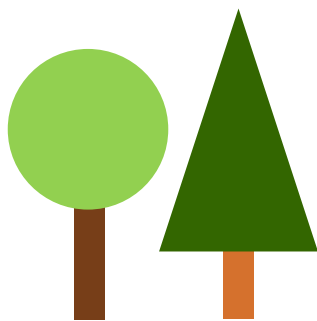
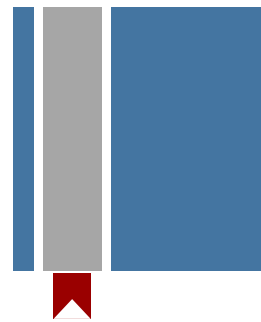
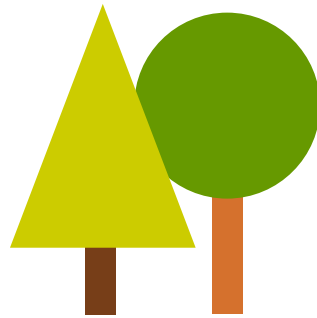
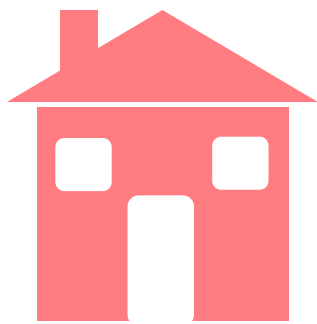


# HOME:church

## GUIDE BOOK

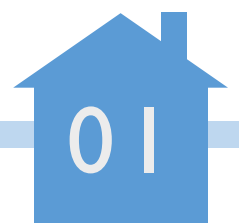
*Practical Ideas for Leading Your Household in  
Discipleship, Worship, Fellowship, & Service to Others*



*Welcome* to the HOME:church Guide Book:  
a resource designed to equip you to be the spiritual  
leader of your household.

You've totally got this! You don't need a seminary degree or a certificate of ordination to lead your household in worship. As a leader in your home, you are authorized by Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) and commissioned by the Church (1 Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 5:6-10) to provide spiritual leadership for your household!

In fact, the Body of Christ is at its most effective when every Christian home has someone within the home who is providing spiritual leadership, encouragement, and discipleship for the members of their individual household. **YOU CAN DO THIS!!**



**Each day** in the HOME:church Guide Book provides an exercise that you can do with the other members of your household to help lead them in one of four spiritual growth categories: discipleship, worship, Christian fellowship, and service to others. Look for these icons beside each day to see what the focus of that day's HOME:church exercise will be:



Discipleship



Worship



Christian Fellowship



Service to Others

Each day's activity takes between 10-30 minutes to complete, and is designed for members of all ages to share in together.

Feel free to modify these activities to suit your household, your environment, neighborhood, etc. And, of course, feel free to come up with your own HOME:church exercises to do along the way!

# A Loose Weekly Rhythm

My family began sharing in a daily activity to grow in Christ together during the global pandemic quarantine of early-2020.

After several weeks, we realized that we had developed a loose weekly rhythm. I say “loose,” because we did not stick to this structure rigidly – but it was helpful for us to have a focal subject to brainstorm our new exercise for each day.

Here is the loose weekly structure we developed over several weeks of doing daily HOME:church activities together:

Monday: Mealtime Conversations Starters

Tuesday: Serve Day!

Wednesday: DBS Day (Discovery Bible Study)

Thursday: Flex Day

Friday: Fast & Pray Day

Saturday: Feast & Fun Day!

Sunday: Worship-At-Home Day

# The Goal

Our primary goal is discipleship – helping each member of the household practice following the teachings and example of Jesus – in fun, interactive, and encouraging ways!

# The Approach

Our two most frequent sayings throughout this period have been:

“Practice Makes Progress” & “We Learn By Doing”

The old saying “practice makes perfect” is wrong. The goal of discipleship is progress – daily progress in forming the character of Christ in our lives – and this comes only through practice. We don’t hold each other to a standard of perfection, but to a standard of progress: making gradual steps forward each day, with a freedom to fail, and without judgment or condemnation along the way

Second, we learn best by doing! Rather than spending a lot of time learning information during our daily HOME:church exercises, we instead spend the majority of our time doing, practicing, attempting something for God together. That’s how we learn and grow the best!

# HOME:church Day 1



Today is an awesome and historic day! Today is the day that following Jesus returns HOME – the place it began, and the place God intended for it to be first. Today begins a season of learning to live and love like Jesus at HOME. Today, American Christians join their sisters and brothers around the world who, for hundreds of years, have had no choice but to make their HOME be their primary place of worship, prayer, and discipleship. Today is HOME:church Day 1.

In an age of limited corporate gatherings, self-feeding and household discipleship becomes essential. Praise God we live in a time when the resources have never been more abundant! Sermons and Bible studies on YouTube, RightNow Media, and a host of other free online resources lay at our fingertips!



## 26 Tips for Spending Time Alone With God:

- 1– **Get alone.** Remove yourself from as many distractions as possible. Our minds can be distracting enough without the help of outside influences.
- 2– **Choose a place,** and let that be your's and God's special place together. Soon, you will naturally begin to associate that physical place as your's and God's "holy ground."
- 3– **Set an appointment** and keep it, just like you would with a doctor or teacher. Have an actual time, and when something else comes up, socially or mentally, say, "oh, no I can't, I have an appointment at 10:30."
- 4– **Make it a habit.** Do it everyday, even if it's not very long and even if you don't "feel" anything. If it becomes a habit (a part of everyday life for you), it will be easy to keep.
- 5– **If you have strong feelings** or if you are thinking about something important, don't try to fight it off. Just share those feelings and thoughts with God. If you're feeling guilty about any sins, go ahead and confess; get anything that may be between you and God out of the way.

## 26 Tips for Spending Time Alone With God:

- 6- **Write down your prayer requests.** Check them off as God answers them. Soon, you will have a written record of God's working in your life.
- 7- **Write down 5 things for which you are thankful.** Take the time to really explain to God why each one has meant so much to you.
- 8- **Keep a running list of your hurts and needs** in life. As you come to a Scripture that shows how God can meet that need, write it down. Soon, you will have your own book of God's promises.
- 9- **Read the Scripture passage in several different versions** of the Bible. Each version will offer a different wording, which will aid in your comprehension of the Scripture.
- 10- **Personalize Scripture by inserting your name** into promises relevant to your life. Read the verse aloud with your name in it, and write the verse out with your name in it.
- 11- **Pray in a new way:** on your knees, out loud, on your face, standing with your hands raised, etc. New prayer postures like these will improve your attitude and your focus on God.
- 12- **Take notes of sermons** and Bible study lessons you hear. During your TAWG, review your notes and re-read the Scriptures that were covered in the lesson.
- 13- **Memorize a verse** that is meaningful to you. Encourage yourself by quoting the verse and remembering God's faithfulness when He makes a promise.
- 14- **Go for a walk,** and pray while you walk. Along your walk, stop at a quiet place to read Scripture.
- 15- **If a confessed sin is still haunting you,** write it down in pencil; then write I John 1:9 over it with a permanent black marker. Then destroy the list – God has!
- 16- **Play some praise & worship music,** and spend time with God by worshipping Him. Follow along with the words in the CD booklet, thinking about the meaning of the lyrics.

## 26 Tips for Spending Time Alone With God:

17- **Use the alphabet.** Think of 1 thing for which you are thankful, going from A to Z. Or think of one adjective to describe God, going from A to Z.

18- **Write a letter to God.** Include prayer requests, personal attributes you would like Him to help you with, and what you'd like to learn more about.

19- **Fast from something:** a food, a drink, TV, internet, etc. Whenever you have the urge to enjoy the thing from which you are fasting, let it remind you to pray.

20- **Think about God from a different point-of-view.** How would you describe God if you were... a blade of grass? an eagle? a planet? a blind person? your grandmother? Moses?

21- **Make a list of theological questions you'd like answered.** Choose one and begin researching it throughout the Bible. A Bible concordance and a Bible commentary might help.

22- **Write a song or a poem.** It can be about God, or it can be about whatever you are learning from Him.

23- **Spend time in quietness & stillness,** without actively thinking or processing something mentally. It's awkward and weird, and you may never "hear" anything. But it's a good practice because we rarely do that in any other area of our lives. Our time with God should be restful, not stressful.

24- **If something confuses you,** or you don't understand something you read, read it over and over. Pray about it. Ask other Christians about it. Don't just skim over the parts that you don't understand.

25- **When in doubt** about what portion of Scripture to read and study, go to the Gospels, because that's the life of Jesus! You could also meditate on a Psalm or read a chapter of Proverbs.

26- **Share what you're learning with another** close Christian friend. This will keep you accountable; plus it's fun to hear what God is teaching others!





# HOME:church Day 2



This is the day that the Lord has made! The LORD. The One who is sovereign over this day – and ALL days! Declare it. Speak this truth over yourself and your household today: *“This is Your day, Jesus! And I am Yours. And this HOME is Yours.”*

Proclaim it, aloud, over your HOME today: *“This HOME will be a place of courage and faith. It will not be a place of fear. Anxiety is not welcome here. This will be a place of hope, a source of light and life for all who dwell and visit here. This day, and my life, and this HOME all exist for Your glory, God. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done here as it is in heaven.”*



# HOME:church Day 3



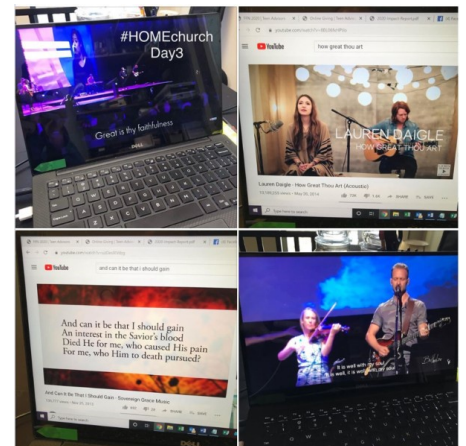
Here's an easy and non-awkward way to lead yourself and your household in a moment of worship tonight:

Recall from your early days of following Jesus one of your most favorite hymns or worship songs... Either during dinner or right after, pull up the song on YouTube, and tell everyone this was one of your favorite songs when you were first learning to follow Jesus.

Ask everyone to listen to the song with you, and as they listen, to remember one line in the song that inspires them to love and obey God more. Then, play the song!

Invite everyone to share which line from the song helps them love God more.

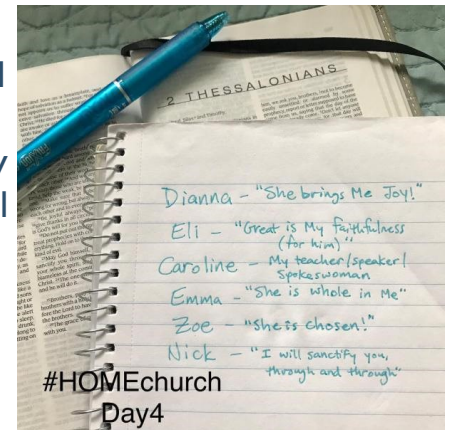
Pray a simple prayer of thanks to God for the things your household just shared :-)



# HOME:church Day 4



Today, pray for each member of your household by name. Pray for yourself. Pray for your roommates. Pray for your spouse and your children. Pray for each one, specifically, by name. Ask God to give you a specific word or phrase for each person as you pray for them... What does He think about them? How does He feel about them? Then if He gives you something, write it down on a notecard or post-it note, and share it with them!



# HOME:church Day 5



Today, when your household gathers for a meal, pause before you eat to thank God for the food. Thank Him for each individual item He has provided: *“Father, thank You for these green beans. And this sweet tea. And the apple slices...”* Invite those around your table to do the same. Then, savor each bite of food, each sip of drink together, as a gracious gift from your loving and generous Father in Heaven.



# HOME:church Day 6



So... you cannot gather with others at your church building today for worship. No problem. As an ordained minister in the Church of Jesus Christ, I hereby consecrate your HOME as a temple unto the Lord, your dining table as an altar of worship for you and the members of your household! YOU CAN DO THIS!

Here is a simple but powerful liturgy you can use to lead your family in a special time of worship at HOME:

## How to Lead Your Household in Worship:

1-Gather everyone at the dining table.

2-Welcome everyone to worship!

3-Pray, inviting God's Spirit to lead and move through this time together.

4-Sing a simple praise song together, like "God Is So Good" or "Jesus Loves Me." Or lookup a song on YouTube to play while everyone listens or sings along.

5-Ask if anyone has anything they want to give to God today – any kind of gift they would like to offer Him – any kind of area in their life they would like to submit to Him...

6-Read John 9:1-41 together. Either one person can read it all, or you can take turns reading around the table.

7-Discuss the story around the table using the following questions:

*What does this story teach us about God?*

*What does it teach us about ourselves?*



Simple, step-by-step instructions for leading your household in a time of worship at HOME

*If this story is true, how does that impact our lives?  
Who is someone we can each tell about this this week?*

8-Ask a volunteer around the table to pray, committing your household and yourselves to the Lord this week.

Voila! You just led your HOME in worship! WELL DONE! Now enjoy a day of rest and togetherness with your household :-)

## HOME:church Day 7

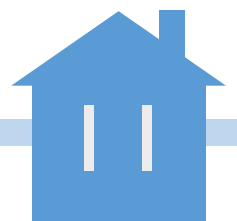
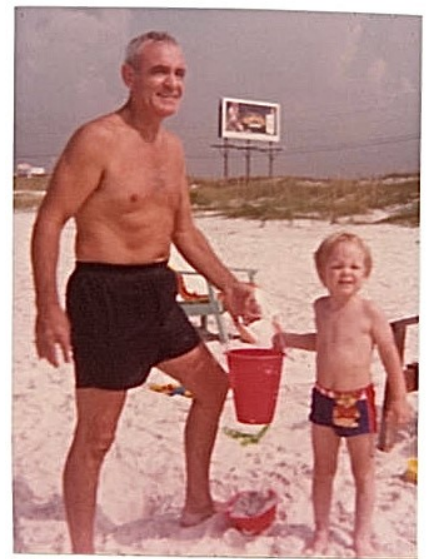


This is my Poppa with me from when he was in his mid-50s. Among the thousands of eternal investments he has made in my life, he used to take our entire family to the beach every summer.

Now, at age 92-1/2, Poppa is quarantined in his nursing facility: no visitors in, no residents out, for any reason. He is an extrovert, and a story-teller who loves human companionship – thus, he already struggled with loneliness before this epidemic began...

About 50 million Americans are aged 65 and older. You cannot help them all – but you can help one. Think of an older person in your life who has been affected by this virus – either by sickness or quarantining or some other factor – and give them a call. Tell them you miss them. Tell them they matter. Tell them what they mean to you. And then pray for and with them.

Today, I will call Poppa.



# HOME:church Day 8



Today, memorize a Bible verse that is meaningful to you. Encourage yourself by quoting the verse throughout this season and remembering God's faithfulness through all circumstances.



#HOMEchurch Day8

## How to Memorize Scripture:

***First of all, you CAN do this! Don't be discouraged!***

- 1-Start by memorizing the reference (the book, chapter, and verse numbers).
- 2-Next, break the verses down into smaller increments, and memorize each of those separately.
- 3-Then, begin putting the increments together, repeating them over and over until you can say the entire Scripture without looking at it.
- 4-Finally, recite the complete Scripture and reference out loud to yourself ten times in a row without looking at it. Once you can do that...

***BOOM! You just memorized that Scripture!***

# HOME:church Day 9



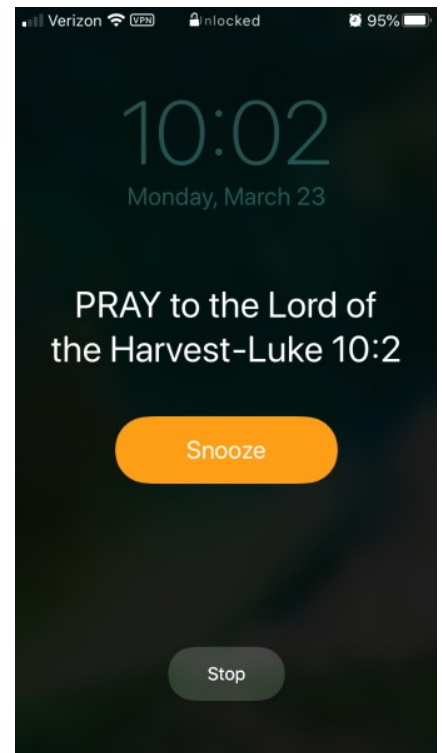
Jesus taught His disciples HOW to pray. He taught them to pray frequently and fervently. He taught them how to think of God in prayer, and how to address God in prayer.

But there are surprisingly few things that Jesus directed His disciples to pray for specifically. One of the rare specifics that Jesus told His disciples to pray for is found in Luke 10:2 – *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest fields.”*

I am learning to make this prayer a part of my daily life. A friend encouraged me to set my phone’s recurring daily alarm for 10:02am, and to pray specifically for the harvest every day:

- *for the followers of Jesus around the world to make themselves available to God as His harvest workers, everywhere they are*
- *for doors to open for the Gospel in areas that are hostile or closed to Christianity*
- *for God’s Spirit to move into those areas and prepare people to receive God’s love*
- *for harvest opportunities right you live, and for open doors to impact the people nearest you with God’s love*

Believers are stopping to pray at 10:02am in every time zone around the world, prompted by Luke 10:2. Would you join us? Would you set your phone’s alarm for 10:02am, and take 60 seconds each morning to ask the Lord of the harvest to open doors for the Gospel, and to send out more workers into His harvest fields? And hey – if you’re really gung-ho, you can even set a second alarm to pray for this again at 10:02pm each night!



# HOME:church Day 10



Today, set aside 20 minutes by yourself to spend alone with God in Psalm 106, following these instructions:

- Read through Psalm 106 slowly, deliberately. Take your time.
- Go back through Psalm 106, and re-read any sections that you did not understand the first time through.
- Ask God, “What do you want to say to me through this Psalm?” – and then take five slow, silent breaths, just sitting still in God’s Presence – just listening.
- Now, read Psalm 106 again, but this time, read it aloud to yourself, and read it like it’s your first time ever seeing it. Take note of the phrases, words, or elements that stand out to you this time.
- Finally, ask God, “How would You have me respond to this Scripture today? What would You have me do as a result of reading this Word today?”
- Now, just sit, and wait, and listen for how His Spirit might answer that question in your heart and mind...



# HOME:church Day 11



One group in our world-wide family of faith that is significantly impacted by this season of quarantine is our foreign missionaries – Christian workers who already live outside of their home cultures, separated from their families and comfort zones.

One of the most valuable things a Christian working on foreign soil can receive from home is a hand-written letter. There is such a warmth and love that hand-writing conveys which typing cannot replicate.



Do you personally know a Christian serving overseas? If not, do you have a friend or family member who knows one? Or does your church support a missionary somewhere?

Today, one of the most loving things you could do would be to hand-write them a letter. Even if you can’t mail it to them, you can take a photo of it, and send the photo of your letter to them through email or instant message.

# HOME:church Day 12



Do something FUN today with your household! Fun is sacred. Fun is holy. Did you know that God actually required the people of Israel to hold three, week-long festivals together, every single year! And, that “fellowship” was one of the core attributes of the early Church!

Let celebration and laughter be the primary ways you guide your household toward God today:



- *Play hide-&-seek.*
- *Bake some brownies.*
- *Hang up some Christmas lights somewhere for no reason.*
- *Pull up some karaoke versions of popular songs on YouTube and sing & dance & laugh along!*
- *Rearrange your furniture to build a fort.*
- *Read a children’s book by candlelight.*
- *Look up cheesy jokes online, and take turns telling them to each other, while trying NOT to laugh!*

# HOME:church Day 13



## How to Lead Your Household in Worship with Communion

It’s the second Sunday of self-quarantine. By now, your church has likely moved its Sunday worship services online – or if not, you’ve probably found another that has. And that’s great! We’ve got to maintain our sense of connectedness through this season of physical separation.

But what if I told you that, in addition to watching your church’s worship service online, you could also lead your own household in a special moment of worship, right where you are? You can do this. Really, **YOU CAN DO THIS!**



Here is a simple liturgy (order of worship) that you can use to lead your household in a time of worship at home :

Gather the following SUPPLIES ahead of time:

- *blank paper for everyone in your home*
- *pens, pencils, crayons, or markers*
- *YouTube pulled up on your device or computer*
- *cups of juice (or any kind of drink) for everyone in your home*
- *crackers, bread, or anything similar*

1-Gather everyone together in your living room, and distribute the blank papers and writing utensils.

2-Welcome everyone to this time of worship, where we will take just a few minutes to focus our attention on God and share in Holy Communion together.

3-Ask everyone to think about God. Set a timer for 90 seconds, and ask everyone to use this time to silently concentrate on the qualities and character of God.

4-Invite everyone to write or draw on their paper whatever comes to their mind.

5-After 2-3 minutes, ask if anyone would be willing to share what they wrote or drew.

6-After everyone shares who wants to, ask for someone to offer a prayer to God on behalf of your home.

7-Pull up the song “*How Deep the Father's Love*” by Fernando Ortega on YouTube, and ask everyone to listen along and worship the Lord together.

8-Ask everyone to imagine Christ on the cross, and how He carried all our sins there with Him. Now ask everyone to silently confess their sins to Jesus... and then to thank Him for being our Savior and Deliverer from sin.

9-Next, invite everyone to repeat this declaration after you: “*In the Name of Jesus, you are forgiven!*”



Simple, step-by-step instructions for leading your household in a time of worship at HOME

#HOMEchurch Day13

10-Now take the cups of juice (or whatever drinks you prepared) along with your crackers or bread, and say the following: *“Jesus our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. These simple elements represent the Body and Blood of Jesus – let us partake of them together as ones He has forgiven and redeemed.”* And then all take a bite of bread and a sip of juice together.

11-Conclude with a simple prayer of thanksgiving from your heart – just thanking God for His grace and love, and for each of the members of your household.

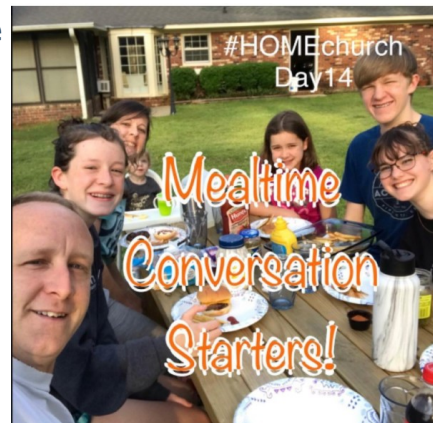
You've totally got this! You don't need a seminary degree or a certificate of ordination to lead your household in worship. As a leader in your home, you are authorized by Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) and commissioned by the Church (1 Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 5:6-10) to provide spiritual leadership for your household!

In fact, the Body of Christ is at its most effective when every Christian household has someone within the home who is providing spiritual leadership, encouragement, and discipleship for the members of their individual household. *YOU CAN DO THIS!!*

## HOME:church Day 14



One of my favorite aspects of this unprecedented season is all the extra family time we are getting to have at our house. Under normal circumstances, we only get to have everyone home together for dinner maybe 2-3 nights per week, at best. But over the past two weeks, we have eaten almost every evening meal together! It's been wonderful!



Dinnertime conversations can be some of the most meaningful times together among families and roommates. Here are some questions to spark conversation among your household over dinner this evening. If you live alone, why not arrange with a friend to eat dinner together over FaceTime or Zoom from your respective homes? While you eat, you can ask each other the following questions:

- *If you could choose a theme song, one that started playing anytime you walked into the room, what would you choose?*
- *What is the most unique or silliest problem you have going on in your life at the moment?*
- *What culture would you like to learn more about?*
- *Who is someone you admire or respect, and why?*
- *What's your best injury or scar story?*

# HOME:church Day 15



Today, your household can join together in prayer for an unreached people-group around the world! The Joshua Project provides an app and web site with statistical info and prayer guides to assist with this.

Jesus commissioned us to make disciples of ALL the people-groups of the world (Matthew 28:18-20). He gave us a measurable task that has a clear ending goal. The Great Commission will eventually reach completion within some generation's lifetime – isn't that awesome!? It could happen within our lifetime, or within our kids' lifetime, or our grandkids'... There WILL come a day when God's great mission for world evangelization and discipleship WILL be accomplished – and we are invited by Him to be a part of that accomplishment with Him!



Today, visit The Joshua Project online, and select an unreached people-group – to pray for the salvation of persons of peace God has prepared within those communities and the vast networks of lost people they represent.

# HOME:church Day 16



Today, arrange with a friend to have a Discovery Bible Study with them by phone or FaceTime. What is “Discovery Bible Study” (DBS)? Simply put, DBS is a way for groups to read and discuss the Bible using four strategic questions to discover God and His guidance for our daily lives. In DBS, no one is responsible for teaching – the group is simply reading and discussing the Scripture together, trusting God's Spirit to be their teacher and to reveal the truth of God's Word through the discussion (John 14:15-17).

Today's Scripture is Matthew 21:28-32. Here are your instructions:

**PRAY** – One of you pray, welcoming the Spirit of God among you, and asking Him to reveal His Truth to you.

**READ** – One of you reads today’s Bible passage aloud.

**RE-TELL** – The other then re-tells the passage as best they can from memory. This is not a performance – just a chance for you both to listen to the passage again, and to help fill in any details that were missed.

**DISCUSS** – Discuss the passage using the following four questions together:

- 1-What do these verses say about God?
- 2-What do these verses say about people?
- 3-If these verses are true, then what should I start or stop doing in response?
- 4-Who is someone I will share these discoveries with this week?

**PRAY** – One of you pray, asking God to give you the wisdom to know what to do, and the courage to do it, in Jesus’ Name.



# HOME:church Day 17



When you go out for your daily walk, take some sidewalk chalk with you, and draw some Bible verses or words of encouragement on the end of your driveway, in your apartment complex roadways, or on the sidewalks near your house! Take some pictures and share with loved ones online!



# HOME:church Day 18



Fast from lunch today, and spend your normal lunch hour in prayer for the healing of the nations. Here are some ideas to prompt your fasting-prayers:

- *Healthcare workers and their families: that God would defend them from catching the virus or being overcome with fear; that God would administer healing and recovery through their hands and decisions.*
- *That God would supernaturally bring an end to the spread of this virus.*
- *The Poor in your area and around the world – they are most vulnerable to both the short-term and long-term effects of this virus, both medically and economically.*
- *The Elderly and Immuno-deficient in your area and around the world – who must endure this season in isolation – may God Himself be with them.*
- *Government Leaders and the Wealthy – that God would help them be unselfish and lead them to leverage their power and influence for the good of others.*

Fast & Pray

#HOMEchurch Day18

Fasting releases you from appetites & distractions so you can connect more attentively to God.



# HOME:church Day 19



Feast with your household today! Prepare your favorite meal together, and savor each delicious bite of it together! Focus your mealtime discussion around the goodness of God – His grace, kindness, generosity, benevolence to you – whether now or in the past. Retell your favorite stories of how He was with you, or provided for you – how He healed you or shielded you from danger – or how He redeemed a broken situation, or blessed you beyond what you deserved.



# HOME:church Day 20



Here is a simple yet significant plan to lead your household in worship at home:

**INVOCATION:** Pray, *“Holy Spirit of God, please meet us here, and lead us in Your wisdom and courage.”*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 50:4-9.



**SONG OF WORSHIP:** Visit YouTube to look up and play *“The King Is Here (Official Lyric Video)”* by Corey Voss.

**PSALM:** Ask someone to read aloud Psalm 118:19-29.

**OFFERING:** Ask *“What is something the Lord would really like for you to give to Him today, which you are truly willing to give?”*, and allow time for sharing...

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:** Ask someone to read aloud Matthew 21:1-11.

**DISCUSSION:** Ask, *“What does this passage tell us about God, God’s character, and God’s values?”*, and allow time for discussion...

**BENEDICTION:** Speak these words over your household, from Numbers 6:24-26 – *“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”*

# HOME:church Day 21



Here are your Monday mealtime conversation starters! Don't rush through dinner together. Netflix and Disney+ can wait. Enjoy some irreplaceable talk-time with your roommates or family. If you live alone, call up a friend and FaceTime or Skype together over dinner while discussing your answers to these mealtime conversation starters:

- *What has been your favorite age in life so far?*
- *What are you hilariously bad at?*
- *Who is the most important person in your life besides Jesus?*



# HOME:church Day 22



Tuesday is Serve Day! Today, when you go out on your daily walk, make it a Prayer Walk through your neighborhood or apartment complex. Pray for each home as you pass by. Wave, smile, and greet your neighbors (from a safe distance). As you walk on, ask God to bless them, surround them, and uphold them by His grace. Ask the Holy Spirit what He would have you to pray for your neighbors, or your block, or your building – then listen as you walk, and pray whatever He brings into your mind.



# HOME:church Day 23



Wednesday is DBS Day! DBS stands for Discovery Bible Study, a method of group Bible study that focuses on discussion and actively obeying God's Word. Literally ANYONE can lead a DBS: old, young, extrovert, introvert, talkative, shy, Christian and – yes, even non-Christians can hold a DBS together!

Why can truly ANYone lead a DBS? Because you do not teach in DBS. Instead, you host and facilitate, and you trust the Holy Spirit of God to be your teacher. As the host, you make people feel welcome and included. As the facilitator, you help guide the participants through four critical questions (see below). **You can do this!**

READ A  
BIBLE STORY.  
ANSWER THE  
QUESTIONS.  
PRAY!

[citychurchmovement.com](http://citychurchmovement.com)

 How did I obey?	 Who did I tell?
 What does this say about God?	 What does this say about people?
 How do I obey?	 Who do I tell?

Remember: this is God's Word – He promises to speak to us through it if we will spend time reading it and thinking about it and talking about it and trusting Him to reveal truth to us through it. Truly: EVERYONE is qualified to lead a Discovery Bible Study in their home or over video-conference with a few friends! Here's how:

**PRAY** – Someone ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you all as you read and discuss today's Bible passage.

**READ** – 2-3 participants read today's Bible passage (in different translations, if possible): Hebrews 12:1-3

**RE-TELL** – 2-3 participants now close their Bibles and attempt to re-tell the passage as best they can from memory. No pressure here to perform! Just an opportunity for the group to try to internalize God's Word, re-tell it to each other, and help each other with any details you may miss.

**DISCUSS & DISCOVER** – Guide your group through these four questions to interact with today's Bible passage:



- 1- What do these verses tell us about God, God's character, God's values?
- 2- What do they teach us about people – ourselves, humanity?
- 3- If these verses are true, what would I need to start or stop doing to obey what it says?
- 4- Who is someone in my life with whom I can share my discoveries from this passage this week?

**COMMIT** – Now each person take their answers to questions 3 & 4 and turn them into “I will...” statements: “This week, I will start/stop...” and “This week, I will share what I discovered in Hebrews 12:1-3 with...”

## HOME:church Day 24



This season of life means solitude for many people. Solitude is actually one of the spiritual practices that Christians have used for centuries to focus their attention on God. The Bible records several occasions where Jesus Himself sought the Father in solitude. For these, solitude was a choice they made. For many today, solitude has been forced upon them. Today, why not embrace the solitude of this season in the Lord's Presence. You are not alone, because He is with you. Today, try to list all the ways God is with you in this season of quarantine...



## HOME:church Day 25



Friday is a day to fast and pray. Especially today, because today is Good Friday. Today is a day to soberly remember the anguish of Jesus upon the cross for our sins and to make us right with God. Jesus paid for our atonement with His life. Good Friday is both a day of sorrow and of rejoicing. Sorrow for the Savior's death... celebration that our sins died with Christ on the cross! Sorrow for Jesus' agony and our contribution to it... rejoicing that His death brought death to death!

Today, choose a meal to fast from, and spend the time you would have spent cooking and eating in prayer:

- *Think of Jesus on the cross, and thank Him for His sacrifice and for saving you...*
- *Confess any unconfessed sin to God, and ask His help to turn you away from it in the future...*
- *Ask God if there is anyone in your life you need to forgive – and ask God for courage to do it...*



Make your confession sincere – but remember: you don't have to beg Jesus to forgive you – forgiving you and making you right with God is why He came! You were worth it to Him. And you don't have to plead with God or somehow convince God to save you – He WANTS to save you! Just put your faith in His saving love for you.

Good Friday, the day we commemorate Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for our salvation, is the perfect day to confess your sins, turn toward God in faith, and receive His free gift of salvation for you.

## HOME:church Day 26



Today, I challenge you and your household to... have lunch with Jesus! Wait – I know, I know – it sounds hokey – but just hear me out: as human beings, we are creatures of our physical world – what we can see and hear and experience with our senses. We know there is more – so many concepts like love and dignity and compassion and trust that we cannot take in with our five senses alone. All these and more point us to greater realities beyond our physical world – BUT – we can leverage our senses to remind ourselves of deeper truths.

For instance, God tells us over and over and over again in His Word that He is WITH us (*Joshua 1:9; Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 1:23; Matthew 28:20* – these just barely scratch the surface!). Truly, He is with us! But we can't see Him with our eyes... we can't hear Him with our ears... So, instead, we can do things with our environments to cue our senses that He is indeed with us!

Here is what I am proposing: today, when you or your household prepare for lunch, set an extra chair at the table, and an extra place-setting there as well. (Wait! – I know! – just push past the hokiness – I promise it will be worth it!) As you sit down to eat, thank God for the food – but say it as if He is right there at the table with you (because He is!). Welcome Him to lunch with you, and then, start a conversation with Him! Ask: “*What are some of Your favorite meals?*,” and then think of the moments in the Bible where Jesus ate food with His disciples...



Next, envision the feast that we will all share with the Lord and all the other saints one day in glory. Describe the sights, smells, and tastes that may be there...

Third, ask Jesus to remind you of great memories you have with other loved ones around tables in the past...

Finally, take a few moments to pray for those who do not have much food, that Jesus would supply their needs. Pray for those eating in isolation today, and ask Jesus to make His comforting Presence known to them. And pray for those in the food industry whose jobs and businesses have been impacted by this quarantine.

## HOME:church Day 27



### Worship-At-Home: EASTER Edition!

Happy Easter! Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the grave – He is risen indeed! Today, I hope you will tune in to an Easter Service from your local church. If you don't have a church to join, I invite you to join ours by visiting [ccclive.org](http://ccclive.org) or [@ChristCommunityChurchGA](https://www.facebook.com/ChristCommunityChurchGA) on Facebook.

After you join with other believers online to worship our risen Savior, you can also lead your own household in a short but special celebration of our Living God! Here's how:

**EMPTY TOMB** – Use some bedsheets, pillows, and furniture to build your own empty tomb! You could even roll up some sheets or towels to place inside, just like how Jesus' burial wrappings remained in the tomb after His resurrection (John 20:3-7).

**SCRIPTURE READING** – As a family/household, read aloud John 20:1-31. You could have one volunteer read the entire passage, or you could all take turns reading a few verses at a time.

**PRAY/PRAISE!** – Praise Jesus as the Victorious One! He was victorious over sin, death, hell, and the grave! Invite Him to come have the victory in your home and family – and in any of the battles your household may be facing...



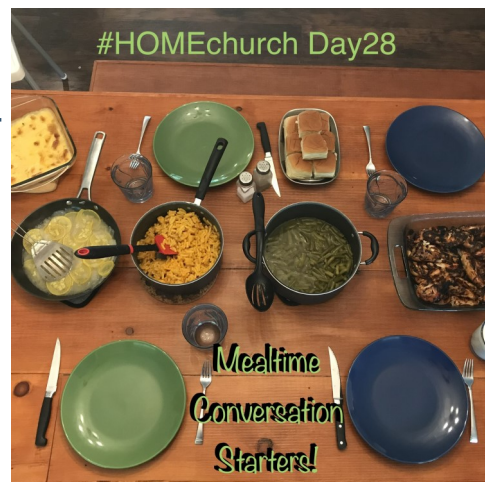
**VIDEO-SELFIE!** – Sit or stand at the opening of your homemade “empty tomb” and record a video of your household proclaiming “He is risen! He is risen indeed!” together. You can say it all together, or one-by-one – then post your video to social media as a testimony to all of your followers online!

## HOME:church Day 28



Increased time with loved ones (in our homes and over the phone / video-conferencing) is one of the greatest aspects of this quarantine. Share a meal together, and enjoy some discussion around the following ideas:

- 1- *If Jesus can overcome death, what else can He overcome? (Yes, anything & everything!, but let's take a few moments to list some of those things specifically: what else can Jesus be victorious over in our lives, homes, and world?)*
- 2- *Following the example of John Krasinski's "Some Good News," let's each share one piece of good news with each other!*
- 3- *What is your earliest memory?*



# HOME:church Day 29



How can you serve others during a shelter-in-place order? Personalize your mask!

Last week, a friend posted about her trip to the grocery store – about how quiet everyone was, how wary everyone’s eyes seemed to be of each other – like everyone around them was a threat. She tried to counter the looks by smiling at people – but quickly realized no one could see her warm expression through her mask. She returned to her car in tears at the sense of fear and even hostility she felt from her fellow shoppers...



Just a few minutes later, I saw a photo of the young man whose mask said, “I’m smiling,” and I thought, that’s what people need right now – we can all use our masks to spread cheer! Then I saw a friend who had written a Bible verse on her mask... then another who drew a big smile on her mask... even clear masks to assist and serve the hearing-impaired!

Today, our masks can be our witness to others online and at the grocery store – that we are still people, that we still love and need each other, that we are in this together, that there is still love and hope and joy and warmth to be spread, even in our distance.

# HOME:church Day 30

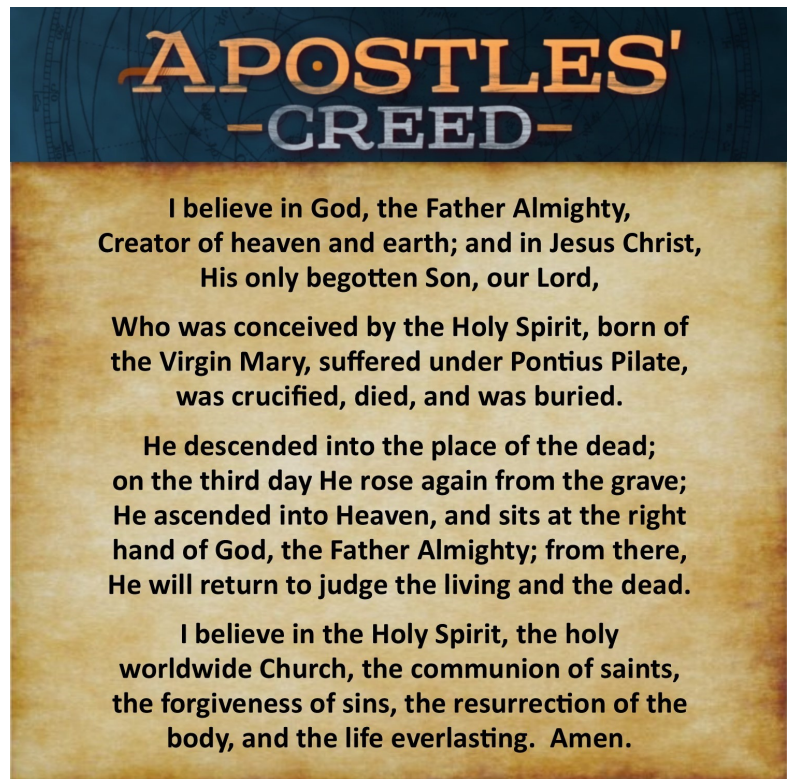


The Apostles’ Creed has been the statement of faith for the believers of Jesus for over 1600 years. All around the world, across 16 centuries, Christians of every culture, race, and denomination have been united in faith around these simple, powerful declarations.

Today, with your household – maybe at mealtime or before you go to bed – recite the creed out loud together, then discuss the three questions below with your housemates or a friend over the phone.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1- What is the significance of all Christians in all times & locations having one common statement of faith together? (Why does that matter?)
- 2- Which declaration or phrase in the creed would you like to grow in your faith?
- 3- Is there anything in the creed (or not in the creed) that is surprising to you?



## HOME:church Day 31



Today is a good day to memorize a Bible verse on HOPE or JOY. The very best place for God's Word to be in your life is written on your heart! Here are some suggestions:

**HOPE verses:** Psalm 42:11; Psalm 130:5;  
Jeremiah 29:11; Micah 7:7; Romans 5:3-4;  
Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 10:23; 1 Peter 3:15

**JOY verses:** Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 94:18-19; Isaiah 61:10; Habakkuk 3:18;  
Romans 12:12; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 1:8-9



To assist you, here are 10 tips for memorizing Scripture:

# 10 Tips for Memorizing Scripture:

How are we able to remember so many important dates, song lyrics, movie quotes, etc.?

***Repetition, repetition, REPETITION!***

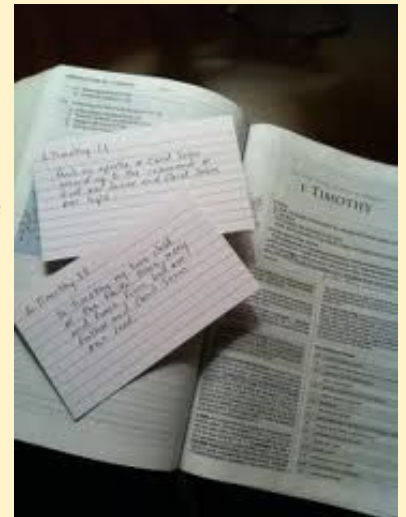
Here are 10 simple tips for making Scripture memorization do-able and successful:

1– Choose a verse that is special to you. Meditate on it. Read it over and over and study it until it's meaning becomes a part of you.

2– Now, to memorize! Write out the verse and reference on an index card.

3– Break the verse down into smaller phrases. Work on memorizing one phrase at a time until you can string the entire verse together – including the reference – from memory.

4– The number one tip for memorization? Recite, recite, RE-CITE! That's how you know things like names, song lyrics, and other info so well! Studies show that if you recite something 15 times a day for 30 days straight, it will be in your memory forever.



5– Try using time that is often mentally wasted, such as traveling in the car, waiting for a meeting to start, waiting in line, the commercials during a TV show, while exercising/ jogging/working out, etc.

6– Set challenging yet reasonable goals. Try memorizing just one new verse per week, allowing just 10 minutes each day to review your memory verses.

7– Accountability! Work with a friend with whom you can be accountable. Check up on each other. Quiz each other. Set goals together, and share rewards when you accomplish your goals!

8- Review, review, REVIEW! Once you've memorized a verse, don't just forget about it. Add it to your daily/weekly review, so that it can become a part of your life forever!

9- Keep your memory verses close by. Put your memory verse index cards in your backpack, purse, or pocket for quick reviewing during dead time.

10- Use a smart phone app such as Scripture Typewriter or FighterVerses to catalog and review your verses during dead time.

**YOU CAN DO THIS!** You can write God's Word on the tablet of your heart!  
I wish you all of God's very best as you embark into the wonderful, fruitful, life-giving, life-saving habit of Scripture memorization!

## HOME:church Day 32



Today, choose a mealtime to fast and pray for the harvest (see Matthew 9:35-38). Here are some Scripture prompts to guide your fasting-prayers:

**Isaiah 40:25-26** – *Jesus, we want you to get everything and everyone you paid for on the cross! Let not one be missing!*

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** – *Father, Your Word assures us that You want all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Help us to have Your same desire, and let that desire drive us to action, multiplying disciple-makers!*

**Matthew 9:35-38** – *Help us, Spirit of Christ, to know how to go throughout all the towns and villages like You did, having compassion on everyone we meet, like You did. Lord, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few – we ask You to send out harvest workers into Your harvest fields, and we make ourselves available to You for this – here we are, Lord, send us! Help us to see where and how You are working and join You there.*





# HOME:church Day 33



The aim of the Christian life is to become more like Jesus. Not that God wants a bunch of Christ-clones – instead, He wants for each of us, with our distinct personalities, to fully develop into the unique individuals He made us to be – by forming His Christ-like character in us, as we cooperate with Him in our thoughts, words, and actions.

We are usually very good at seeing our weaknesses, the places in our lives that need growth or improvement. (*Think about the typical person looking at themselves in the mirror first-thing in the morning!*) In our pursuit of a Christ-like life, we sometimes we need the other people in our lives to call out the good things about us.

Think of the people living right in your own home. Or if you live alone, think of your neighbors or others you know who live nearby. Did you know that you have the power to build them up today? You have the power to call out the Christ-like characteristics you see in them, and tell them!

Today, choose three people you live with or near, and write them a short-but-meaningful note, telling them each three Christ-like characteristics you see in them. Here's a simple template you can follow: "Dear \_\_\_\_\_, I see the following three character traits of Jesus in your life: 1-\_\_\_\_\_, 2-\_\_\_\_\_, and 3-\_\_\_\_\_..." and then take a sentence or two to explain how you see each of these traits in their lives...

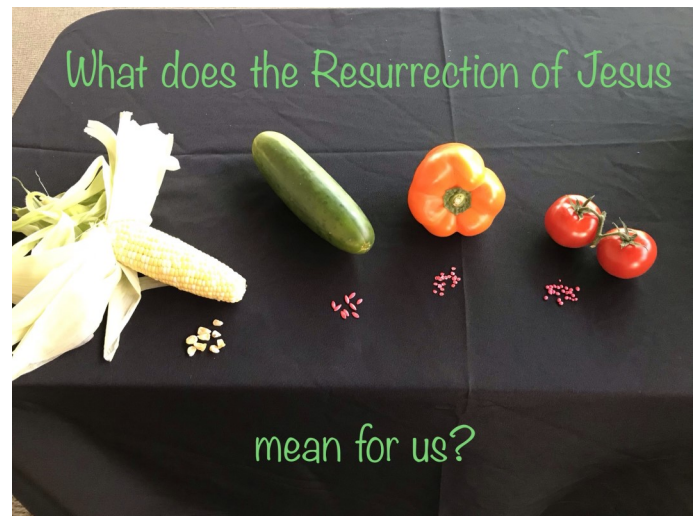


# HOME:church Day 34



Today, set aside a few minutes with your family, housemates, or a friend over FaceTime to read and discuss the following Bible verses from I Corinthians 15: 1-7, 12-14, 20, 24-26, 35-38, 42-44a.

The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. Easter represents THE pivot point of history – everything swivels – everything swings into a new direction when the Living Jesus stands up and walks out of the grave, victorious over death!



After reading the verses above from I Corinthians 15, discuss with those nearest you: *According to these verses, what does the resurrection of Jesus mean for the believers and followers of Jesus throughout history? According to these verses, what does His resurrection mean for me?*

# HOME:church Day 35



Increased time with loved ones (in our homes and over the phone / video-conferencing) is one of the greatest aspects of this quarantine. Share a meal together, and enjoy some discussion around the following questions:

- 1-What are you dreaming about for your life?
- 2-What was something you thought would be easy until you tried it?
- 3-What “non-spiritual” activity in your life makes God smile?



# HOME:church Day 36



## Faith-Sharing Hurdle #1 – “I Wouldn’t Know What To Say”



The next four days of HOMEchurch exercises will be aimed at helping you overcome the most common hurdles for sharing your faith in Jesus. By the end of this week, you’ll be ready to share your faith with someone far from God. You can do this! [I’ll help you :-)]

Today, I’d like for you to call a Christ-follower in your life whom you admire, respect, and trust – someone who will encourage you in this process – maybe a parent or grandparent, a close friend, or a mentor from your past. Call them, and have an open, friendly conversation with them around the following three questions:

- 1- Who or what first led you to faith in Jesus?**
- 2- What is the most recent thing God has helped you with?**
- 3- What certain hope do you have because of your faith in Jesus?**

Your simple answers to those three questions represent a short version of your relationship with God – this is your story of faith! – this is what you have to share! Call your trusted Christian friend over the phone, talk through these things with them, and overcome your first hurdle today. Have I mentioned yet that... YOU CAN DO THIS!

*God loves those far from Him. Let Him love them through you!*

And in case you are interested in my answers to those three questions above: 1- As a child, I had numerous adults and teens in my life who modeled following Jesus for me, and I wanted to be like them. 2- I’ve had three episodes of anxiety over the past five weeks related to the potential outcomes of this virus. I gave each one to God in prayer, and He calmed me each time through Scripture promises and the wise perspectives of beloved Christian friends. 3- God has assured me, many times throughout my life (primarily in His Word), that He will always be with me through any and every circumstance – He will never leave me, abandon or forsake me.

**BOOM!** I just shared my faith in Jesus with you! *(You can do it, too!)*

# HOME:church Day 37



## Faith-Sharing Hurdle #2 – “I Don’t Know Who To Tell”



Yesterday’s exercise helped us overcome the hurdle of not knowing what to say. Today’s exercise will help us think of who God may be leading us to tell. It starts with prayer:

*“Father, I know from Your Word that You love those far from You. I was once far from You, and You sent people to lead me to You – thank You! Now, God, I invite You to share Your love with others through me. Who, Lord, would You have me share my faith in You with this week?”*

Now, grab a pen and paper – and, continuing in a mindset of prayer and listening to God, take your phone, and begin scrolling slowly through your contacts. Write down any names there that give you any sort of pause. If you are on social media, scroll through the first 15-20 posts in your feed, and see if any of the people there stand out to you. Add their names to your list. Lastly, think of your extended family members, one-by-one, and your closest neighbors. If any of them stands out, that could be the Holy Spirit nudging you – add their names to your list.

Well done! Now put your list in a prominent place where you will see it everyday, like on your bathroom mirror. Let this list guide your prayers this week, and your thinking around who God might be leading you to share your faith with. And – congrats! – you just overcame the second hurdle :-)

# HOME:church Day 38



## Faith-Sharing Hurdle #3 – “It’s Too Difficult/Awkward”

There are four main hurdles to faith-sharing, and you’ve already overcome two of them: you know what to say, and you have a list of people God may be leading you to share with. You’re halfway there! Next is to overcome the feelings of difficulty and awkwardness. Today’s exercise will help:

Did you realize that almost everything you have learned to do in your life was challenging at first? It took me two solid months to learn to drive a stick-shift. But over time, with regular practice, my feet and hands learned what to do. It was difficult at first – even frustrating! But now I’ve been driving stick for 25+ years, and I love it! It has become second-nature. I don’t even think about what my feet are doing on the pedals anymore.



What all have you learned to do in your life that was challenging at first? Make yourself a list. Here are some ideas: you learned to walk, to speak English, to read... riding a bike, swimming, dance, karate... how about singing or playing an instrument... each new level of education, your skills for work... You have overcome so many obstacles all throughout your life! You have learned to do so much that at first seemed impossible, but now is no big deal.

Faith-sharing is exactly the same. **YOU CAN DO THIS!** Practice makes progress. We learn best by doing. And remember: God cares even more about this than you do. God loves those far from Him. Let Him love them through you!

## HOME:church Day 39



### Faith-Sharing Hurdle #4 – “I’m Not Qualified / Ready”

The previous three days of exercises have helped you overcome the first three hurdles to faith-sharing. Now for the last and biggest one: “I’m not ready.” How do you get “ready” to share your faith in Jesus with someone far from God? You fast and pray for them.

Today’s exercise will help you align your heart with God’s toward the person you will share your faith with tomorrow. [Yes, tomorrow! :-)] Today, I want you to forego one of your meals, and instead of cooking and eating, spend the time you would have spent cooking and eating in prayer for a person you know who is far from God.

Pray for them by name, that they would turn to faith in God, and that He would give you courage and favor as you contact them tomorrow to share your faith in Him with them.

God loves those far from Him even more than you do. Let Him love them through you!



# HOME:church Day 40



**Faith-Sharing: Learn By Doing  
(or, Practice Makes Progress)**

You're ready. YOU ARE READY. You can do this! I believe in you. The Church believes in you. God believes in you. *(Did you know that? It's true!)* You are ready.

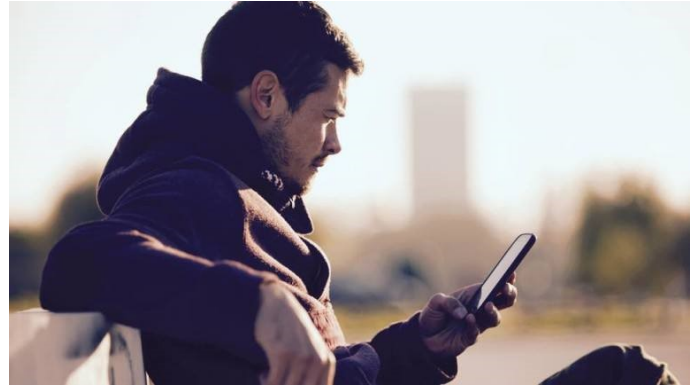
You've overcome the previous four days' worth of hurdles:

- You've practiced sharing a short version of your faith journey with a trusted Christian friend.
- You've prayerfully thought of people God may be leading you to share with.
- You've reminded yourself of all the challenging things you've learned to do throughout your life.
- You've aligned your heart with God's through fasting and prayer.

You are now ready to share your faith! Here's how:

- 1- Write down your short answers to the three questions from HOMEchurch Day36 (*1-Who or what first led you to faith in Jesus? 2-What is the most recent thing God has helped you with? 3-What certain hope do you have because of your faith in Jesus?*). This is a summary of your journey of faith.
- 2- Think of the specific person who emerged from your list through your time of fasting and prayer with God yesterday (see HOMEchurch Day39). Decide which format you think would be most effective in communicating with them: phone call, text, email, instant-message, or hand-written letter.

3- Pick up the phone, computer, or pen, and lovingly share your journey of faith with that person. You don't have to convince them of anything. You don't have to be able to answer all their questions. (*Saying "I don't know" is perfectly fine!*) You are simply sharing what is on your heart for them, no strings attached.



YOU CAN DO THIS.

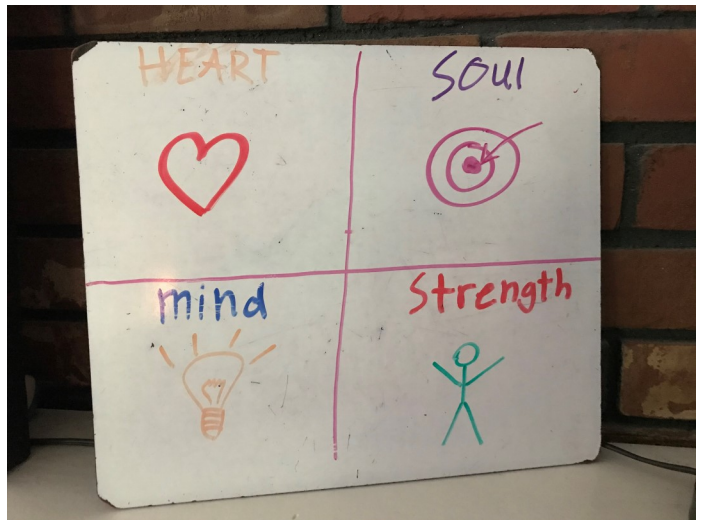
God loves those far from Him. Let Him love them through you!

## HOME:church Day 41



When Jesus was asked, “*What is the greatest commandment?*”, He replied, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.*” (Mark 12:30) Why not practice that today with your family, roommates, or a friend over FaceTime? Here's how:

Using paper, a whiteboard, or tablet, make a grid of four squares, writing those four words in the squares. Now, together as a family (or with your roommates or your friend over FaceTime), brainstorm together as many ways as you all can think of to love God with each of those arenas of your life. Here are some ideas to help you get started:



**HEART:** This is the seat of your emotions – the source of expressing how you feel. How can you express your love for God from your heart today?

**SOUL:** This is the central core of your being – this is who you most truly are in Christ – your identity as one made in the image of God, and adopted into His family forever by faith in Jesus. How can you love God today with your core identity, that which He has lovingly and carefully crafted you to uniquely be in Him?

**MIND:** This is the seat of your thoughts, your perspectives, your mindsets, your creativity, your thinking patterns. This is also the place of your unique experiences, education, and skill-based training. How can you love God in and through and with your mind today?

**STRENGTH:** This refers to your physical body. How can you use your hands, feet, and face to love God today? How can you use your posture, movements, or physical abilities to express love for God today?

Now that you have your own personalized chart of love for God, have each member of your household choose one action from each box to express their love for God. You could each do your own item from each box, or you could all choose one thing from each box to do together!

Have fun and enjoy worshipping the Lord together today! This isn't a performance – no one should feel pressure or be judging or critiquing each other. This is just a way to practice together what Jesus described as the most important thing we can do with our lives!

## HOME:church Day 42



One of my wife's greatest qualities is the thoughtful questions she asks, and the way she actively listens. She listens to understand – not just to hear, and not just so she can think of the next thing she is going to say.



This evening, as you gather with your family or housemates over dinner, or to share a meal or coffee with a friend over FaceTime, practice these two valuable conversation skills:

*Ask Thoughtful Questions; Then, Listen to Understand.*

Here are some topics to help you get started:

- 1- When do you feel most content?*
- 2- What household chore do you actually enjoy?*
- 3- What is one step you would like to take to be more like Jesus?*



# HOME:church Day 43



When Jesus was asked, “*What is the greatest commandment?*”, He replied, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.*” (See HOMEchurch Day 41.) He did not stop there, however; He added a second crucial element: “*The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Mark 12:31)

We are never more like Jesus than when we are selflessly loving others. That’s what He did, and He came to show us what God is like (Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:3), and this is what God is like: **GOD LOVES PEOPLE.**

Today, I want to encourage your household to fast from one meal, and to give the money you would have spent on that meal to a local organization that feeds hungry people in your area, such as a food bank or a soup kitchen.

For instance, if you would have had soup and sandwiches together for lunch at a cost of \$4/person, and you have a family of five, then you would fast, pray together for hungry people in your area, and donate \$20 to your local soup kitchen.



Or if you and your roommates were planning to cook spaghetti together for dinner at a cost of \$5/person, and there are three of you in your apartment, then you could instead fast and pray together for hungry people in your region, then donate \$15 together to your local food bank.

# HOME:church Day 44 & beyond

## **\*Growing Forward from the Global Pandemic & Quarantine-at-Home Orders of Early-2020:**

These are truly historic times, sisters and brothers. We are privileged to live in a unique time in history, when we – as Americans at least, for the first time in our lives – we are not allowed to gather together for worship and prayer and teaching and commissioning out into the world.

For the first time in our lives, our primary experience of God – our main understanding of our Christian faith – is not centered around a physical building. The assumption of a physical building has even been ingrained in the way that we talk to each other about church – you know, we ask each other questions like, “Where do you GO to church?”



For the first time in many of our lives, church is not primarily a building we will drive to on Sundays, but rather a Community of Faith in Jesus that transcends our various physical locations. Biblically-speaking, the Church has never been a building. It has always been a people – the people of God – the world-wide followers of Jesus. Church, for each of us, then, is just the smaller local community of believers with whom we worship God and grow in Christ and are sent out by His Spirit into the world to be His ambassadors.

I am NOT excited about this virus. I want it to go away. And I want it to stop wreaking havoc on our world and in people’s lives.

I AM excited about something else, though – and that is how our good and great God is going to work through this tragedy to advance His Kingdom purposes in the world! Remember: what the enemy means for evil, God will turn it into good. That is how good and mighty and faithful He is!

I believe God is doing something in our day that most of us Americans have never seen before – and that is the exponential multiplication of micro-churches and Christian homes.

*\*This article was originally published on March 26, 2020 at LikeTreesPlanted.com, titled “We Are Now The #ChurchDispersed.”*

For now, it is just your home – literally, your household is your new immediate church family for the time being. And – as this virus recedes, and as we are allowed to gather in slightly larger groups, Christians will start to gather with each other, first in homes... then in coffee shops and restaurants... in public parks and community centers... and then, eventually, in large church buildings again.



But for now, we are now the #ChurchDispersed (Read Acts 8:1-4...).

Throughout history, anytime the advancement of the Kingdom of God has been put into the hands of ordinary, faithful, obedient Christians – it has grown and advanced, exponentially! Sadly, the times in history when the Kingdom of God landed in the hands of just a powerful few, it usually stagnated and declined.

So, I am not excited about this virus, or about the ramifications it is having on the medical systems and economics around the world. But I am excited about what God can do out of climates like these – specifically how His Kingdom tends to advance and grow and multiply in times like these.

As a pastor, as an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, let me say this to you: WE NEED YOU. The world needs you! And God Himself is calling you – He is calling to all the followers of Jesus around the world – to rise up. To become the representatives of Jesus in your household. To spread life and hope and encouragement among your friends. To be the hands and feet of Jesus to those near you who have practical needs.

Now – more than ever before – the followers of Jesus must take responsibility for two enormous things: our own spiritual nourishment, along with that of our household, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God in our world.



Your pastors and church leaders are here to support you in this! We are here to shepherd you and facilitate the works of ministry that God is calling you to, and to provide resources to help you do it... And by the way, we're doing all the same things in our own households and communities, too! But we can't be everywhere – we're not supposed to be, and we don't have to be! – because today, the Christian Church in America is a #ChurchDispersed.

Through YOU, our Lord Jesus has representatives spread out among every neighborhood in this country! Everywhere you are, you carry the Spirit of God within you, the Gospel of Jesus with you, the authority and the values of God's Kingdom with you. Every person you speak to, every interaction you have with someone online is an opportunity for eternal impact.

YOU CAN DO THIS! I believe you! God believes in you. Your church and your pastors – we believe in you! And furthermore, we authorize you – we commission you to be light-bearers, to be hope-givers, to be Good News-sharers, to be Kingdom-builders – in your homes, in your apartment buildings and neighborhoods...

And eventually, as the normal activities of life resume, your commission – your authorization to be the representatives of Jesus will continue – to your schools and work-places, to the stores and restaurants you visit, to your area parks and ball fields – that everywhere you go, you will carry with you the contagious love of God to a world that is desperately hungry for His healing touch – not only from sickness and disease, but also from heartbreak and loneliness and apathy and hopelessness, from sin and brokenness and separation from God.



You – YOU! – can offer people healing and wholeness through a restored relationship with God through Jesus, our Savior.

You are a vital part of our current #ChurchDispersed! God bless you and the micro-church that is currently sheltering in your home – and may the Spirit of Christ be with you, both today and always!

"Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, who meditate on His law day and night, for they are **like trees planted** by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither..."

-Psalm 1:1-3

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