

10 Commands

Leading a small group or “mini-church”

These groups are an experiment to discover how the words and example of Jesus impact our lives and those around us. Our objective is to help one another walk as Jesus did (*1John 2.6; Matthew 28.19-20; John 13.15*). Our desire is to see **200 groups** in **Savannah** helping individuals become like Jesus and starting other local fellowships. Right now there are _____ groups. Consider the guidelines below for starting a group in your area.

Starting a Group

The goal is not to start a successful group or have a healthy community, but to make committed disciples of Jesus who will multiply into every nation and every generation to come. Do not try to grow your group larger and larger with a “big shot” at the top, but rather to continue to divide and multiply like an amoeba and train many workers for the kingdom of God (*Matthew 23.8-10; Matthew 9.37-38*). Focus on individuals. Every follower of Jesus is a laborer and will participate in the mission of Jesus (*Matthew 4.19; Matthew 28.19-20*). We recommend dividing your group and appointing new leadership every time it grows to 8 to 12 consistent members. The steps below are suggested guidelines for starting a new group.

Ask God to show you areas of your life that you are **withholding** from him and areas of **disobedience** (or delayed obedience). *Genesis 22.16-18; John 15.1-10*

Pray persistently about your area and the audience that you are reaching out to—more than you have ever prayed before! Pray for a partner and a “worthy man.” *Matthew 10.11; Luke 10.1*

Start laboring and recruiting. Consider Jesus’ model and the instructions he gave when he sent his disciples out. *Matthew 4.17,23; Matthew 10; Luke 10*

Start a group with those you have recruited and reached. Even one or two spiritually hungry people are enough to start a group. Treat this as the “church” God has entrusted to you. *Matthew 18.20 “Where 2 or 3 are gathered in [Jesus’] name...”*

Focus on application and keep it brief. Spend the first 15 minutes of each meeting sharing experiences in outreach and who each person shared scripture with since the last meeting. Talk about how God has been revealing himself to each person in their personal time with Him. As the discussion progresses, keep it focused on the scriptures that are being read and on real life application.

Discussion tips. Keep it basic and brief. Do not teach the group but allow them to discover the main principles of each scripture for themselves.

Start training leaders right away. Look for those who are quick to obey Jesus’ commands. Teach and model for them what you have learned about making disciples and recruiting people into God’s kingdom. Make these zealous disciples the leaders of the next group. *Matthew 4.18-22*

Keep it small. Once your group grows to 8-12 people designate another leader and split the group.

Meet in neutral places if possible (like apartments, coffee shops, etc.) If a group totally stagnates and will not take initiative to follow Jesus' commands or reach out to those around them after many weeks, then leave them to continue meeting on their own. Start a new group at a different location. If there is a committed disciple in the stagnate group, take him with you.

Continue to recruit and multiply...always

Meet with the leaders of each group as they multiply and begin to disciple them intentionally adhering as closely as you know how to the principles of Jesus' life and how he invested in his own disciples. As the group grows you may need to pull these leaders together into a laborers training group for deeper fellowship, study of the scriptures, and practical ministry training.

Set the pace. Model for your group the kind of zealous lifestyle that they should be pursuing. *1Corinthians 11.1*

Suggested Format for Group Meetings

PRAY

REVIEW

- Who did you share last week's passage with? Who did you read the Bible with or share scripture with?
- How have you experienced God since last we met? How have you been applying what God is teaching you?
- Review scripture together: one verse that each person memorized since the last meeting

READ SCRIPTURE

- Have someone read the passage of scripture to be discussed
- Have a second person read the same passage
- Have someone summarize the passage in their own words. Ask the group to fill in any details that were left out.

ASK QUESTIONS. Do not *teach* the main truth of the passage to the group. Ask questions until they *discover* it. Here are some questions to help facilitate discovery.

- Did anything in this passage capture your attention?
- What did you like about this passage?
- Did anything bother you? Why?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What does this passage tell us about Man?
- What does this passage tell us about following Jesus?

SUMMARIZE. Have everyone summarize on a piece of paper the main point of the passage in their own words

COMMIT TO APPLY AND SHARE

- Ask ***"How should this change our lives?"*** Also encourage people to share how it has already changed their life.
- Have everyone develop an "I will..." statement about how they will obey God in this area of their lives and write it on the same sheet of paper with their summary. Help them move from a general statement such as "I will love God" to a specific statement, "I will love God by..."
- Also ask everyone one ***"Who do you know that you can share this passage with?"*** and have them write that person's name on the paper.

END WITH PRAYER

Repent & Believe

Command #1

“The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news” Mark 1.15 (NIV)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT AND BELIEVE?

Repent means turning from sin and following Jesus. Believe means choosing to trust Jesus as your Lord or Master. Tell the story of repentance below in your own words.

Zacchaeus’ Story / Luke 19.1-9

WHY SHOULD WE REPENT? AND WHO SHOULD REPENT?

Romans 3.23

Romans 6.23

Romans 10.9-10

WHAT ASSURANCE DOES GOD GIVE TO THOSE WHO REPENT AND BELIEVE?

1 John 1.6-9

John 10.27-29

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **REPENT.** Confess your sins to God, turn from them and live a new life following Jesus.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of Zacchaeus with 2 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Mark 1.15

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

MARK 1.15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

LUKE 19.1-9 He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.

ROMANS 3.23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

ROMANS 6.23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 10.9-10 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

1 JOHN 1.6-9 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

JOHN 10.27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” Luke 9.23 (NASB)

JESUS FIRST FOLLOWERS

Tell the story of Jesus’ first followers in your own words.

Mark 1.16-20

WHY SHOULD WE FOLLOW JESUS? AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DO?

1 John 2.6

Matthew 10.24-25

Luke 6.40

John 12.26

WHO SHOULD FOLLOW JESUS?

John 14.6

HOW DO WE FOLLOW JESUS?

Use the “follow me” illustration to talk about reading the gospels to see Jesus.

John 8.31

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **START READING** one chapter of the Gospel of Mark daily and answer the question “How can I become like Jesus?”
- ▲ **SHARE** the story about the disciples leaving their nets to follow Jesus with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Luke 9.23

PASSAGES REFERENCED

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LUKE 9.23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

MARK 1.16-20 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

1 JOHN 2.6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

MATTHEW 10.24-25 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

LUKE 6.40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

JOHN 12.26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

JOHN 14.6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 8.31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

Be Baptized

Command #3

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28.19-20 (ESV)

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Tell the story of Philip and the Ethiopian in your own words.

Acts 8.26-39

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a symbol of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection and a public declaration of your commitment to following Jesus.

Romans 6.3-11

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED?

Matthew 3.13-15

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Acts 2.38

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **BE BAPTIZED.** If you have not been baptized as a follower of Jesus then do so as soon as and begin to let your friends, family, and those around you know of your commitment to Jesus.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of Philip and the Ethiopian with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Matthew 28.19-20

PASSAGES REFERENCED

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MATTHEW 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ACTS 8.26-39 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

ROMANS 6.3-11 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

MATTHEW 3.13-15 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

ACTS 2.38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

Matthew 6.9-13 (ESV)

THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

Tell the parable of the persistent widow in your own words.

Luke 18.1-8

WHY SHOULD WE PRAY? HOW CAN WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER?

Luke 5.16 *because Jesus did*

Luke 11.5-13

John 15.7 / 1 John 5.14

HOW DO WE PRAY?

Praying is simply talking to God. Consider the example Jesus gave about how to pray.

“hallowed be your name” *recognize God’s greatness and thank him*

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done” *for God’s kingdom to grow*

“give us today our daily bread” *for our needs*

“forgive us our debts” *for forgiveness*

“do not lead us into temptation...” *to resist temptation*

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **PRAY.** Begin and end each day by giving thanks to God and presenting your requests
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of the persistent widow with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Matthew 6.9-13

PASSAGES REFERENCED

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MATTHEW 6.9-13 “Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

LUKE 18.1-8 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

LUKE 5.16 But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. *NASB*

LUKE 11.5-13 And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

JOHN 15.7 “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

1 JOHN 5.14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28.19-20 (ESV)

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4.19 (ESV)

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Tell the story of the Samaritan woman in your own words.

John 4.4-42

WHO SHOULD WE SHARE WITH? WHAT SHOULD WE SAY?

John 4.16 *our families, friends, neighbors, etc.*

John 4.29 *share your story*

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO GO?

Matthew 4.19 *every follower of Jesus*

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **LEARN TO SHARE** your story of following Jesus and the “Two Kingdoms” illustration on the next page
- ▲ **MAKE A LIST** of 10 people that you can share this with. **START PRAYING** for these people and for opportunities to share with other friends and neighbors.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of the Samaritan woman with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Matthew 4.19

PASSAGES REFERENCED

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MATTHEW 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

JOHN 4.4-42 And he had to pass through Samaria. So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

JOHN 4.16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

JOHN 4.29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

MATTHEW 4.19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

THE TWO KINGDOMS ILLUSTRATION

1. The kingdom of God is here!

When Jesus sent his disciples out he told them to proclaim “The kingdom of God is at hand (or near).” Have you heard this before? What does this mean to you (or) what do you think it means that the kingdom of God is near?

2. What is the kingdom of God?

A kingdom is a kingdom because it has a king. Who is the king of the kingdom of God (God)? Do you think this is a good kingdom or a bad kingdom (good)?

3. The kingdom of Satan

There is another kingdom...a bad kingdom. Who do you think is king of this kingdom (Satan; Luke 11.18)? Jesus talks a lot about this kingdom. The consequence of allegiance to this kingdom is total separation from God (Matthew 25.41).

4. Entering the kingdom of God

How do you think a person gets into the kingdom of God? (John 14.6) Does Jesus’ statement seem “narrow” to you? Does it seem offensive?

STORY: Guide leading a group through minefield—“Follow my steps exactly. This is the only way.” Is this narrow (yes)? Offensive (no)?

5. What does REPENT mean?

Jesus’ message was “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Matthew 4.17). This is the way that he said to enter his kingdom. What do you think it means to repent?

STORY: Roman army on a campaign would send a messenger first—“Leave your tribe and give allegiance to Rome. Join us and be trained to fight for us, and we will offer you protection and citizenship”

6. How do you give allegiance to the Kingdom of God?

Make following Jesus your only priority (Matthew 10.37-39)

7. What do you think? Give them a chance to respond. Remember your goal is to provide information, not to get someone to make a decision.

8. Conclusion. Finish with this...

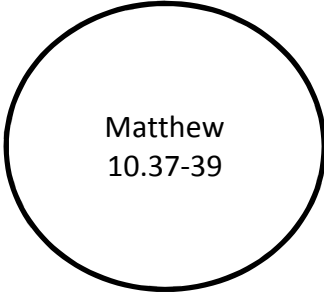
I’m not going to ask you to make a decision or pray with me, but I’d like to ask you to think about two things:

- **WHAT IS THE CURRENT PRIORITY OF YOUR LIFE?** *If it is anything other than following Jesus you are not in the KOG.*
- **HAVE YOU EVER READ THE LIFE & TEACHINGS OF JESUS?** *(invite them to read Jesus’ teachings with you or your group)*

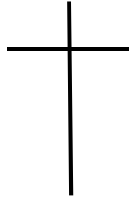
“The kingdom of God is at hand”

Matthew 4.17

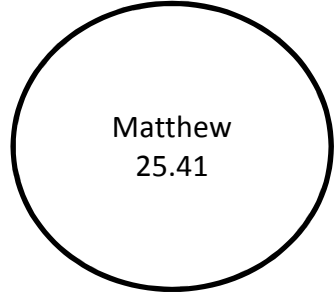
Kingdom of God



John 14.6



Kingdom of Satan



WHO CAN I SHARE THIS WITH

Make a list of 10 people that you can share this with. Begin praying for the people on this list and for opportunities to share with other friends and neighbors.

Love Your Neighbor

Command #6

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in your own words.

Luke 10.25-37

WHAT IS LOVE?

1 Corinthians 13.1-8

WHY SHOULD WE LOVE?

John 14.15

John 21.17

1 John 4.19-21

HOW DO WE LOVE?

Matthew 7.12

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **SHOW GOD’S LOVE** to your neighbors by serving 3 people this week.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of the Good Samaritan with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Matthew 22.37-39

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

MATTHEW 22.37-39 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

LUKE 10.25-37 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13.1-8 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

JOHN 14.15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

JOHN 21.17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

1 JOHN 4.19-21 We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

MATTHEW 7.12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you. John 15.12 (ESV)*

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES’ FEET

Tell the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in your own words.

John 13.1-17

“AS I LOVED YOU” – HOW DID JESUS LOVE HIS FOLLOWERS?

Matthew 10.25-28

Philippians 2.3-8

John 15.13 / 1 John 3.16

HOW ARE WE COMMANDED TO LOVE EACH OTHER?

Hebrews 10.24-25

Luke 17.3-4

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **FIND A BATTLE BUDDY.** Find one or two fellow disciples who are willing to commit with you to “spur each other on” (Hebrews 10.24) as described in this section. **CONSIDER** how to love him/her and begin meeting regularly.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** John 15.12

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

JOHN 15.12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

JOHN 13.1-7 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

MATTHEW 20.25-28 "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

PHILIPPIANS 2.3-8 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

JOHN 15.13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

1 JOHN 3.16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

HEBREWS 10.24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

LUKE 17.3-4 "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” Mark 11.25 (NIV)

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Tell the parable of the unmerciful servant in your own words.

Matthew 18.21-35

JESUS EXAMPLE OF FORGIVENESS

Luke 23.34

Romans 5.8

WHY SHOULD WE FORGIVE?

Ephesians 4.32 *because God forgave us*

Matthew 6.14-15 / Matthew 5.7

Romans 12.19

WHO SHOULD WE FORGIVE?

Luke 17.3-4 / Matthew 5.43-45

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **FORGIVE.** Ask God to help you consider whether you are withholding forgiveness from anyone. If so, forgive them for the action against you and the additional consequences it may have caused. If you are struggling to fully forgive, ask a brother or sister to pray with you about this.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of the unmerciful servant with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE MARK 11.25**

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

MARK 11.25 “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” *NIV*

MATTHEW 18.21-35 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

LUKE 23.34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

ROMANS 5.8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

EPHESIANS 4.32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

MATTHEW 6.14-15 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

MATTHEW 5.7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

ROMANS 12.19 “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

LUKE 17.3-4 “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

MATTHEW 5.43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

The Lord's Supper

Command #9

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)

JESUS' LAST MEAL

Tell the story of the last meal that Jesus had before his crucifixion in your own words.

Luke 22.7-20

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The Lord's Supper is a symbol and reminder of Jesus' death.

1 Corinthians 11.26

WHY DO WE EAT THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Luke 22.19 *to remember Jesus' sacrificing himself for us*

Acts 2.46 / 1 Corinthians 10.16 *to have fellowship with each other while talking about and meditating on Jesus*

HOW DO WE EAT THE LORD'S SUPPER? WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

Acts 2.42 *devoted followers of Jesus...*

1 Corinthians 11.27-29 *...who have examined themselves*

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER** together with the disciples that you meet with.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of Jesus last meal with 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Luke 22.19-20

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

LUKE 22.7-20 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

1 CORINTHIANS 11.26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LUKE 22.19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

ACTS 2.46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts

1 CORINTHIANS 10.16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

ACTS 2.42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. *NIV*

1 CORINTHIANS 11.27-29 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38 (ESV)

THE WIDOW GIVES

Tell the story of the widow’s giving in your own words.

Mark 12.41-44

WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE TO GOD?

Matthew 22.21 *everything that is God’s—our money, our time, our lives!*

WHY SHOULD WE GIVE? HOW SHOULD WE GIVE?

2 Corinthians 9.6-7

Matthew 6.2-4

WHO DO WE GIVE TO?

2 Corinthians 8 & 9 *a collection was given to the leaders of a “church”*

Acts 4.34-35 *the leaders distributed to those who had need*

1 Timothy 5.17-18 *to leaders to equip the disciples to labor*

Acts 11.28-30 *to poor followers in need*

Matthew 25.40 / 2 Corinthians 8.3-5 *we are really giving to God*

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **GIVE.** Decide this week with your family an amount of time and money you will give for the cause of helping people follow Jesus.
- ▲ **SHARE** the story of how the widow gave 3 people this week.
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week
- ▲ **MEMORIZE** Luke 6.38

PASSAGES REFERENCED

Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

MARK 12.41-44 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

MATTHEW 22.21 Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” *NIV*

2 CORINTHIANS 9.6-7 The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

MATTHEW 6.2-4 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8 & 9 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord...taking part in the relief of the saints...[And you] a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well...your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need...We carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will...We take [precautions] so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us...Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness...So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised...

ACTS 4.34-35 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 TIMOTHY 5.17-18 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

ACTS 11.28-30 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

MATTHEW 25.40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

2 CORINTHIANS 8.3-5 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord...and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.