, and the arts are examples of domains.
- ² Erwin Raphael McManus, *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church GOD Had in Mind* (Flagship Church Resources, Group Publishing), 183.
- ³ Dennis Tongoi, *Mixing God with Money* (Nairobi, Kenya: Bezalel Investments Ltd., 2001), 116.
- ⁴ George MacLeod, cited in Tongoi, 116-117.
- ⁵ Michael Cassidy, in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church's Mission* (Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004), 72.
- ⁶ Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998), 285-286.
- ⁷ Tongoi, 114-115.
- ⁸ Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* (Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), 487.
- ⁹ Martin Luther, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. Nearly identical English language translation available from <http://www.ctsfw.edu/etext/luther/babylonian.htm#about>; Internet; accessed 13 March 2003.
- ¹⁰ Abraham Kuyper, *The Crown of Christian Heritage* [originally published as *Lectures on Calvinism*, by Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1931] (New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors P. Ltd., 1994), 54.

The Discipline of Serving Others

SESSION 12

**There is a keen relationship between God's agenda,
His fullness in Christ, and His people as a body of servants.**



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to (1) associate the word “servant” with as many contexts as you could and (2) think of ways that “servant” is used in Scripture.

Preview

In this session, we will see that Scripture gives high value to service, and we will be challenged and equipped to follow a discipline that cultivates in us a lifestyle of sacrificial, loving, voluntary servanthood. God created everything, but we say that mankind is the “crown” of God's creation—the culmination, the highest point. Only man¹—male and female—was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Only man was created to most fully reflect God's image!

There are many ways in which the image of God is reflected in human beings. These include linguistic ability, intentional and purposeful relationships, moral choice, reflection, creativity, and servanthood. The most significant of these is the last—sacrificial and voluntary servanthood.

Without this characteristic of the image of God, the others are easily used selfishly for evil. Linguistic ability can be used to produce pornography or slander. The ability to form intentional relationships can be used for tyranny. Moral choice can be used to motivate or justify ethnic cleansing or partial-birth abortion. Reflection can become scheming, and creativity can be used to develop weapons of mass destruction.

At Jesus' coming, for the first time in human history, mankind was able to see what God intended when He made us in His image. Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). He is the exact representation of the image of God's being (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus perfectly, fully reflects the image of God.



Philippians 2:6-11 indicates how important servanthood is in the reflection of God's image. Jesus gave up His rights as God and became a servant who willingly, obediently, and sacrificially gave Himself for our sake. Jesus perfectly reflected the servanthood characteristic of the image of God. Because of this, God gave Him a name above every name and the highest status in heaven and on earth. It was through servanthood that Jesus fulfilled God's purpose. Our God is a servant God! It is a key component of His character.

We are to reflect the same servant attitude that Christ had (Philippians 2:5). It is through servanthood that the church will demonstrate God's multifaceted purpose to the rulers and principalities in heavenly places (Ephesians 3:10). The fullness of God is love (Ephesians 4:11-13), and it is to be expressed by the church through works of service—servanthood (Ephesians 4:12). This is a truth that is affirmed again and again in Scripture. Examples are the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37); the description of pure and perfect religion (James 1:27); and the admonition to demonstrate our love for God by loving our brothers (1 John 3:17-19).

If man is the “crown” of God's creation, then the “crown jewel” of His creation is the ability God gave us to reflect His sacrificial, intentional servanthood. Servanthood is the essential element of God's image in man. Without it, man's abilities are corrupted and are used to dishonor God.

How can we develop our ability to reflect this aspect of God's image? One way is through spiritual disciplines. The purpose of a spiritual discipline is to help us put into practice what Scripture commands and what the Spirit places as a desire in our hearts. In other words, the purpose of a spiritual discipline is to move us from the law itself to the *spirit* of the law.

Paul told Timothy that he must train himself to be godly (1 Timothy 4:7-8). For centuries, the Christian church—including the church of today—has encouraged new believers to become more godly through the practice of such spiritual disciplines as Scripture reading and memorization, prayer, and fasting. The assumption has been that these disciplines will help us better reflect the image of God. But the image of God includes the characteristic of loving service, and learning how to study and memorize Scripture, pray, and fast does not automatically produce loving, serving Christians. We need to learn how to love and serve as much as we need to learn how to be godly in other areas of our lives.

A “Discipline of Love” matrix was designed to help people develop a lifestyle of sacrificial, loving, voluntary servanthood. It will be introduced in the SHARPen Your Focus section of this lesson.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read two parts of *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt:

- Chapter 12, “Discipline of Love”
- The first section of Appendix A, titled “More Stories from People Like You”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“We continue to have ‘big eyes’ for our community.”

—*Haitian pastor, on his own family’s care for its neighborhood*²

“We must see the difference between choosing to serve (an activity) and choosing to be a servant (a lifestyle). When we choose to serve, we are still in charge . . . when we choose to be a servant, we give up the right to be in charge . . . we become available and vulnerable.”

—*Richard Foster (U.S.)*³

“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.” . . . “We can do no great things; only small things with great love.”

—*Mother Teresa*⁴

“I used to think that the application of the biblical teaching was impossible—until I heard the teaching about servanthood.” . . . “I discovered that I can be the resource God uses for His work with children!” . . . “I always prayed that God would increase my love for my neighbor. Now he has shown me how.”

—*Brazilian students of wholistic ministry*⁵

“The cross reveals Jesus as the man for others and in so doing locates authentic humanity in being at the service of others.”

—*Orlando E. Costas (Puerto Rico)*⁶



When Jesus tied a towel around his waist and began washing his disciples' feet, this was not an extraordinary act for God but right in line with who he is. Jesus Christ was a servant. He was doing nothing more than expressing the serving heart of God.
—*Erwin McManus (U.S.)*⁷

“Jesus gave us a new norm of greatness...He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That’s a new definition of greatness...You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

—*Martin Luther King, Jr. (U.S.)*⁸

“[Mother Teresa] strode to the rostrum and said, in a firm voice to the awed assembly: ‘We can do no great things; only small things with great love.’ . . . While I wrestle with frustration about the impotence of the individual, she goes right on changing the world. While I wish for more power and resources, she uses her power and resources to do what she can do at the moment.”

—*Mother Teresa, with comment by Robert Fulgrim*⁹

“It is God’s life-changing power that is able to touch every individual, who then has the responsibility to touch the world around him with the absolutes found in the Bible. In the end we must realize that the spirit of the age—with all the loss of truth and beauty, and the loss of compassion and humanness that it has brought—is not merely a cultural ill. It is a spiritual ill that the truth given us in the Bible and Christ alone can cure.”
—*Francis Schaeffer*¹⁰



Introduction

Review of Previous Session

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.



10 min.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Application Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

What comes to your mind when you think of the word “servant”?



Video

1. Introduction
2. Reflections of God's Image
3. God's Image Corrupted



25 min.

Reflections of God's Image

Genesis 1:27

- Linguistic ability
- Relationships
- Moral choice
- Reflection
- Creativity
- Sacrificial – the “crown jewel”

Fig. 12-1

The Corrupted Image

Exchanged servanthood for selfishness

- Relationships – Tyranny
- Moral choice – Ethnic cleansing
– Partial birth abortion
- Reflection – Scheming
- Creativity – Atom bomb
– Chemical warfare

Fig. 12-2



4. God's Image in Jesus

God's Image in Jesus

- Image of the invisible God – Colossians 1:15
- Exact representation of God's being – Hebrews 1:1-3b
- The "crown jewel" – Servanthood – Philippians 2:6-8
- Result of servanthood – Philippians 2:9-11
- Reaffirmed – Jesus came to serve – Matthew 20:28
- We are to exhibit the same characteristic – Philippians 2:5
- The Church fulfills God's agenda as it serves – Ephesians 3:10

5. The Spiritual Discipline of Serving Others

Fig. 12-3

The Discipline of Love Matrix

Contexts for Service	Areas of Need			
	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
Family	1.	2.	3.	4.
Church	5.	6.	7.	8.
Community	9.	10.	11.	12.

Fig. 12-4

6. Spiritual Discipline Guidelines

Guidelines

- Three disciplines a week
 - Prepare in prayer
 - New and small (½ - 1 hour)
 - Point to God's goodness vs. ours
 - Sacrifice personal priorities, not others'
- Attempt numbered squares in order
- Move to new sector of service each week
- Journal
- Review and evaluate

Fig. 12-5

7. Prayer¹¹



Group Exploration



15 min.

1. Can you think of contemporary examples that illustrate what happens when these reflections of God's image are used selfishly?

Linguistic ability:

Intentional relationships:

Moral choice:

Reflection:

Creativity:

2. Jesus fully and perfectly reflected servanthood. The result was that He was given a name above every name. What do you think would be the result if individual Christians were to more fully reflect this characteristic of the image of God?
3. For centuries, the Christian church has encouraged new believers in such disciples as Scripture reading, memorization, prayer, and fasting. Why do you think that the church of today does not also teach the discipline of service, or love?
4. Do you think a discipline like this would change how God's image is reflected through your life? In what ways?
5. What role does sacrifice have in *any* of the spiritual disciplines?
6. If you are convinced of the value of spiritual disciplines, how willing are you to make the sacrifice to further develop the habit of serving others?





SHARPen



Your FOCUS



This application exercise is a spiritual discipline. It has twelve exercises and continues for three weeks.

10 min.

You may want to continue meeting several weeks to encourage each other in your spiritual disciplines—as you do the Follow-Up lesson, video, and group service project.

The discipline in this session is designed to help you practice how to more fully express God's love by serving your family, your church, and your community in four areas of God's concern. The areas are based on the model of wholeness described in Luke 2:52—"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature [physically], and in favor with God [spiritually] and men [socially]." Each exercise is represented by a numbered square in "The Discipline of Love Matrix."

Instructions:

- Each exercise is called a "discipline." Attempt them in any order.
- If you are not able to complete a discipline on the first attempt, try a second time.
- If you are not able to complete it after two tries, move on to the next number.
- Do at least three exercises or disciplines a week.
- *Note:* The areas where you have difficulty generally show where you need to grow.

Use the following process for each discipline:

- Prepare in prayer.
- Choose an action that is new—something that you have not done before.
- The discipline should fit realistically into your existing schedule.
- "Community" services are best done for nonbelievers—or those outside the church—within the domains of society. "Church" exercises are opportunities to serve other believers or the local church itself.
- These disciplines will require a sacrifice of time. The sacrifice should be yours. Do not take time from others in order to do the discipline.
- The disciplines should point to God's goodness, rather than yours.
- Jot a few words in each square as you select an action. See the sample.
- Journal your experience. Reflect on what God is teaching you. See the sample.

IMPORTANT! You are encouraged to do the Follow-Up Session after this lesson. It will help your church or small group serve your community.

	Areas of Need			
	Wisdom	Physical	Spiritual	Social
Contexts for service	Family 1. Discuss one Proverb and how to apply it during family devotions each day this week	2. Wash dishes after evening meal three times this week	3. Ask a different child to lead the family prayer each day this week	4. Go with my spouse on a date without the children
	Church 5. Focus my devotions this week on applying this week's sermon	6. Volunteer to help in the church office one afternoon	7. Spend 15 minutes every day this week praying for our pastor and elders	8. Take a child from church on an outing (a child from a single-parent home)
	Community 9. Visit our elected local leaders to learn about community needs & ask how I can help	10. Take my kids & some donuts to the police station to express thanks	11. Have my neighbor over for tea or dinner	12. Play football with neighborhood kids

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #10

Date: June 5 Community/Physical

Description of Discipline:

I took my kids & 3 dozen donuts to the police station to express thanks. The police were pleased and said so more than once.

What God is teaching me:

Actions speak louder than words. My kids are excited to help others when they see me doing it! One officer stayed and talked on a deeper level. I promised to pray for him and invited him to church. I was really surprised! It sure helped to pray first.

NOTE: You will find twelve ready-to-use journals after the Daily Devotions.





Daily Devotions

1. *Pray that God will open your mind and heart to His truth.*
2. *Memorize and review the Key Verse.*
3. *Do Readings, Reflections, and Responses.*
4. *Pray for the message to take root in your own life.*

Key Verse

Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

Day 1

Reading: Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3; Ephesians 1:22-23

Reflection: How, or in what way, is Christ the image of the invisible God?

Response: Thank God that, in Jesus, we finally saw what God intended when He made us. Write your declaration of praise to God.

Day 2

Reading: Philippians 2:6-8

Reflection: If Christ came as a servant, what does that imply about His Father?

Response: Write the entire passage in your own words. Ask the Father to help you comprehend both God's majesty and His humility.

Day 3

Reading: Philippians 2:9-11

Reflection: Why did God elevate Jesus' name to the ultimate level?

Response: Write the entire passage in your own words. Ask the Lord to give you a greater understanding of the significance of being a servant.

Day 4

Reading: 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Reflection: How could discipline help believers become godly?



Response: Ask the Lord to direct you to areas in which you need further spiritual discipline. What areas are lacking? What disciplines do you need?

Day 5

Reading: Luke 10:25-37; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17-19

Reflection: In what way are these passages related to spiritual discipline?

Response: Ask the Father to further develop in you the godly practice of demonstrating His love to others. What specific ways is He helping you to not miss opportunities to serve?

Day 6: Finale

1. What parts of this twelve-lesson series have been most helpful to you? Why?

2. How do you think the truths communicated in these lessons will impact your family, church, and community?



Discipline of Love Journal

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #1

Date: _____ Family/Wisdom

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #2

Date: _____ Family/Physical

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:



Discipline of Love Journal Entry #3

Date: _____

Family/Spiritual

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #4

Date: _____

Family/Social

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #5

Date: _____ Church/Wisdom

Description of Discipline: _____

What God is teaching me: _____

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #6

Date: _____ Church/Physical

Description of Discipline: _____

What God is teaching me: _____



Discipline of Love Journal Entry #7

Date: _____ Church/Spiritual

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #8

Date: _____ Church/Social

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #9

Date: _____ Community/Wisdom

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #10

Date: _____ Community/Physical

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:



Discipline of Love Journal Entry #11

Date: _____ Community/Spiritual

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Discipline of Love Journal Entry #12

Date: _____ Community/Social

Description of Discipline:

What God is teaching me:

Suggested Resources

1. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II / Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997.
May be downloaded at no expense from www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
Section: Wholistic Ministry Training
 - A Discipline of Love
2. Disciple Nations Web site: www.disciple-nations.org/course
 - Section: Application in Life
3. Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International edition.

Session 12 Endnotes

- ¹ *Man*: The image of God, male and female (Genesis 1:27). Synonymous with “mankind” and “human.”
- ² Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition, 2004), 166.
- ³ Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1978), 15.
- ⁴ Mother Teresa, cited in Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 51,135.
- ⁵ Brazilian students of wholistic ministry, provided by Cleiton and Eleuza Oliveira, Brazil, 2003-04.
- ⁶ Orlando E. Costas, *Christ Outside the Gate* (Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 1982), 12.
- ⁷ Erwin Raphael McManus, *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church GOD Had in Mind* (Flagship Church Resources, Group Publishing), 156.
- ⁸ Martin Luther King, Jr., cited in Rusaw and Swanson, 55.
- ⁹ Robert Fulgrum, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (New York: Ivy Books, 1988), 189-192.
- ¹⁰ Francis Schaeffer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1984), 40.
- ¹¹ This video series was filmed with a North American audience. In it, Darrow and Bob pray for the American church. These messages have been taught around the world, however, and the prayer of Bob and Darrow is that the church of *all* nations be all that God intends.



Notes

Follow-up Session

Your Church—Making It Happen

The church is a window. Through this window, the world should be able to understand God's wonderful intentions to heal its brokenness.



Advance Reading

Bridge

As you finished the last lesson, you were asked to relate how you think the truths communicated in these lessons will impact your family, church, and community.

Preview

Throughout the video series, we explored God's BIG agenda to restore all things to Himself—and the significant role of the local church in this agenda. We looked at biblical worldview as the necessary foundation for cultural transformation. Finally, we were introduced to the Discipline of Love Matrix, a tool that helps *individual believers* develop lifestyles of service.

Now, we look at another DVD, “The Church as a Window: Seed Project Stories from Around the World.” It tells the stories of community ministry carried out by *local churches* in Ethiopia, Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya, Hong Kong, and Uganda. You may already have seen one of these stories as an optional activity for Session 10.

Seed Projects are *short, simple* ministry activities. They are done by a *local church* or small group, whose members sacrificially invest *their own resources* to start a project that demonstrates God's love to *people outside the church*. Seed Projects express the servant lifestyle of the church! As church members complete small projects, their vision and capacity grow for greater community outreach.

Both the Discipline of Love and Seed Projects are important ways of expressing God's Kingdom to the world around us. In the Discipline of Love, the individual is the Kingdom *ambassador*. In Seed Projects, the church is the *embassy* of the Kingdom. Both are vital. In fact, a church should not do Seed Projects unless it is also encouraging its members in daily lives of service.



The Church as a Window illustrates Seed Projects from different nations. None of these examples will be identical to your community. But all churches, everywhere, can follow the same biblical principles to carry out Seed Projects in their communities. God has commissioned His church to be His agent of reconciliation in all domains of life and in all corners of the world. As our own churches become Kingdom embassies within our communities and nations, may we learn from the creativity, perseverance, faith, and sacrificial servanthood of our brothers and sisters around the globe.

For Deeper Understanding

For deeper understanding, read three chapters in *If Jesus Were Mayor*, by Bob Moffitt:

- Chapter 13, “Seed Project Planning”
- Chapter 14, “Planning for Long-Range Impact and Community Transformation”
- The middle section of Appendix A, titled “More Stories from Churches Like Yours”

From your reading, what thoughts most impact you?

“QUOTES”

Read and reflect on “QUOTES” from men and women of God from several cultures. Which of their statements most impacts you? Why?

“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” —*St. Francis*¹

“When I have thought, and even murmured out loud, ‘I don’t think it can happen in my church,’ I can almost hear Jesus’ voice whispering to catch my attention: ‘If that’s all it is, then it really won’t happen. Remember, it isn’t just your church—it’s MY CHURCH!’” —*Sue Mallory (U.S.)*²

“We may not be responsible for the entire history of civilization. But we are responsible for caring for our neighbor, at some cost to ourselves, with all the ability that God has given us.”
—*Miriam Adeney (U.S.)*³

“We need to be like Jesus. Like him, we need to be out in our communities, connecting with people through acts of amazing love . . . while connecting them to a God of amazing grace.”
—*The Externally Focused Church*⁴

“If your church closed up tomorrow, would anyone notice? Would your city protest? Would your city weep? Would anybody care?”
—*Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin (U.S.)*⁵

A group of pastors began monthly meetings with the Mayor, Chief of Police, University President, City Planner, City Attorney, District Attorney. They asked: “Tell us what’s happening—what are the things you’re facing? We would like to pray for you. Are there any problems you face that are really hard, that you can’t think of any solution for?” A number of city officials later said, “The things you prayed for, they came true!” The pastors explained, “The Lord is at work in this city.”
—*CWNews*⁶

“Being an externally focused church means helping the Christians in your church see in a new way. It is about encouraging them to see their world, workplace, and neighborhood as places in which to demonstrate God’s love. It is about helping to open their eyes to the opportunities around them. An external focus is not a tactic or a strategy. It is a transformation.”
—*The Externally Focused Church*⁷

“Embassy is a common metaphor that is used for the church today. An embassy is a window, through which the outside world looks to be able to understand the policies, the intentions, and the purposes of the government it represents. The church is a window. It should be through this window that the world is able to look and to see God’s wonderful intentions for the healing of its brokenness.”
—*Bob Moffitt*⁸





Introduction

Review of Previous Session



10 min.

Summarize the previous session in one or two sentences.

Impact Report

Share impact reports from the Discipline of Love Journal or Daily Devotions.

Opening Question

- If *individual* Christians can take specific steps to develop lifestyles of service, how could local churches and small groups develop *corporate* lifestyles of service? What steps could they take?



Video



40 min.

Watch all or several of the short ministry stories from churches in Ethiopia, Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya, Hong Kong, and Uganda.

1. Introduction
2. Seed Projects in Ethiopia
3. A Lifestyle of "Loving Your Neighbor" in Brazil
4. A Seed Project in Cambodia
5. Long-Term Results in Kenya
6. Seed Projects in Hong Kong
7. A Seed Project in Uganda



Group Exploration



10 min.

1. Which Seed Project example impressed you the most? With which Seed Project story did you most identify?
2. In *The Church as a Window*, how did the people of the churches decide which needs to address? Where did they find the resources they needed?
3. List some needs that exist in your community, *outside* your church. How could a church or small group discover these needs and choose a Seed Project?

Seed Projects are *short, simple* ministry activities. They are done by a *local church* or small group, whose members sacrificially invest *their own resources* to start a project that demonstrates God's love to *people outside the church*.

4. What resources would a church or small group need in order to do Seed Projects in your community? (*Examples:* Workers, contacts, tools, money, ideas, food, flyers, time.) Would most churches or small groups have access to these resources?
5. Note that two important planning guides are included for later use and that an activity for Daily Devotions follows the planning guides.
6. **Brainstorm!** How could we as a church serve as a Kingdom embassy? What are some specific ways that we could practice this lesson?

Take these and other suggestions to the next section . . .





SHARPen



Your Focus

After this session, you are encouraged to:

- Continue to do short, individual *Discipline of Love* exercises. Encourage one another in this lifestyle!
- Meet again to pray, plan, carry out, and evaluate a *Seed Project*. A *Seed Project Planning Guide* is included.
- After your first *Seed Project*, meet again and plan for ongoing outreach. A *Window of Vision* is included.

1. As you meet with a small group (eight to ten people), prayerfully ask: “Lord, how would you like us to apply what we have learned?” Ideally, people from the same or similar churches talk and plan together.
2. After prayerful reflection and discussion, select a Seed Project. Use your group’s suggestions, or look for other activities that will SHARPen your church’s ministry focus in your community. Church and community leaders may be able to help you identify needs.
3. Next, list the specific steps in the Seed Project Planning Guide.
4. Carry out your planned Seed Project. As you complete the Seed Project, take photos, keep a journal, and evaluate the project.
5. For ongoing impact, use the Window of Vision to plan a balanced variety of community ministry over a chosen period of time.

You can learn more about Seed Projects and Long-Range Planning:

- Get lessons and forms at www.harvestfoundation.org/materials. Look for Seed Projects among the wholistic ministry training tools.
- See Seed Project stories at www.harvestfoundation.org/stories.
- See *If Jesus Were Mayor* (by Bob Moffitt) for forms, stories, and detailed information. See Chapter 13, Chapter 14, and Appendix A.

Seed Project Planning Guide

1. Problem: _____
2. God's intention: _____ 3. Scripture: _____
4. Seed Project title: _____ 5.
- Primary impact area*: _____ 6. Secondary impact area(s)*: _____

Steps	Persons or institutions to consult	Resources needed	Person(s) responsible	Action date(s)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

*Impact areas: Wisdom, Physical, Spiritual, or Social



Window of Vision

Long-Range Planning for Seed Projects and Disciplines of Love

Time Period: _____

<p style="text-align: center;">Wisdom</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines of Love (Ongoing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines of Love (Ongoing)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Physical</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines of Love (Ongoing)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Social</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines of Love (Ongoing)</p>

This may be the only window through which the watching world will see and be touched by God's love!



Daily Devotions

Key Verse

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24

Reading: Study "I Know Your Deeds."⁹ It begins below and continues on the following page. Note that the bold letters were added for emphasis.

Reflection: Reflect daily on several verses.

Response: Mark verses that particularly strike you. Meditate on them. As you do, make notes of what you believe God wants you to learn and do.

"I KNOW YOUR DEEDS"

"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. . . . I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that now you are doing more than you did at first. . . . I will repay each of you according to your deeds. . . . I know your deeds . . . I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. . . . I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. . . . I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot." —Jesus Christ, to John, for the churches (Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, selected)

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and **prove their repentance by their deeds.**" —Paul, speaking to King Agrippa (Acts 26:20b)

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the **obedience that comes from faith.** —Paul, greeting the Romans (Romans 1:5)

God "will give to each person **according to what he has done.**" To those who by **persistence in doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. —Paul, writing to the Romans (Romans 2:6-10)



I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by **what I have said and done**—by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit.

—Paul, to the Romans (Romans 15:18-19a)

Keeping God's commands is what counts.

—Paul, to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 7:19b)

The only thing that counts is **faith expressing itself through love**.

—Paul, to the Galatians (Galatians 5:6b)

We continually remember before our God and Father your **work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love**, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Paul, greeting the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says**.

—James, writing to Jewish Christians who had been scattered throughout the world (James 1:22)

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to **look after orphans and widows in their distress** . . . —James (James 1:27a)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward **love and good deeds**.

—The writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 10:24)

Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

—Paul, to the Galatians (Galatians 6:9-10)

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your **good deeds** and praise your Father in heaven.

—Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:16)

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

—Jesus, teaching the disciples (Matthew 25:40)

Our people must learn to **devote themselves to doing what is good**, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

—Paul, to Titus (Titus 3:14)

For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

—Paul, to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:10)

Endnotes to the Follow-Up Session

- ¹ St Francis, available at www.quotationreference.com.
- ² Sue Mallory, *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives* (Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001), 138.
- ³ Miriam Adeney, *God's Foreign Policy* (Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1984), 115.
- ⁴ Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, *The Externally Focused Church* (Loveland CO: Group, 2004), 7.
- ⁵ Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin, taken from Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition), 169, and Rusaw and Swanson, 141.
- ⁶ Wendy Griffith, "Faith and Works Move Mountains in Boulder" (*Christian World News*, December 10, 2004, available at www.cbn.com.)
- ⁷ Rusaw and Swanson, 152.
- ⁸ Bob Moffitt, "The Church as a Window" (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2003, video).
- ⁹ Bob Moffitt, *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004, International edition, 2004), 148-149.



Information for the Public

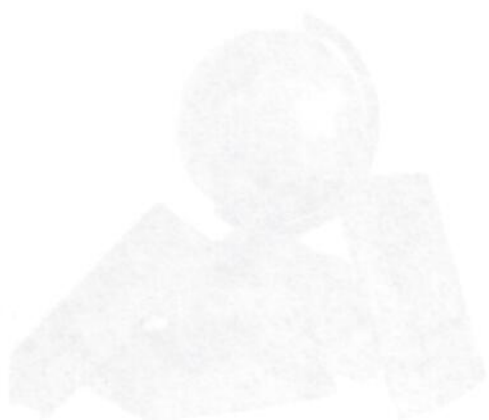
The purpose of this information is to provide you with the information you need to understand the process of the public hearing and to help you prepare for the hearing. This information is provided to you in a plain language format. It is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should consult with a lawyer. The information is provided to you in a plain language format. It is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should consult with a lawyer. The information is provided to you in a plain language format. It is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. If you need legal advice, you should consult with a lawyer.



Facilitator's Guide



Facilitator's Guide



How to Facilitate the Series

Dear Facilitator:

You are the key! There are many things you can do to make the video series come alive to participants, but nothing is as powerful as when you live these concepts yourself. In this Facilitator's Guide are hints for preparation and and effective facilitation—and a useful outline of the Key Ideas presented in each video.

PREPARATION

PROMOTING & SCHEDULING

- Invite potential participants. Order sufficient workbooks for each participant.
- Select the best Introductory Session to connect the video series to *your* group. The options are explained in the front pages of this workbook.
- Video sessions are designed for a one-hour meeting per week in adult Sunday Schools, small groups, and training seminars and schools. Longer meeting or class times will allow for better discussion and implementation.
- Though adaptable, the curriculum is designed for small groups of 8 to 20 people.

PREPARING EACH SESSION

- Review the Advanced Reading. Locate the Key Ideas in this Facilitator's Guide.
- Preview the video, watching for Key Ideas.
- Review the Opening Questions, Scriptures, and Group Exploration questions.
- Look for the lesson's concepts in daily life or current news and events.
- Pray regularly for each participant. Do everything you ask participants to do!
- Design assignments to suit your group. For example, an academic training school might be assigned more Advanced Reading assignments than a Sunday School.

MAKING THE WORKBOOK WORK FOR YOU







- Be familiar with the front pages, lesson format, Facilitator's Guide, and Appendix.
- Use the workbook during and between group sessions.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A DVD player or VCR
- Flexible seating—a circle or semi-circle is recommended
- Workbooks, pens, Bibles for each group member (The NIV was used in this series.)
- Youth leaders may order a supplementary guide.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE GROUP

 <p>Advance Reading</p>	<p>-Read this section before the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Preview" • "Quotes" • Readings "For Deeper Understanding"
 <p>Key Ideas</p>	<p>-Locate Key Ideas list before previewing the video. -Be familiar with these to guide discussion.</p>
 <p>Video</p>	<p>-Preview the video. Take good notes.</p>
 <p>Group Exploration</p>	<p>-Preview questions and Scriptures.</p>
 <p>SHARPen Your Focus</p>	<p>-Complete a SHARPening action each week.</p>
 <p>Daily Devotions</p>	<p>-Complete Daily Devotions each week.</p>





DURING EACH SESSION

Each session consists of . . .

- 1 hour of meeting time (video and group discovery), **FOLLOWED BY . . .**
- 5 days of daily devotions on the topic (1 Scripture memorization)
- 1 hands-on application
- 1 day of Bridge thinking and Advance Reading for the next topic

*May be ordered from www.harvestfoundation.org or www.ywampublishing.com.

HOW TO FACILITATE GROUP SESSIONS

 Introduction	<p>Introductory Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce yourself and each other. - Using the workbook, briefly show the parts of a lesson. - Describe what happens between sessions—Advance Reading, Daily Devotions, and SHARPen Your Focus. - Encourage participants to fill out Commitment page. - Show the Introductory Session that best suits <i>your</i> group. <p>Sessions 1-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask someone to summarize last week's session. - Have a few report on their applications or devotions. - Briefly refer to today's theme from Bridge/Advance Reading. - Ask Opening Question(s) to lead into today's theme. <p>Follow-Up Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite a few reports of Disciplines of Love. - Refer to today's theme from Advance Reading. - Leave time for a longer video.
 Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show the video. Encourage good note-taking.
 Group Exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask questions. Allow time for a variety of responses. - Glance at Key Ideas to guide the group in discovery. - Encourage everyone to participate. - Add clarification or follow-up questions, if needed. - Ask the group to brainstorm applications.
 SHARPen Your Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have participants meet in pairs or small groups. - Urge them to prayerfully decide how to SHARPen their focus. <p>Session 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read and review this section together. - Invite questions. - Pray for one another. <p>Follow-Up Session(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Seed Project Planning Guide and Window of Vision. - Set additional times to meet, plan, and do Seed Projects.
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage between-session activities—Advance Reading, Daily Devotions, and SHARPen Your Focus. - Close in prayer.



25 Hints for Effective Facilitation and Discovery

1. Aim to build relationships and trust.
2. Pray together.
3. Stay on schedule.
4. Keep the focus, questions, goal, Key Ideas, life application, and clock in mind.
5. Although there is a video, your preparation is vital to leading a good discussion.
6. Invite impact reports from several participants each week.
7. Get people involved. Invite input: "James, what do you think about this?"
8. Value each person's comments and insights. Be affirming.
9. Help people talk with each *other*. They should not respond only to you.
10. Pose a question and wait. If no one responds, rephrase the question. Do not answer it.
11. Do not look for only one right answer.
12. Pose follow-up questions, clarification questions, and summarization questions—if needed—to draw participants toward truth. Ask one question at a time.
13. Never quote Key Ideas directly, but use them to check participants' understanding.
14. Don't let a few people dominate the discussion.
15. Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion but avoid putting people "on the spot." Pose non-threatening questions.
16. Listen carefully. This is key!
17. Summarize what was discovered in dialogue.
18. The best small-group size varies, but is generally 8 to 12 people. If the group is exceptionally large and space allows, use more discovery groups and facilitators.
19. Set up a comfortable atmosphere, without distractions.
20. Sit (do not stand) to facilitate, unless the group is too large for you to be seen or heard.
21. Do not lecture. Discovery learning is dynamic.
22. Use moveable chairs in a circle or semi-circle for the video and group dialogue. Quickly turn chairs from video viewing to small-group discussions and back.
23. Emphasize that this series is not designed for information—but real-life application.
24. Do everything you ask participants to do! Share your experiences as needed.
25. Read the helpful article, "Effective Facilitation and Discovery Learning." It is located after Key Ideas in this Facilitator's Guide.

PARTICIPANT OBJECTIVES: Participants should . . .

- Memorize the Key Verse and do Daily Devotions
- Discover and recall at least half of the Key Ideas
- Carry out activities that reflect the lesson's implications
- Become increasingly aware of a biblical worldview and lifestyle for all of life



Key Ideas

A NOTE ABOUT KEY IDEAS

- Key Ideas for each lesson are listed below. Study them as you prepare.
- During group discussion, you may want to double-check Key Ideas to see if the group is discovering and recognizing the most important points.
- Please **DO NOT**
 - Read them to the group
 - Use them as lecture notes
 - Give the impression that “the right answers” are in the back of the book

KEY IDEAS for Introductory Session - OPTION 1 (Loren Cunningham)

- Social transformation begins with the individual and the Word of God. Individuals, communities, and nations are transformed by the Word.
- Transformation spreads into societies by moving into every major sphere of society—social relationships, religion, education, media, arts, economics, and government. The spheres of society change as individuals are disciplined and changed by the Word. Individuals are disciplined as followers of Christ model, teach, and coach.
- Towns are “baptized” as they die to their old worldviews and are resurrected to the worldview of Jesus and Scripture.
- Nations are disciplined as they operate according to the Word of God. Nations were created by God, and can be sanctified through the Word and prayer.
- Through the Word, God changes individuals, families, communities, nations, and the nations of the world.

Example: Norway was transformed when Hans Nelsen Hauge taught his fellow countrymen to integrate God’s principles from the Bible into every aspect of life. As they did, they were positioned to lead Norway as it changed from one of the poorest nations of the world—to one of the freest, richest, and most educated.

Example: The Word addresses the three common problems of poor nations—unbridled greed, corruption, and injustice.



KEY IDEAS for Introductory Session – OPTION 2 (Gary Edmonds)

- Throughout biblical history, God used people of faith to rebuild, restore, and renew the devastated cities and nations of the world. The pattern continues—the glory and honor of nations will be brought into the new city at the end of time.
- The people of the church will one day present our cities and nations as a beautiful offering to God. These will be nations that fear God; care for people; and experience generosity, sufficiency, justice, dignity, and righteous social structures. They will exemplify God's Kingdom and His will being done on earth as in heaven.
- Often, souls get converted, but minds are not converted. A biblical worldview will transform attitudes, behavior, and social systems.
- The local church has a role and high calling. The church is to be engaged in Jesus' work—to make all things new.
- The church is God's sustaining instrument to transform cities and nations. He has strategically placed churches in communities and nations for this time.
- The church is to equip people for works of service, moving them out of the church and into all spheres of society.
- There is collective power when God's people do His work where they are. Example: a Seattle coffee shop manager, a pregnant "street woman," and area churches.
- The people of the church need to understand that God has called them to be involved in bringing His Kingdom—on earth as it is in heaven.

KEY IDEAS for Session 1 - God's All-Encompassing Agenda

- God's agenda is reflected in His pleasure about each stage of the creation.
- God's purpose was that all creation enjoy the blessing that comes from living the way God intended. But mankind fell, and all creation experienced brokenness.
- God's concern for all creation was again expressed after the Flood, when God made a covenant with the earth, with all living things, and with Noah and his posterity.
- God BIG agenda includes the healing of nations and their societies.
- Jesus ministered to various kinds of brokenness He encountered.
- God's BIG agenda is reflected in the shedding of Jesus' blood for the restoration of "all things."
- God's agenda is for more than the spiritual salvation of the individual--but the redemption of all physical, spiritual, and social brokenness.
- God's agenda will be accomplished. Our part in it depends on our understanding and participation. People should see God's BIG agenda when they look at our lives.

KEY IDEAS for Session 2 - God's Agenda and the Church

- God placed everything under Christ for the church. The church is "the fullness of Christ." This fullness of Christ is love.
- The overarching job description of church leaders is to equip the members of the church, wherever they are, for works of service.

- Good works bring unity, maturity, and the vigor of Christ's fullness to the church. They come progressively, as the church does works of service.
- God put all things under Christ for the church because He ordained the church to be the principal agent to accomplish His agenda.
- The church disciplines its nation as it equips its members to accomplish God's purpose in each of the spheres where they live and work.
- The church fulfills its role as it equips its people to move into all creation, doing works of service that express God's concern for the restoration of all things.

KEY IDEAS for Session 3 - The Transforming Story

- A narrative is a story with a beginning, middle, and end. The Bible's narrative is a "grand story." It begins with creation and ends as Christ returns for His church.
- The Gospel—the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—is the focal point of the biblical narrative and of all human history, but it is not the whole story.
- The Bible is a grand story that has the ability to transform individual lives; lift communities out of poverty; and build nations that are free, just, and compassionate.
- The flow of biblical history is seen in the *scope* of the Bible: Creation—Fall—Redemption—Consummation.
- The grand story of the Bible has *depth*:
 - ❖ It answers metaphysical questions: What is true? What is good? What is beautiful?
 - ❖ It reveals the nature of God, man, and creation.
- We are no longer telling the whole transforming story. Today's churches often use only the New Testament or the Gospels. If the church is not discipling the nations, the nations are discipling the church.

KEY IDEAS for Session 4 - Why the Church is Failing to Fulfill God's BIG

Agenda

- God has used the church of history to set the stage for significant societal transformation. A primary example is the early church and the Roman Empire. The tiny band of early Christians established a new view of humanity—and impacted an empire. (Other societal impact came through the church of Reformation Europe, the church of the Wesleyan Revival in England, and the church of the Great Awakenings in America.)
- Around the world today, dramatic increases in numbers of new believers and new churches do not seem to be accompanied by the healing of broken societies. We are not seeing our cultures transformed.
- Isaiah 58 gives us an insight into why this might be so:
 - ❖ God told His people of Old Testament Israel that they did not understand what it means to worship Him.
 - ❖ God explained that acceptable worship includes (1) the demonstration of His concern for the oppressed; (2) ceasing from "pointing of the finger and



- malicious talk;” and (3) honoring God with traditional expressions of worship.
- Six passages in the New Testament summarize the Law and the Prophets, revealing that the way to show love for God is by demonstrating His love to others.
- Today’s church seems effectively engaged in evangelism, spiritual discipleship, and church planting—but it may be neglecting the sufficient practice and teaching of the demonstration of God’s love.
- The Kingdom of God will not come in its fullness until Christ returns, but Jesus asked us to be found busy with our Master’s agenda when He comes (Matthew 24:46).

KEY IDEAS for Session 5 - Worldview Shift

- We are not telling the whole story because we no longer function by a biblical worldview. In the West, biblical theism was replaced by deism, which is now replaced by secularism. Secularism is also known as materialism or naturalism.
- As secularism entered, most Christian leaders abandoned the biblical worldview.
 - ❖ One segment of the church accommodated secularism and became known as liberalism or social gospel.
 - ❖ Another segment rejected secularism in society and the social gospel in the church. As evangelical gnostics, they adopted a Greek worldview, in which the spiritual was sacred and the physical was profane.
- These conflicting paradigms influenced Bible schools, seminaries, pastors, and missionaries who were sent all over the world and planted churches that reflected their own paradigms. Some planted churches with gnostic paradigms; others planted churches with naturalistic paradigms.
- All Christians are in full-time service.

KEY IDEAS for Session 6 - The Cost to the Church

- Christians have become dichotomized. We live in two worlds. Many have a gnostic worldview in our religious lives and a secular worldview in our work lives.
- The dichotomized message and life have cost the church. We have lost (1) the Christian mind; (2) the concept of the church; (3) the Great Commandment; (4) the role of the church in society; (5) the Great Commission; (6) God’s big agenda; and (7) the understanding of Christ as King, today.
- We need to restore the basic principles:
 - ❖ Jesus is King. He reigns over heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18, Isaiah 9:7).
 - ❖ His primary agenda is to advance the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:9-10).
 - ❖ The Kingdom advances by making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).
 - ❖ The key agent in this task is the local church (Ephesians 3: 9-11).
 - ❖ The ministry of the local church must be wholistic¹ (Colossians 1:19-20).
 - ❖ The ministry of the local church must be incarnational² (John 17: 15-19).
 - ❖ The church must operate from the biblical worldview. This is the necessary foundation on which to build all basic principles (Colossians 1:15,16).

KEY IDEAS for Session 7 - The ABC's of Culture

- Ignorance and lies form the foundation for a community's (or nation's) destruction. Knowledge and truth form the foundation for its development.
- Satan is the father of lies. He lies to individuals and to nations. When we believe his lies, we are enslaved and impoverished.
- Satan lies at the level of culture. Nations need to be disciplined at the level of culture.
- The Bible uses the Greek word, *stoicheia*, for the first, elementary, or fundamental principles upon which societies are built. *Stoicheia* are the ABC's of culture.
- Kingdom building blocks are at the foundation of strong nations. Satan uses counterfeit building blocks (foundational principles) to enslave whole nations, cause destruction, and bring injustice. Counterfeit building blocks lie to cultures about racial inequality, quality of life, and gender issues.
- Every society's foundation has both truth and lies. The more truth there is in a society, the more freedom, justice, and compassion are found. The more lies, the greater the enslavement, corruption, and cruelty.
- Ideas enter into the laws, structures, and institutions of societies. We need to lay Kingdom principles at the foundation of nations. If the church is not proactively disciplining its nation at the level of culture with Kingdom principles, it will, instead, be reflecting the "demonic influences" that "invade human institutions."³

KEY IDEAS for Session 8 - The Spread of Ideas

- A tree's root determines its fruit. A culture's root (beliefs) determine its fruit (consequences). We have to change beliefs in order to change consequences.
- Ideas spread *horizontally* (around the world), *temporally* (through time), and *vertically* (permeating culture). Ideas penetrate cultures, moving from intellectuals, to balladeers, to professionals—who institutionalize them for the common man.
- The church has focused on getting the Gospel around the world but has largely forgotten that the Gospel is meant to penetrate culture.
- The cross has redeemed the cultural mandate⁴ of Genesis 1:26-28. Christians are makers of culture. Kingdom culture is to be lived and proclaimed by *all* Christians.
- The "three faces of culture" are truth, justice, and beauty.
- The Great Commission has three major expressions. It spreads through all the world, through all nations and people groups, and through all creation. It progressively brings Kingdom culture to all three realms.

KEY IDEAS for Session 9 - The Church as a Window

- The community needs to see God's big agenda by looking at the church.
- Mankind is sinful. Without God's mercy, we would be objects of His wrath. But He so loved His creation that He sent Jesus to save it, rather than condemn it.
- The evangelical church often communicates the Gospel as the Good News for the future, but neglects to communicate its implications for the present. The Good News for the present involves God's people doing God's will.



- God's will is perfectly done in heaven, and Jesus taught us to pray that God's will would be done on earth as it is done in heaven. God has given His people instructions about how we are to live in our personal lives, with our families, with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and with the world.
- If all Christians obeyed these instructions, the impact on society would be dramatic—there would be Good News for a broken world.
- A wall of brokenness and sin is created when the church disobeys God's instructions for life, relationships, and service. The wall prevents broken humanity from seeing God's good intentions for the present, as well as the future.
- The church is a "window" in that wall. Through the window, God intends the world to see His concern for people's spiritual, physical, social, and wisdom needs.
- Individual churches need to be careful to proclaim and express God's concern in all areas of man's need, in order to serve as effective windows of God's love.
- *Ambassador, embassy, salt, light, legible letter, and good neighbor* metaphorically describe how Christians and the church express God's intentions to a broken world.

KEY IDEAS for Session 10 - Kingdom Math

- All believers are called to invest what they have in the Kingdom. Nobody is exempt. But God gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- All Christians have "talent banks"—of material and nonmaterial resources. God is more concerned that we make available to Him whatever is in our hand, than whether it is large or small. He has chosen to use our obedient, sacrificial giving.
- Nothing we give is too little or insignificant—talent, time, material things, prayer, love, or other resource (Mark 12:41- 44). The Bible implies that the greater our sacrifice, the greater the multiplication.
- Biblical giving requires faith, risk, and a lack of fear. There are drastic consequence for not investing what God has given us into His Kingdom (Matthew 25:25-30).
- Our obligation is to give to God whatever we have, wherever we are.

KEY IDEAS for Session 11 - The Gates of the City

- As the body of Christ, we are to be in the world, just as He was in the world. We are to represent Him in the broken world. Christ's call is for the church to impact the world by being "*in* the world but *not of* the world."
- Many churches today are indistinguishable from the world. Conformed to the world, they are "*in* the world and *of* the world." Still other churches have disengaged from the world. They are "*in* the church (building) and *out of* the world."
- The church is a people, not a building. The people gather for worship and equipping, and then they scatter into the community, marketplace, and public square to work, love, and serve Christ and His Kingdom.
- The gates of the cities of the Old Testament were not only the defensive points, but they were the places of public life. The elders, or leaders, sat at the gates of the city to influence and govern the life of the city and the nation.

- The domains of society—social, government and law, education, health, art, business and economics, science and health—represent the modern equivalent of the gates of the city. Christians are to be engaged in these arenas.
- The church is to equip its people to serve in the gates of the city. Christians are to occupy the gates of the city as they heed Christ's words to love and serve Him.
- Christ has equipped each person to occupy the gates of the city. We are to connect our life and work to the gates of the city—for the sake of our communities and nations—and for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

KEY IDEAS for Session 12 - The Discipline of Love

- Scripture gives high value to service. Mankind is created in God's image, reflected in our abilities in linguistics, relationships, moral choice, reflection, creativity, and sacrificial service. Without service, the other attributes can be used for destruction.
- Jesus was the first person since the Fall to fully reflect God's image. Servanthood is singled out as the reason for Jesus' highest honor (Philippians 2:9).
- Christ accomplished God's agenda—His purpose—through servanthood.
- The greatest characteristic of God's image in man is sacrificial servanthood. Christians are called to have the same attitude as Christ (Philippians 2:5). God's agenda will be accomplished through the servanthood of His people and body, the church.
- The Discipline of Love matrix is a discipline that trains people to voluntarily, naturally, sacrificially serve others—to habitually care for the broken and needy.
- (1) Do three disciplines per week; (2) Try numbered squares in order; (3) Move to a new sector of service each week; (4) Journal; (5) Review and evaluate.
- Disciplines should (1) be prepared in prayer; (2) be new and small; (3) point to God's goodness; and (4) require personal sacrifice of ourselves (not of others).
- Disciplines move us from the *law* of the discipline to the *spirit* of the law, which is grace.

KEY IDEAS for the Follow-Up Session - Your Church—Making It Happen

- The church is like an embassy, a window through which the outside world looks to understand the policies, intentions, and purposes of the government it represents. Through the window of the church, people should be able to see God's wonderful intentions for the healing of the world's brokenness. One of the ways this happens is a simple tool called "Seed Projects. The video illustrates Seed Projects from different nations—from Hong Kong, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Cambodia.
- Seed Projects are short, simple ministry activities. They are done by a local church or small group. Church or group members sacrificially invest their own resources to demonstrate God's love to people outside the church. As church members complete small projects, they gain vision and ability for greater community outreach.
- Seed Projects develop a lifestyle of service for the local church, just as Disciplines of Love help individual members of the church develop lifestyles of service.





Background Reading

EFFECTIVE FACILITATION & DISCOVERY LEARNING

On Earth AS IT IS IN Heaven encourages group participation and real-life applications. Participants are actively involved in the learning process, and the facilitator's role differs from that of a traditional teacher. The following thoughts will help you serve as an effective facilitator.

Adult Learning

Think about the best teachers you ever had. What distinguished them from the rest? Was it *what* they taught, *how* they helped you learn, or simply *who* they were that made a life-changing impact on you? There are many dynamics that contribute to effective learning experiences, and many of these dynamics change as we do. In fact, the kind of teaching that may have been effective in your youth may *not* be the same kind of teaching that will impact you today.

There are many reasons for this but, simply put, adults learn differently than children and, typically, have different learning objectives. As adults, we want to learn things that are immediately relevant to our lives. We want more than facts—we want insights that relate to our personal experiences. When it comes to learning about and living out our faith, this distinction becomes even more critical.

Adult learning is more of a process than a series of events. This is especially true when the learning involves Christian discipleship—developing biblical lifestyles in every area of life. In effective adult discipleship, the learner takes center stage, not the teacher. Why? The Holy Spirit is the real teacher, using God's Word and learners' life experiences to reinforce Kingdom principles!

In this series, participants learn through a process of discovery. Facilitators know they have succeeded when participants experience an "*Aha!*" moment, respond enthusiastically to what the Holy Spirit has taught them, and apply it to their daily lives.

Learning Goal: Life Application

On Earth AS IT IS IN Heaven has been designed to help followers of Christ live under God's direction—putting into action what they learn from Scripture. With this as our goal, *how* people learn is almost as important as *what* they learn. How they learn influences what they will *do* with their newly acquired knowledge.



Do you remember Jesus' words at the end of one of His most significant teachings, the Sermon on the Mount? He said, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock . . . but everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand" (Matthew 7:24,26). Jesus was not giving a lesson in civil engineering! He was speaking about the purpose of teaching: providing practical wisdom for life. Putting Christ's teachings into action gives us insight into God's truth, transforms our inner beings, and offers hope for a better future. Merely hearing His teachings—without action—leads to pride, arrogance, and isolation from a world that desperately needs God's touch.

Thus, these group sessions and mid-week activities emphasize personal application. Participants are encouraged to record their experiences and reflections—and each session begins with impact reports of personal applications and discoveries.

Leading People to Action

If our local churches are to live biblically and demonstrate God's love to our neighbors, we need more than head knowledge. Our training should lead people to action! Most church leaders would agree, but many do not understand the limitations of lecture-style teaching. Large-group settings are wonderful for corporate worship, but small-group settings are far more effective as people wrestle with biblical principles and how they apply to life. Small groups are the ideal context for interactive teaching materials.

The Dynamics of Community

As small groups learn and discover together, they develop a common set of values, based on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them. As they study Scripture together and challenge one another to integrate biblical principles into all of life, the Kingdom of God begins to take shape—on earth as it is in heaven! Iron sharpens iron. The yeast spreads through the dough. Wounded hearts make peace with adversaries. Receivers become givers. Pew-sitters move into service. Individuals and entire communities begin to experience God's love and discover His redemptive purposes.

Focus on Renewing the Heart and Mind

As organizations that began by facilitating Two-Thirds World relief and development projects, Harvest (which Bob Moffitt heads) and Food for the Hungry International (where Darrow Miller serves) care deeply about the conditions that cause hardship and suffering among the poor.

Yet, our experience has shown us that long-term change is not the by-product of providing communities with material resources. A change in external circumstances alone does not produce long-range change. Long-term change must be values-based,

transforming the hearts and minds of individuals. Jesus said that the fruit that we bear in our lives is the overflow of our hearts. Paul challenged the early church to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. Both Jesus and Paul knew that inward changes must take place before there can be lasting outward changes in behavior.

People who have experienced such internal life changes should be contagious! As our individual lives are transformed, so are families, communities, and—ultimately—societies.

This is the aim of Christ-centered teaching—giving salt to a world that needs flavor. This kind of learning is a process of discovery, leading people to a personal knowledge of God Himself. Effective facilitation for discovery learning requires patience and skill, but the results—seeing God’s Kingdom advance and biblical principles integrated with life—are worth the effort.

Baseline Premises

On Earth AS IT IS IN Heaven was developed using these premises:

- The goal of Christian discipleship is to develop people who honor the Lordship of Christ and integrate biblical principles in every area of their lives.
- Discipleship is built on content and application in real-life settings.
- The foundation of the content is Scripture, which has power to change lives.
- God’s Spirit lives and works within us, giving us wisdom and strength and urging us to live as God intends.

The Most Important Characteristic

One day, theologian Karl Barth was teaching seminary students. He wanted to give them the secret of being a successful pastor. They all took out their notebooks to record this important truth. He told them to put their books away, since they wouldn’t forget what he would say. This secret, he said, has three points. The first key to being a successful pastor was to “love the people.” The second key to success was to “love the people.” And the third was (*you guessed it!*) to “love the people.” The key to successful Christian discipleship is the same. No matter how good our facilitation techniques or training materials, if we do not love the people, we will not succeed. Do you want to help people become practical, devoted followers of Jesus? “Love the people!”



manipulating the hearts and minds of individual Jews and that the first that we
met in our lives is the world of our hearts. I had challenged the early church to be
transferred to the necessary of their minds. But I saw and felt that the inward
change must take place before there can be lasting outward change in behavior.

People who have experienced such inward life change should be encouraged to
individual lives, in relationships, in our families, communities and—ultimately—
in the world.

This is the way of Christ-centered teaching—giving up to a world that needs it.
This kind of learning is a process of the heart leading people to a personal knowledge
of God through His love. It is the way of the heart leading people to personal and skill,
but the heart is the key. Kingdom values and biblical principles integrated
with the heart is the key.

Based on 1 Timothy

On the way to the heart, we are directed using these promises:

- * The heart is the key to the kingdom. It is the heart that leads people who believe the Kingdom
of God to live and apply biblical principles in every area of their lives.
- * The heart is the key to the Kingdom. It is the heart that leads people to live the Kingdom.
- * The heart is the key to the Kingdom. It is the heart that leads people to change lives.
- * The heart is the key to the Kingdom. It is the heart that leads people to give to others and bring
to the Kingdom of God.

The Most Important Characteristics

One day, the apostle Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy. He wanted to give
into the heart of Paul a message of power. They all took out their notebooks to
write the message down. He told them to get their books ready since they would
begin when he would say. The apostle said, his dear friend, the first key to bring
success to the Kingdom was to "love the people." The second key to success was to "love the
people." And the third was to "love the people." The key to success was
Christian discipleship in the heart. The message how good our intention to minister to
others is, we do not love the people, we will not succeed. Do this and we
help people become a nation of love. Love the people.



Appendix



Appendix



Glossary

Biblical wholism: A mindset that understands the world according to God's whole agenda, as revealed in Scripture.

Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation: The flow of biblical history. *Creation* occurred in the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth. The *Fall* describes man's rebellion against God (Genesis 3) and the consequences of that sin for man and creation. *Redemption* includes Christ's life, death, and resurrection to reconcile all things to Himself. Finally, *Consummation* will be the end of history, when Christ comes back in His glory to judge the living and the dead, to marry His bride the Church, and to bring to completion the process of redemption.

Cultural mandate: God has a purpose for mankind on earth, established in Genesis 1:26-28. People were placed on earth to be God's stewards, to have dominion over creation. Mankind is to be a maker of culture. This mandate is called the "development mandate," "creation mandate," or "cultural mandate."

Deism: The worldview that assumes that God created the universe and then left it alone. God is Creator, but not Lord and Savior.

Domains of society: The domains of a society are the primary sectors that influence and shape the life of the society. Education, science, and the arts are examples of domains.

Dualism: The Greek worldview that the universe is divided between the spiritual and physical realms. The spiritual realm is high; the physical realm is low. Dualism is a synonym for *evangelical gnosticism*.

Evangelical gnosticism: A synonym for *dualism*.

Incarnational ministry: Jesus was God in human flesh, and the church—the body of Christ—is to represent Christ "in the flesh" as it serves the people of its community, nation, and world.

Man: The image of God, male and female (Genesis 1:27). Synonymous with "mankind" and "human."

Metaphysical: Literally means "beyond the physical." Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that answers the question, "What is real?" The metaphysical story of Scripture describes the nature of God, man, and creation. It defines truth, goodness, and beauty.

Meta-narrative: The grand story or worldview of a culture that explains the nature of God, creation, and man and that also describes what is true, good, and beautiful.

Modernism: Thought governed by philosophic atheism, rationalism, or secularism. *Narrative:* A story that has a beginning, middle, and end and is written for a purpose.

Narrative: A story that has a beginning, middle, and end and is written for a purpose.

Post-modernism: The current cultural mindset in the Western world, in which reality is defined in the mind of each individual. (There is no meta-narrative.)



Secularism: The worldview that the universe is only physical. There is no God or spiritual reality. A synonym for naturalism.

Wholistic ministry: Ministry that reflects God's concerns for whole persons and the whole of creation.

Worldview: A set of assumptions, held consciously or unconsciously, about the basic makeup of the world and about how the world works.

Biblical Worldview Resources

Suggested or Cited in this Workbook

- Adeney, Miriam. *God's Foreign Policy*. Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984.
- Barna, George and Barna Research Institute. "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life." December 2003. Available from www.barna.org. Internet.
- Bratt, James D. *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader*. Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Erdmans Publishing, 1998.
- Cassidy, Michael in Bush, Luis K. ed.. *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church's Mission*. Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004.
- Colson, Chuck. *Kingdoms in Conflict*. Zondervan, 1987.
- Colson, Chuck and Nancy Pearcey, *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999.
- Costas, Orlando E. *Christ Outside the Gate*. Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 1982.
- Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1978.
- Fulgrum, Robert. *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. New York: Ivy Books, 1988.
- Grant, George. *The Micah Mandate*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1995.
- Griffith, Wendy. "Faith and Works Move Mountains in Boulder," in *Christian World News*. December 10, 2004. Available at www.cbn.com.
- Griffiths, Lawn. "Reaching a prodigal child," in *East Valley/Scottsdale Tribune*, December 18, 2004, F1.
- Guinness, Os. "The Devil's Gauntlet," in David J. Gyertson, ed., *Salt & Light: A Christian Response to Current Issues*. Christian Broadcasting Network, 1993.
- Harvest and Food for the Hungry. "The Church as a Window." Phoenix AZ. 2004. Video.
- Jones, Douglas and Douglas Wilson. *Angels in the Architecture*. Moscow ID: Canon Press, 1998.
- King, Jr., Martin Luther. *Strength to Love*. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1964.
- Kuyper, Abraham. *The Crown of Christian Heritage* [originally published as *Lectures on Calvinism*, by Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1931]. New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors P. Ltd., 1994.
- Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Luther, Martin. *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*. Available from www.ctsfw.edu/etext/luther/babylonian.htm#about.
- Maggay, Melba Padilla. *Transforming Society*. Quezon City, Philippines: Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 1996.
- Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Mangalwadi, Ruth and Vishal Mangalwadi. *The Legacy of William Carey*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1999.



- Mangalwadi, Vishal. "Introduction: Recovering a Robust Spirituality for the 21st Century," in Abraham Kuyper, *The Crown of Christian Heritage: Stone Lectures*. India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1994.
- Mangalwadi, Vishal. *Truth and Social Reform*. New Delhi, India: Nivedit Good Books Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 1996, third edition.
- Martindale, Wayne and Jerry Root, eds., *The Quotable Lewis*. Wheaton IL: Tyndale House Publisher's Inc., 1989.
- McManus, Erwin Raphael. *An Unstoppable Force: Daring to Become the Church GOD Had in Mind*. Flagship Church Resources, Group Publishing.
- Miller, Darrow, Bob Moffitt, and Scott Allen. Lessons at www.disciplenations.org
 Sections: Application in Life; Implementing Through the Local Church; The Kingdom of God; The Nations; Wholistic Ministry; Worldview.
- Miller Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures*. Seattle WA: YWAM Publishing, 2001.
- Miller, Darrow L. and Food for the Hungry. *Worldview and Development Workbook*. AZ.
- Miller, Darrow L., Bob Moffitt, and Scott D. Allen. *God's Remarkable Plan for the Nations*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2004.
- _____. *God's Unshakable Kingdom*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2005.
- _____. *Worldview Life and Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2005.
- _____. *The Worldview of the Kingdom of God*. AZ: Food for the Hungry International, 2003.
- Mitchell, Marva. *It Takes a Church to Raise a Village*. Shippensburg PA: Treasure House, 2001.
- Moffitt, Bob. *If Jesus Were Mayor: Transformation and the Local Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2004. International version.
- Moffitt, Bob. "The Role of the Church in Society." Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2000.
- Moffitt, Bob and Harvest. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level I, Equipping Local Churches for Wholistic Ministry*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997. Section: "Kingdom Math." Download from www.harvestfoundation.org.
- _____. *Leadership Development Training Program: Level II, Equipping Local Church Leaders for Wholistic Ministry*. Sections: "A Discipline of Love," "A Narrow View of the Gospel," "God's Intentions for the Church." Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 1997. Download from www.harvestfoundation.org
- Newbiggin, Leslie. *Foolishness of the Greeks*. Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1986.
- Newton, Joseph Fort. "Social Saviors," in *Union Life*, July/August 1990, 21.
- Oliveira, Cleiton and Eleuza. Brazil Harvest reports, 2003-04.
- Packer, J. I. *"Fundamentalism" and the Word of God*. London: InterVarsity Fellowship, 1965.
- Padilla, C. René. "Introduction: An Ecclesiology for Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation*. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004, 19-49.
- Pearcey, Nancy. *Total Truth*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 2004.
- Perkins, John. *With Justice for All*. Ventura CA: Regal Books, 1982.

- Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland CO: Group, 2004.
- Rodeheaver, Steve. *Snapshots of the Kingdom*. Kansas City MO: Beacon Hill Press, 1998.
- Roldán, Alberto Fernanco. "The Priesthood of All Believers and Integral Mission," in Tetsunao Yamamori and C. René Padilla, eds., *The Local Church, Agent of Transformation*. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Ediciones Kairos, 2004, 151-178.
- Samuel, Vinay and Chris Sudgen, eds., *Missions as Transformation*. Oxford UK: Regnum Books Ltd., 1999.
- Schaeffer, Francis. *The Great Evangelical Disaster*. Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1984.
- Scott, Waldron. *Bring Forth Justice*. Grand Rapids MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1980.
- Sider, Ronald J. "An Inseparable Partnership," in *One-Sided Christianity?* Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 1993.
- Sider, Ronald, Philip Olson, and Heidi Rolland Unruh, *Churches that Make a Difference*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Books, 2002.
- Sjogren, Steve. *Conspiracy of Kindness*. Ann Arbor MI: Vine Books, 1993.
- Sohn, Pastor Paul H., "My Perspective about DNA Korea," 2003. Unpublished speech.
- Snyder, Howard A. "Creation and Transformation: Salvation Means Creation Healed," in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church's Mission*. Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004, 32-40.
- Stark, Rodney. *The Rise of Christianity*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1997. Originally published: New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Steen, Robin and Harvest, *Basics 3: The Church*. Phoenix AZ: Harvest, 2005.
- Stott, John. *Christian Mission in the Modern World*. Suffolk UK: Kingsway Publications Ltd., 1975.
- Sultan, Rev. Dr. Pervaiz. *Church and Development: A Case Study from Pakistan*. Karachi, Pakistan: FACT Publications.
- Tongoi, Dennis. *Mixing God with Money*. Nairobi, Kenya: Bezalel Investments Ltd., 2001.
- Van Engen, Chuck. "Toward a Missiology of Transformation," in Luis K. Bush, ed., *Transformation: A Unifying Vision of the Church's Mission*. Thailand: 2004 Forum for World Evangelization, 2004, 93-117.
- Van Rheenen, Gailyn. *Communicating Christ in Animistic Contexts*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Book House, 1991.
- Warren, Rick. *The Purpose Driven Life*. Grand Rapids MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1998.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *Living as the People of God*. Leicester UK: Intervarsity Press, 1983.



Now What?

“Now what?” The people you have been seeing from week to week—the audience at the original taping session—had to answer this question, too.

One audience member took the message to a small group at his church. Group members caught it! Now, they continually look for ways to carry out God’s will “on earth”—in their own community. They insulated a single mother’s tarpaper shack against harsh winters. They pile wood, hang storm windows, and rake leaves. They reflect God’s love in the world around them.

Now that you have finished the video series . . .

- Continue to live its message—on earth!
- Share what you have learned with others.
- Order more materials and check for free downloads at:
www.lifepurpose.ws
www.disciple-nations.org
www.harvestfoundation.org/materials
- Consider up-to-date issues and biblical worldview:
BreakPoint daily commentaries by Chuck Colson: www.breakpoint.org
World Magazine: www.worldmag.org
Nehemiah Institute’s Mini PEERS worldview test: www.nehemiahinstitute.org
- Using the biblical worldview as a standard, continually evaluate what your culture “teaches” you through the media, education, and public arena.
- Make use of other tools to help your church serve the world . . .
Seed Projects, a ministry outreach tool developed by Bob Moffitt, helps local churches carry out *small* ministry activities that demonstrate God’s *BIG* agenda. The tool is introduced in the Follow-Up Session of this workbook, using a video, “The Church as a Window.”

On Earth as it is in Heaven

In heaven . . . there is no worry.

*On earth . . . obeying Him involves trusting Him
with all our cares.*

In heaven . . . there is no fear.

*On earth . . . embracing His perfect love casts
out fear.*

*In heaven . . . wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle,
merciful, fruitful.*

*On earth . . . relinquishing the prideful need to
be right makes way for the fruit of wisdom.*

In heaven . . . nothing hinders God's presence and leading.

*On earth . . . repenting clears the way for
loving response to His nudges.*

In heaven . . . the rule and reign of Christ is supreme.

*On earth . . . loving and obeying Him
- because He first loved us -
brings life and wholeness to His people
and honor to His holy name.*

Indeed, Lord, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done . . .

On earth as it is in heaven.

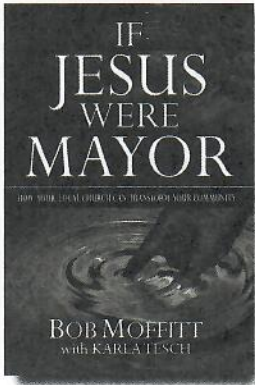
JoAnn Harvey, 2005 (adapted)

Advance Reading Resources for Video Sessions

Selected readings from *If Jesus Were Mayor* (Bob Moffitt) and *Discipling Nations* (Darrow Miller) are listed as Advance Reading for each video session.

To use as suggested order copies from your local or online bookstore or:

- www.harvestfoundation.org (see Materials)
- www.disciplenations.org (see Resource Center)
- www.ywampublishing.com



If Jesus Were Mayor *How Your Local Church Can Transform Your Community*

Drawing on years of experience working with and training church leaders around the world, Bob Moffitt casts a challenging vision for local churches to put biblical principles into practice. He illustrates these teachings with real examples of local churches that have learned to serve their communities as if Jesus were their mayor, caring for the brokenness around them and giving visible evidence of His kingdom.

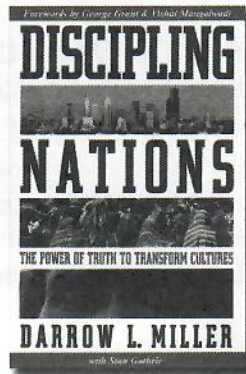
Published by Monarch Books, U.K.

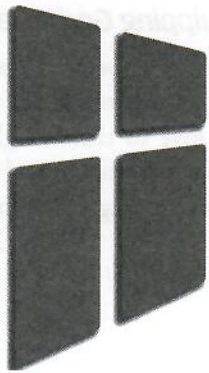
Discipling Nations

The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures

Darrow Miller builds a powerful and convincing thesis that God's truth not only breaks the spiritual bonds of sin and death but can free whole societies from deception and poverty. Written from the perspective of a trainer who has worked with church leaders and Christian relief and development workers across cultures and around the world, Miller connects the concept of biblical worldview with the challenges of combatting poverty and changing culture as a part of the broader task of discipling nations.

Published by YWAM Publishing, Seattle





Disciple Nations Alliance

Additional resources on
biblical worldview available at
www.disciplenations.org



Additional resources for
local church ministry training available at
www.harvestfoundation.org