

## Deaf Pah – Caring Leader

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**Caring Leader** is an online *DeafPah!* course that helps prepare church members to serve in their congregation’s ministry. Your instructor is Rev. Mark Anderson.

You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from [deafjesus.org](http://deafjesus.org).

The videos were originally prepared as VHS videotapes for the Deaf Institute of Theology. The chapter numbers and titles refer to the optional textbook for this course -- *The Caring Elder: A Training Manual for Serving*, by Victor A. Constien; 1986, Concordia Publishing House. (Used by permission of CPH.)

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### **Introduction:**

*Video: Introduction*

Hello, my name is Mark Anderson. We will study “Caring Spiritual Leaders”. Caring Spiritual Leaders. Elders? No. Only men? No. We will use “leaders”. The broader name is “The Spiritual Caring leader.” But we will shorten it to one word, “leaders.” That means all church members, both men and women.

The goal of this how you and I serve God. That means to serve the pastor and to serve his children here.

Now read an Old Testament summary about leaders. Read Exodus chapter 3.

### **Introduction Study Questions:**

Read Exodus chapter 3

1. God told Moses meet with whom? (See verse 16.)
2. God wanted the leaders (elders) of Israel to help Moses do what? (See verses 17 & 18.)

Read Numbers 11:10-17

3. Why did Moses complain to God?
4. How did God solve Moses’ problem?

## Lesson 1: Why Leaders?

*Video: # 1; Book Chapter 1*

Read Exodus chapter three.

### Leaders in the Old Testament

There was a man named Moses. Moses was 80 years old, what did he do? He watched sheep for his father-in-law, Jethro. Moses was walking in the mountains one day. He saw an exciting and strange thing. A fire. The bush should burn away. But it stayed and burned. Moses heard a voice God's voice. Moses asked "What do you want?" God wants Moses to go to Egypt. Why? To free the people of Israel from Egypt's rule lasting 400 years. Moses was afraid. When I meet the Israeli leaders, who should I tell them sent me? God said "My name is 'I am who I am.'" Tell the leaders in Israel.

#### Exodus 12:21-27 (NIRV)

Then Moses sent for all the elders of Israel. He said to them, "Go at once. Choose the animals for your families. Each family must kill a Passover lamb. Get a branch of a hyssop plant. Dip it into the blood in the bowl. Put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you can go out of the door of your house until morning. The Lord will go through the land to strike down the Egyptians. He'll see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe. He will pass over that house. He won't let the destroying angel enter your homes to strike you down.

"Obey all these directions. It's a law for you and your children after you for all time to come. The Lord will give you the land, just as he promised. When you enter it, keep this holy day. Your children will ask you, 'What does this holy day mean to you?' Tell them, 'It's the Passover sacrifice to honor the Lord. He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. He spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the Israelites bowed down and worshiped.

Remember the Passover meal. God told Moses and the leaders to plan for a special celebration meal because they would become free from Egyptian rule. God sent an angel to kill all the first born children of Egypt. A terrible event. The leaders met with groups in their homes for celebration meal with lamb meat and wine to celebrate. Same time outside the angel was killing while they ate the lamb. Tomorrow they would be free and go to the promised land, to a new home.

### Numbers 11:16-17 (NIRV)

The Lord said to Moses, “Bring me 70 of Israel’s elders. Bring men that you know are leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting. I want them to stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you. And I will put it on them. They will share the responsibility of these people with you. Then you will not have to carry it alone.

Moses led all the Israelite people out to the mountain named Sinai. Moses had a lot of responsibility to lead the people. The people hurried to him to complain. “They hurt me. They are wrong.” Argue and argue. What did Moses do? He called together the leaders to judge. His father-in-law, Jethro, noticed that Moses had too much responsibility. Jethro had a private meeting with Moses. “You are responsible to judge over all these people. Pick 70 men. You train them to lead and judge. Then you will be free to pay attention to God’s Word.” God used those leaders to help Moses. Moses was free of the responsibility. They led themselves.

### Acts 14:23 (NIRV)

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church. The elders had trusted in the Lord. Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted. They placed the elders in the Lord’s care.

Now leaders, we have discussed the Old Testament leaders. Now we will move to the New Testament. We will still focus on leaders. Read Acts 14:23 (see above). That verse talks about two men named Paul and Barnabus. What did they do? They traveled around and visited many towns, preaching and explaining about God’s love for people who belong to Jesus Christ. The two men established many growing churches. Then they would leave and go to another town to preach and establish a new church. They didn’t want the churches they left to begin to fall apart. They would pick leaders to take care of the church there. Paul and Barnabus would teach and explain about faith. When the people were ready, they would leave and the new leaders would continue.

### 1 Peter 5:1-3 (NIRV)

#### To Older and Younger Believers

I’m speaking to the elders among you. I was a witness of Christ’s sufferings. And I will also share in the glory that is going to come. I’m making my appeal to you as one who is an elder together with you. Be shepherds of God’s flock, the believers under your care. Watch over them, though not because you have to. Instead, do it

because you want to. That's what God wants you to do. Don't do it because you want to get money in dishonest ways. Do it because you really want to serve. Don't act as if you were a ruler over those under your care. Instead, be examples to the flock.

1 Peter chapter 5 talks about a good example of living and acting like Jesus Christ. They helped and watched to make sure that the people continued strong in faith. They looked to the leaders as an example just as leaders like you and I look to Jesus as our example.

Read third Bible verse is 1 Timothy 3:8-9 (NIRV)

In the same way, deacons must be worthy of respect. They must be honest and true. They must not drink too much wine. They must not try to get money by cheating people. They must hold on to the deep truths of the faith. Even their own minds tell them to do that.

The leader ensures that the people continued strong in faith. We need to be a role model to be mirror like Jesus.

1 Timothy, chapter 3 demands five things:

1. Be serious and eager to share God's story with all the people around you.
2. Don't be involved with drugs, lying, or liquor.
3. Don't lie or speak many different ways.
4. Don't focus on money and becoming rich.
5. Very important of all – understand what faith means – following God's Word.

Important for us leaders to have a close relationship with our pastor.

God called pastor to do his duty:

1. To preach His Word honestly.
2. To give out Lord's supper and baptize people.

**Lesson 1 Study Questions:**

Read: Acts 14:23 (NIRV)

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church. The elders had trusted in the Lord. Paul and Barnabas prayed and fasted. They placed the elders in the Lord's care.

1 Timothy 3:8-9 (NIRV)

8 In the same way, deacons must be worthy of respect. They must be honest and true. They must not drink too much wine. They must not try to get money by cheating people. 9 They must hold on to the deep truths of the faith. Even their own minds tell them to do that.

1. Besides the pastor, who are the leaders of your church, and what are ways that they serve?
2. How are Old Testament leaders similar (same) as our church leaders today?
3. How are Old Testament leaders different than our church leaders today?

Read: 1 Peter 2:9 (NIRV)

But God chose you to be his people. You are royal priests. You are a holy nation. You are God's special treasure. You are all these things so that you can give him praise. God brought you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 5:1-3 (NIRV)

To Older and Younger Believers – I'm speaking to the elders among you. I was a witness of Christ's sufferings. And I will also share in the glory that is going to come. I'm making my appeal to you as one who is an elder together with you. Be shepherds of God's flock, the believers under your care. Watch over them, though not because you have to. Instead, do it because you want to. That's what God wants you to do. Don't do it because you want to get money in dishonest ways. Do it because you really want to serve. Don't act as if you were a ruler over those under your care. Instead, be examples to the flock.

4. What makes a person able to serve as a leader in the church?
5. Why is a leader's relationship with the pastor important?

**Lesson 2: The Congregation’s expectations**

*Video Part 2; Book chapter 2*

In this chapter two asks “Who are elders?” No. Remember we are focusing on leaders.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIRV)

So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

This verse says that Jesus told them to do what? To make disciples of all people.

How?

1. Baptizing in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit
2. Teaching them to observe all things Jesus told us. Teaching everything exactly.

What are the duties?

Duty of leader:

1. Encourage faithful attendance
2. Visit sick, shut-ins, and delinquent members
3. Read God’s Word.
4. Pray for pastor, church, people to hear about God’s love
5. Make sure the pure preaching of God’s word.
6. The right use of baptism and lord’s supper
7. Some people are stuck in sin and need help. We help and comfort them.
8. Confront those who continue sinning. Help those with heavy burdens.

**Lesson 2 Study Questions:**

1. This lesson lists eight important responsibilities (duties) of church leaders. What are they?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

2. Out of those eight duties, choose three that you think are MOST IMPORTANT, and explain WHY these are most important.

(a)

(b)

(c)

Read Matthew 28:19-20 (NIRV)

So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

3. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus commanded us to do what?



**Lesson 3: Who are these leaders?**

*Video Part 3; Book chapter 3*

How do we pick leaders? We use His Word—the Bible. It has two verses.

Acts 6:2-3 (NIRV)

So the 12 apostles gathered all the believers together. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to give up teaching God’s word. And we’d have to stop teaching to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven of your men. They must be known as men who are wise and full of the Holy Spirit. We will turn this important work over to them.

The verse focuses on three words:

1. Respected
2. Spiritual
3. Wise

Understand God gives us these words.

1. Respected means that all those people, no matter if church people or not church people, look at you as a leader and see you are good and positive. They find no fault or criticism. The leader is a good person.
2. Spiritual means that you are full and strong in faith. You believe in God no matter what happens. You are in strong in faith and in love. You love God and you love sinners.
3. Wise means that He has given His wisdom in your mind and heart. His Word is connected to you, to me, to their everyday activities.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 (NIRV)

In the same way, deacons must be worthy of respect. They must be honest and true. They must not drink too much wine. They must not try to get money by cheating people. They must hold on to the deep truths of the faith. Even their own minds tell them to do that. First they must be tested. Then let them serve as deacons if there is nothing against them.

In the same way, the women must be worthy of respect. They must not say things that harm others. In anything they do, they must not go too far. They must be worthy of trust in everything.

A deacon must be faithful to his wife. He must manage his children and family well. 1 Those who have served well earn the full respect of others. They also become more sure of their faith in Christ Jesus.

Notice 1 Timothy, chapter 3 lists eight things.

The leader should be:

1. Serious means that we are brave and eager to give out God's Word. We don't play around and waste time. We are eager that God save all people.
2. Honest, truthful. We are not vague, talking in different directions. We speak straight.
3. Avoid drugs, drinking, fighting, sinning. Don't quarrel. Don't get involved. Have a clean life like Jesus Christ.
4. Don't think only of money. Money belongs to God given to us, not ours. We are responsible to use His money for the right things. Not for me but for Him.
5. Strong faith no matter what happens. Strong faith. Steady and stubborn. This is very important.
6. Steady and faithful. A person has an honest personality. When life, problems, sickness, hospital, lose job, terrible things happen, he/she remain a strong Christian. They look only to Jesus Christ. They are steady.
7. Married to one husband or one wife.
8. Family life. We manage our family and things well. The bible says if we cannot control our family, then we cannot control other people. (I prefer to use the word 'manage').

People like a good leader. Now notice this list. Learn about Jesus Christ Himself. What did He do? Read the Bible every day. Learning more about Jesus Christ will inspire us to live more like Him. We cannot be perfect the same as Jesus but we can try our best. Use the motto WWJD. We do with the Spirit's help. Soon people at church will see us we are good example.

**Lesson 3 Study Questions:**

Read Acts 6:1-6

1. Verse 3 describes three important things that a church leader should have:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

2. These verses list eight important skills that a church leader should have:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7)
- (8)

3. Which of these skills in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3 do you have?

4. Which of these skills in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3 do you not yet have, or you need to improve?

5. What can you do to improve those skills?

**Lesson 4: Leaders help in worship:  
church worship, private worship, family worship**

*Video Part 4; Book chapter 4*

This lesson will help you understand how you participate in worship. We will focus on five sections.

**Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

These verses show how you, I, and all leaders participate in worship. Only in church? No, in all our life, any place, at school, at work, and different places. This lesson shows that you and I are not slaves to the world. No, you and I are free. We belong to God.

**Luke 1:73-74 (NIV)**

... the oath He swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve Him without fear

These verses show that God saved you, me, and all people from three things:

1. World and its sin
2. Devil’s rule
3. Hell

Yes, we are saved. You and I feel joyful. Understand God gives us joyful hearts. We are not afraid and we can go on to serve Him in the future.

**Hebrews 9:13-14 (NIV)**

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

These verses say that Jesus’ blood forgives all your and my sin. He makes your heart, mind, and soul more free, more clearly connected with God. Wow!

Now look to Jesus, He is your and my Lord and Savior. Rejoice.

Leaders work at worship. Leaders involved and doing worship? Why? They know the Lord God works together with you and me. He lets you use what? God's Word. He makes your faith more strong, you trust Him more. He adds to your and my joy and confidence as we continue here.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

These verses emphasize four points:

1. Keep praying
2. Love one another just as Jesus loves you and me.
3. Be kind, courteous, and encouraging
4. Appreciate God's most important gifts – preaching and teaching that will help us be more eager, powerful, continue serving, and being involved more and more in worship. As we go to church regularly or are involved in worship regularly, we become more strong and more involved. One word is very important – missions. Missions means to spread to the world God's Word. 95% of all the Deaf in the world do not know who is Jesus Christ.

Imagine when you are involved in worship, you eagerly want them to know Jesus.

The Leader's Private Worship. Private worship means anywhere, anytime, home or school. It means quiet, alone. God and I together pray.

It is important to read His Word and to learn the most important concepts, Law and Gospel. Law shows us sins. The Gospel shows us our Savior. We can study and compare. The Holy Spirit helps us to look back our sins, then repent and believe

His promise to continue forgiving our sins. This makes us more confident and eager to go out into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

### Romans 8:15-17 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

These verses in Romans chapter 8 help us see our heavenly father as “My Father.” That word “Abba” means “Daddy” He is very gracious. He decided to call you “His children.” That means that you and I belong to Jesus Christ. He takes up and rules us. We look to Jesus and know that He is doing two things:

1. Jesus came here to suffer. Now you and I will suffer and show patient faith. We will continue to suffer.
2. Notice Jesus is now in heaven above with full glory. You and I will have the same glory. Our glory will continue forever.

### 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

No matter if we sin, God call us holy because of Jesus death on the cross taking our sins.

These verse says Jesus Himself was born without sin. Jesus grew up with no sin. God took all our sins and put our sins on Jesus, the cross. The cross means that Jesus Himself was holy and then accepted our sin. God now looks around at you and me, none are destroyed because of sin. Sin the word changed to ‘holy’. We are changed holy. Yes, God helps you and me to be involved in private worship. No matter if we sin, Jesus lives in us. Rejoice and wonderful.

God wants you and I to share and spread this blessed joy. No matter if we sin, God calls you and I holy.

**Lesson 4 Study Questions:**

Read Romans 12:1-2

1. These verses teach us that we give two things to God:

(verse 1) We give God our \_\_\_\_\_

(verse 2) We give God our \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke 1:73-74

2. These verse teach us that God saves us from “our enemies” (the world and its sin, the devil’s rule, and hell). Because God has saved us, we can and should do what?

Read Hebrews 9:11-14

3. What did Christ Jesus do to make our consciences clean and make it possible for us to joyfully serve Him?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

4. These verses tell us we should do four things:

(verse 7) \_\_\_\_\_

(verse 8) \_\_\_\_\_

(verse 9) \_\_\_\_\_

(verses 10-11) \_\_\_\_\_

Read Romans 8:15-17

5. The Holy Spirit in us does what for us?

6. We are united with Christ in two ways (see verse 17):

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

7. God gave all of our sin to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

8. God gave Christ’s holiness to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 5: Worship in the Leader's Family**

*Video Part 5; Book chapter 4 (continued)*

**Worship in the Leader's Family.**

Family worship means that all of the family, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, and babies all are involved in going to church? No. All at home sit around the table. When do you do family worship? In the morning before you go to school. Or better, after dinner in the evening, we all sit around the table. What do we do? You as the leader are responsible to let your family receive enough spiritual food (His Words). That means, His Word connected with Law and Gospel.

Does that mean it is the leader's full responsibility to teach everything? No. All members of the family, the young and the old, from children on up are involved and participate. They feel they are connected in worship, and don't sit back bored. All are active and involved. What do they do?

1. They read God's Word. They take turns and share reading verses. Then they ask questions and ask what does this verse mean? As we share we understand more.
2. They can sing, praise, and share songs.
3. They can pray for family needs, for school and a variety of things. This is important. When they finish praying always say "In Jesus' name." that is very important. Next, they can use the Lord's Prayer. When they are finished, all will feel involved in active family worship.

This family will enjoy more growth in strong faith and more trust.

**Leaders Pray.**

Leaders Pray is almost the same as family worship. Understand you are a leader and you can pray in private, in public, and any place. Praying is important.

God promised that He will pay attention when you and I pray. It is important for your heart. God knows your heart. Maybe you don't know exactly what words to say, what signs to use. Don't worry, the Holy Spirit will pray for you. God already knows your wants before you pray. It is important that you trust and believe in His promise to see (hear) your prayer. God will answer you.



When? Sometimes He answers quickly. Sometimes He answers later on. Sometimes He says, ‘No, this a wrong prayer.’”

It doesn’t matter, God exactly knows what you need when you pray. He honors your prayers. What do you say in prayer? How do you pray?

1. Begin praising, singing praise to God. Use your imagination. Pray or use a book. Sign the words praising God. It is important. God sees your heart. Give praise.
2. Confess your sins. Repent. Repent means “we confess our sins, we trust God’s promise.” In a moment, quickly He forgives our sins.
3. Pray often for people who are sick or grieving. For people who are crying maybe someone died or has work problems or family problems or a variety of troubles. Always pray for me first, no. it is important to pray for them first. We pray for ourselves last. I am low on the list. Jesus prayed for you and me first and last for Himself. Jesus Himself was last. The same way, we are last.
4. Thank God for answering prayers. God says “yes, no, or wait.”
5. Trust His power in you. What He promises, people will see.
6. Always close “in Jesus’ name.”
7. Remember always pray the Lord’s Prayer. That is Jesus’ special prayer, a perfect prayer. When you and I pray all these things, we are not perfect. The Lord’s Prayer supports our prayers. Always pray with faith. Notice worship is the same as service.

### **Worship is service.**

When you and I are involved in worship, who serves first? God. How? How God serves us, God gives us His Word. We can read God talking with us. He teaches our hearts. Also we can learn from the sermon. The pastor speaks God’s Word. That is God’s service. He serves me. He serves us. We respond back with service to Him. How? Notice with 1) hymns, 2) prayers, 3) thanksgiving. 4) a money offering. Worship is equal to service.

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Now you can think. Now talk with your pastor or mentor.

1. Discuss “worship = service. “ discuss it deeply. How? Use your own ideas. Write them.
2. Discuss the word “prayer”. The mentor will help you and I remember who rules prayer The Holy Spirit. When we pray more, God gives us more power. We are more able to serve God. Don’t be afraid.

We always worship God all the time.

**Lesson 5 Study Questions:**

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

1. When a Christian family worships God in the home, what does the family do together to worship Him?
  
2. This lesson lists seven things we pray when we pray together in our homes or in the church:
  - (1)
  - (2)
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
  - (6)
  - (7)
  
3. Worship is service. Why?
  
4. Worship is prayer. Why?

**Lesson 6: Leaders help others learn and teach**

*Video Part 6; Book chapter 5*

Leaders help your people... do what?

- 1) Learn the Gospel and
- 2) Teach the Gospel.

That is the leader's responsibility. To help you and me learn how to teach and how to learn. But most important to help us become more skilled learners and teachers. We look into the Bible.

Leaders get into their Bible.

Eagerly read your Bible. Why?

- 1) To receive His power and wisdom as you understand His Word.
- 2) To learn to read, enjoy, and praise God.
- 3) To learn that the shield against the devil and against the world's temptations but is focusing on His Word.
- 4) To help us learn God rules over leader's your and my life.
- 5) To thank and praise God regardless of your situation good or bad. It doesn't matter. Thank God for everything.

Those five are important.

Notice He gives more power, encouragement, and more faith than before. He puts into your hearts eagerness and faithfulness. Through the five above, God blesses us.

Can I put it in myself? No. Notice you study the Bible and close it? No. Dig deeper in the Bible and bring it home to small groups.

## **1. IN SMALL GROUPS**

Home groups mean people plus some church members meet. How many? Possible four to about ten people. The size doesn't matter.

Reasons for home groups:

1. The first and best reason is concern about how God's Word rules us together as a home group.
2. Naturally we read the Bible, we pray together, we discuss. Many times church members show up, many new ideas are shared to spread God's Word. You and I participate in church activities but never stop to think about the ideas of other people. They have good suggestions. Great, share ideas. The church members in home groups feel more involved than when they sit back. Become active and involved. Wonderful.

Pray together, praise God in those home groups. Then you can read and bring to other groups through home visits.

2.

### **3. HOME VISITS**

Home visits mean visiting the sick, going to the hospital or visiting people who don't go to church or can't be involved in home groups. They have many reasons.

You and I can read our Bible and carry it to those people. What do we do? Three things.

1. We learn,
  2. We teach,
  3. We encourage.
- 
- 1) We learn by paying attention to those people's needs, wants, different problems like personal health or medical needs, and whatever. You and I need to not gossip. Close our mouths, sit on our hands, learn to keep their secrets, give them more time to share. No time limit. God's Holy Spirit will show you exactly which verses will meet their problems.
  - 2) Teach means that we take the appropriate Bible verse to coordinate smoothly with their problems. We read and we share. Imagine they don't understand a verse. Take time, don't hurry. Sit down and explain what those verses mean. Then they will understand. Once they understand then...
  - 3) Encourage them. What does encourage mean? People easily become depressed and lost in thought. They forget God's Word. The devil wants to destroy their peace and blessings. Point them to the verses and encourage

them to remember that Jesus said “Be careful.” Keep your eyes focused on Jesus Christ. Keep your eyes focused. Encourage them.

Do you only visit once? No, go regularly until they have a strong faith full of joy. Read the Bible and bring it to establish new Home Bible study classes.

#### **4. STARTING/ESTABLISHING HOME BIBLE STUDY CLASSES**

Is home Bible study groups a new idea? No. This is old idea used for many years. You have never heard of it? It has not yet happened near you?

I want to encourage you to establish home Bible study groups. This is a good idea, why?

- 1) Home, not church, home means more relaxed, comfortable seating. We sit in a circle.
- 2) You, the leader, or people around you can choose any topic you want to study. For example HIV or living together with a person without marriage. Those are examples. Many times people who don't want to go to church will go to a home. You feel, “I will make a mistake. I need more help.” A home Bible study helps. People sit around and discuss. They say, “That is what the Bible says. Fine.”
- 3) Time is not limited. At church Bible study time is often limited to 45 minutes or one hour. Time is very limited. Home Bible study has plenty of time. One hour, two hours, the group decides. First you become excited and enjoy then you stay longer to discuss if you want. You meet one evening each week.
- 4) You and I are leaders. We pick up and teach everything ourselves? No. Let the group members take turns teaching. That is wonderful. Then they become more eager. You are leaders. I encourage you to establish home Bible study groups in different houses. I encourage you.

One more reason why you have home Bible Studies. You read the Bible and bring it to their meeting places.

**Lesson 6 Study Questions:**

Read: **Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 1 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)**

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1. This lesson names five reasons church leaders should study the Bible:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

2. In what various ways do leaders use the Bible in their service to other people?

**Lesson 7: Leaders help others learn and teach (continued)**

*Video Part 7; Book chapter 5 (continued)*

**5. ONSITE EXPERIENCE**

What do the words “onsite experience” means?

It means going out of church, out of home. For example, to a town meeting, going to different places to get experiences. Many times you can go to a Deaf club, a Deaf activity, a Deaf party, going to different places to visit, talk and share. But notice many times, the Deaf persons chat about many things, problems, missing family, drugs, depression.

One says, “My daughter is pregnant again, what can I do?” Go to different places and help. Then God will use you and me to help.

Many times we can’t answer quickly their problems. But we can show the Bible’s help. Sometimes maybe you and I are boldly nosy. We know that when the Deaf people talk, everyone can see them talking. We can interrupt. When we both know each other that is ok. But if we don’t know each other, then begin slowly.

Remember the Holy Spirit will help you with strength and wisdom. The devil will try to make you afraid. Don’t worry, go ahead. Yes, it is difficult, but it is possible. Remember God can do all things. He can! It is important to give Jesus’ support. As you become more experienced, you will be more brave. Yes.

Next the Bible reading, you can bring to old or new families.

**6. WITH OLD AND NEW FAMILIES**

Notice the words “old families, new families.”

“Old families” does that mean “old people?” No. “Old families,” means people you have known for a long time since you have grown up. Maybe from school, maybe mainstreaming. You have known them for many years. Those are “old families.”

“New families” are new people that recently moved here, they don’t know anybody or anything. They feel out of place.



That is what “old families” and “new families” mean. We admit that we pay attention to old families and leave out new families.

Remember, God loves all people. It doesn't matter who, God wants all people. Old families, new families, God knows them all and loves them, yes.

Sit down with a family. It is not easy. It requires a lot of time. It is important. Why? Keep close contact with them. It is important.

Now I want to ask what does the word “family” mean? Traditionally family includes father, mother, and children of different ages. That is all. No. Family can mean anything. It means any person living in one house under one roof. Now family can mean like before – husband, wife, children maybe gone. Or husband and wife have foster children. Or married and have no children. Finished? No, family can include divorced family, a widow, or a widower. Finished? No. Family involves people you don't like – gay & lesbian. No matter. Remember, God loves all people, period. That is good.

This requires time, sharing. Many times a family will lose interest. Before they were strong Christians going to church regularly, now they have given up, they feel awkward. They never come to church now. Remember all families have problems. This problem, another problem, etc. No. Any problem. Remember when a problem pops up, what is the answer? Can you find an answer from the world? Quickly the problem is solved? No. No. Where is an answer? The Bible, God's Word.

Many families who go to church do not know how to use the Bible, how to open it and become involved. God will use you and me. We will contact and help the family. It demands a lot of time. But we notice that when we are involved, God greatly blesses us and inspires us. God will, I promise you. I promise, I know that.

It happened in my past experience and will happen to you also. Now when you sit down with a family remember two important things:

- 1) Pay attention, listen. Pay attention carefully.
- 2) Give comfort and share. Stay in close contact any time. Does that mean they can call you at 3 in the morning? Can they come? No. But stay in close contact with them.

Now read and bring the Bible to who?

**Lesson 7 Study Questions:**

**Read Acts 17:16-34 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens. He was very upset to see that the city was full of statues of gods. <sup>17</sup> So he went to the synagogue. There he talked both with Jews and with Greeks who worshiped God. Each day he spoke with anyone who happened to be in the market place...

1. Where are some places you can share Jesus people in the community?

**Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV)**

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. We ourselves receive comfort from God. We share very much in the sufferings of Christ. So we also share very much in his comfort. If we are having trouble, it is so that you will be comforted and renewed. If we are comforted, it is so that you will be comforted. Then you will be able to put up with the same suffering we have gone through. Our hope for you remains firm. We know that you suffer just as we do. In the same way, God comforts you just as he comforts us.

2. We often meet people who have problems. How can we earn their trust so we can share God's answers with them?

**Lesson 8: Leaders help others learn and teach (continued)**

*Video Part 8; Book chapter 5 (continued)*

**7. WEAK, CARELESS, STRAYING?**

Weak, careless, or straying persons. Yes, God loves all people. You and I want to focus on three groups:

- 1) The weak,
  - 2) The careless (they forget and don't care), and
  - 3) The straying, they wander out into the world.
  
- 1) The weak. Are they skinny, thin, wobbly? No. Weak means that they are not yet established and strong in faith. Yes, their heart holds and loves Jesus Christ. They will have pictures of Jesus on their walls at home. They will have Bibles in their house. But their knowledge is weak. The different religions can tempt them with wrong ideas. They confuse them and influence them. Yes, God really wants all His children no matter how strong or weak their faith. God wants all His children. He will use you to encourage, teach, and show them. They learn the correct way to use verses for the right reason. They learn to serve the Lord. They don't say, "Me, Me, Me." They focus on Jesus Christ. Different religions focus on "me, me." Our Bible says, "Him – God." Pay attention to Jesus.
  
- 2) The careless are silly, forgetful, not responsible, and flighty people. Many times they don't know what they are doing. They put the Bible in the hearts and lives? No. Both the Bible and the world confuses them and they are involved with the world more than the Bible. You and I work especially with them. When they are careless with the Bible, God is disappointed. Did Jesus come here careless? They don't know or care, they just waste time. Yes, Jesus wants you, me, and all the careless people also. He wants the eager, the disappointed, and the active. Remember God chose you, I, and the careless to be a light to the world. When we show the Bible clearly, they understand. They learn how to act and show joy, blessings, and forgiveness all together.
  
- 3) And now the straying group. Before they were active and involved in the church, they were active in worship and every meeting. What happened? They stopped. Going to church, they stopped. They have one or two reasons why they stopped. They give you a list of reasons. They require your time. We boldly go to their home and discuss with them. We discuss many things. Sometimes they complain about fingerspelling. "I can't go, I fingerspell." "I only want ASL." Change the word "reason." Use the word "excuse." Should we scold them?

“You missed church, why? Come. It is important. You should go to church, you will learn more.” Will your scolding get them to go back to church? No. Remember, Jesus came into the world to criticize and scold? No. He came to save. Look to God and copy Jesus’ heart. He loved them, smiled, kept them in His heart, and shared with the straying people. This requires time. But don’t give up. Continue.

It is important to remember when you go to see people- the weak, the careless, and the straying people-it is important you do two things.

- 1) Pay attention to them. Listen to them. And
- 2) Remember number two? Keep close contact with them.

Statistics and research show that with these three groups, the first time you visit, one-half will come back to church. The other half require more than one visit. This is important to remember. They require one year, five years, maybe twenty years. It is important to remember.

- 1) Pay attention to them and
- 2) keep in close contact.

Now we are finished with this chapter, remember the six different ways we read the Bible and bring it to six groups. For more experience, meet with your mentor to discuss this. Go with him to the different groups and learn from him how to work with them.

Discuss the six main points with your mentor on what you can do to gain personal experiences and write the experiences down on paper or sign them on tapes.

1. *Share in small home fellowship groups.*
2. *Visit individual people who can't go to church or come to home fellowship groups because they are sick, in a nursing home, or in the hospital.*
3. *Start new Bible study groups in homes or in the community; take turns with other group members teaching & leading the groups.*
4. *Go into the community, taking Christ and His Word to the world, meeting people in their places of work and leisure ("onsite experience").*
5. *Visit with "old" and "new" families – both people who are long-time church members and people who are just starting to learn about Jesus.*
6. *Seek people who are*
  - (a) *weak in faith*
  - (b) *careless about their faith in Christ*
  - (c) *straying away from Christ*

Read Acts 17:16-34 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” <sup>21</sup> (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Council. <sup>34</sup> Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among

them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

1. Where are some places you can share Jesus people in the community?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

2. We often meet people who have problems. How can we earn their trust so we can share God's answers with them?

**Lesson 8 Study Questions:**

Read Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

James 5:19-20

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

How can we help weak, careless, and straying people come back into fellowship with Christ and His Church?

## Lesson 9: Leaders Encourage Witnessing

*Video Part 9; Book chapter 6*

Witness means to see, a person who proves. I will sign “witness” as a person who shows (signed “show” but with “w” letter instead of “s”).

Do you know a person who is a skilled witness, an experienced witness? Are you? Many people disagree with you. They feel awkward and uneasy. They want to witness and show about Jesus Christ. They want. But they are afraid to witness. Why? They imagine they will use the wrong signs or the wrong words and will quit. They are nervous.

Read Acts 1:8 (NIV)

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

### LEADERS ARE WITNESSES

Jesus called you to witness. The verse says, God gave you, what? Power, strength to go into all the world and witness. Remember His peace overcomes fear. Fear from what? The devil. Remember Jesus overcame the devil, finished on the cross. When? 2,000 years ago. That means the devil can’t overcome you – a witness. No. He can’t prevent you. No. The Holy Spirit lives in you. Go ahead. Now I ask you: To whom and when are we to witness?

### WITNESS TO WHOM?

Witness to whom? To all people, all people, no matter who. I will say it again and again. Jesus loves all people. What do we witness – say?

- 1) Say that God wants all saved.
- 2) Know His truth. I ask, “What is truth?”

### WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

What is the truth? Remember the story. The soldiers captured Jesus and He stood before the Roman governor name Pontius Pilate. Pilate the judge asked Jesus, “Are



you a king?” Jesus said, “Yes, if you know the truth.” Pilate was surprised and thought. He asked, “What is truth?” Pilate is not the only one. Many people in the world don’t know the truth. Many people are searching hard for truth. Will they find it? Do you know what is truth? Yes, you know what is truth.

Truth comes from where? The Bible. The Bible talks about two things.

- 1) Law and
- 2) Gospel.

The Law shows what? It shows sin.

The Gospel shows what? It shows the Savior.

Know the truth. It is important for you to open and read your Bible and take it to others. How do you and I learn the skill to be more experienced witnesses? Must I memorize many things? No. I wish we could memorize more, but we can’t. What can we use to help us?

## **MAKE A JOURNAL**

What? Make a journal, a diary. Then when you go and witness you can tell about how God blessed other people. Wonderful things happened.

Can you put it in your head and remember? It is easy to forget. Write it down in a journal. “I am not a skilled writer.” It doesn’t matter. Write down some notes. Or watch another person witness and write notes. It will help you remember. The next time you go out, you can witness. Before you go to witness, read your notes. The people will watch you discuss your experience about how God touched you. Other stories are good, but your experience is better.

How God blessed you is important and is a powerful witness. Your witness will inform them.

## **WHERE DO WE BEGIN TO WITNESS?**

Where is the first place to start to witness? Guess where? Home. Yes, your home. Learn to share God’s Word at home with your children. Your family can learn to witness from each other. They will become more skilled. The Bible says to start



teaching God’s Word, where? At home. Begin to learn to witness in your home. Then go to other places.

Remember, Jesus said to start witnessing around home then in the country, then in Israel, then out to all the world. In the same way, you start at home and spread out to others. Exactly the same. God gives you and I many opportunities.

## **THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE WITHOUT END**

Have you heard the words “Golden opportunities.”

That means wonderful exciting special opportunities. Opportunities are happenings. We get many special chances to witness. We start at home. Then we go to church, friends, social events, activities at work. God gives many opportunities. Opportunities show up. For example, I am out walking and someone meets me. We talk about work. They ask a question about the Bible or faith or church. I stop and think. Has that happened to you many times like me? Many times, yes. Success all the time? No. Did God give up on you when you missed opportunities? No. I will pick another person to sign for you. No.

Remember Acts 1:8 says: “God chose you and I to witness.” He gives power ever since then. Wonderful.

Don’t give up. Keep on trying. God promised you, if a person comes with a questions, the Holy Spirit will help you answer. The Bible says that. Don’t worry about words. It is important that you read and become involved in the Bible. The Holy Spirit will help you remember and answer. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will be our mouthpiece. The Holy Spirit will use your hands to sign His Words. It will happen. Notice, the wonderful Holy Spirit can control now that affects a person. They will repent and believe. When that happens, how will you feel? Will you feel excited and happy?

The verse says when a person repents and believes, what will happen? All the angels will rejoice and dance for joy. We are the same. We will rejoice.

Next section: What do we need to give you?

**Lesson 9 Study Questions:**

Read Acts 1:8

1. What does the word “witness” mean? Explain how we witness for Christ.
2. Where does our witness for Christ begin?
3. Whom does Jesus love?
4. What did Jesus do to prove His love?
5. What verses in the Bible support your answer to questions 3 & 4?
6. Tell about an experience when you were able to tell someone about Jesus.

**Lesson 10: Leaders Encourage Witnessing (continued)**

*Video Part 10; Book chapter 6 (continued)*

**GIVE THEM WHAT THEY NEED**

Open your Bible and read:

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

These verses say in summary:

God freed you and I from sin, the world, the devil’s rule and hell. That means that we are free from the world. We are disconnected from the world but interacting with the world.

Notice the many Jewish leaders saw Jesus relating to terrible people. The leaders said, “We don’t relate with them, they are bad people.” Jesus answered: “I did not come to help the good and saved people, I came to help sick, helpless people.” Jesus came to the world not to criticize or blame people. The Jewish leaders said that Jesus was wrong. No. Jesus saves. Yes!

We show that to people. We relate with the world. We inform them of God’s Word. That means we become like Jesus. For example: A group of Deaf people prefer pure English signs, then I sign the same as them. Another group signs ASL, I sign like them. Why? To take and give Jesus Christ is the reason.

The Bible says that. I server one group as they need. I serve another group differently as they need. Together we serve Jesus.

Now there are four activities that will help you become more strong and clear witness.

## **ACTION ONE**

Read the Bible. For example when you tell them to read a famous verse, John 3:16. Remember at a football game, they hold up a sign that says 3 & 16. You became curious what the verse says...

### **John 3:16 (NIV)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Notice the words in order. I encourage you to use your own signs, your own words. Remember one group uses English, another group uses ASL. That means the Holy Spirit helps me become ready to change the words so each group understands clearly.

For example in ASL: “God looked at the world full of sin. He was upset. What to do? God put here His son Jesus. All the world, that means all who believe Jesus and hold on, they will go to heaven. Go to hell, no.” For example, sign more personally. So each group will understand and say “yes.”

To witness involves criticizing and saying that is wrong. Or criticizing brings terrible fear. No, No. Jesus came here to comfort. That means that the Holy Spirit comes through you and I to comfort them, to give them hope. Hope belongs to who? Jesus Christ. God loves all sinners. God gives them freedom, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life. Wonderful.

## **ACTION TWO**

Share my faith, my life experiences and excitement. The people will notice Jesus is involved in your life. They will want Jesus in their lives. That is why I encourage you to write a journal or diary to help you remember God’s blessings to you.

## **ACTION THREE**

Focus on their position, their status-wickedness, sin.

Focus maybe they have different situations, for example, guilt, fear, giving up, life is worthless, different situations. Maybe they use a special sign “use,” which they

borrow from the Bible and use it to help. Some are talking negatively and negatively. They take the same word and make it positive so that people will notice and better understand. Most important, we must focus on what? Jesus Christ, your Savior, has finished forgiving all your sins. He has promised you to give you eternal life. That is a simple story. But still you must say it again and again.

Will people quickly become excited? Some will become excited quickly. Some will read it and doubt saying, “That is your opinion.”

Do you remember, when Jesus lives here, He understood their situations. He understood and had a ready answer to give. Some accepted. Some rejected. If some people rejected Jesus, naturally some will reject you too. It is important to remember. Don’t give up. Jesus Himself never gave up.

#### **ACTION FOUR**

Notice God uses you and I as a summons. The judge gives us a summons to court. If you don’t show up, you will be punished. Yes, God uses you and I as His summons to call people. A summons to go and get punished? No. Jesus summons us to repent now, believe now. Yes, God sees us as a summons as you meet and interact with people. We don’t know when Jesus will come back again on the last day. The time is now. Some of the people will accept the summons and they will get along fine. Others will ignore the summons. Remember God calls you and I to witness. That means God will use you and me as a summons to the people. Wonderful.

Now we will talk about the people around us.

#### **SOME ARE APATHETIC AND INDIFFERENT**

Notice two words

- 1) Apathetic and
- 2) indifferent

Apathetic means “I don’t care, I am not interested, I am not responsible, it is not my job.”

Indifferent means, “That is funny. Don’t bother me.”

When Jesus was here long ago, Jesus met those two groups many times. How did Jesus Himself feel? Sad. You and I will feel sad.

**Matthew 9:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

<sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

What does these verses say? Jesus came to help all people. Wonderful. Jesus met and helped many people. Jesus wants to help all the people. Some didn’t want help. Others accepted help. Some didn’t want. Did Jesus give up? No, Jesus never gave up. Jesus had to leave the world to send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, powerful, going ahead, never giving up.

1. Explain the word “witness.”
2. Tell your mentor about two situations or experiences in your life when God touched you.
3. Why is it a good idea to keep a journal?

**Lesson 11 Study Questions:**

Read:

**John 3:16 (NIV)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**Matthew 9:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

1. This lesson describes four actions that make us strong in our witness:

Action 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Action 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Action 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Action 4 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell about two different situations or experiences when God touched you.

(a)

(b)

3. We should always be prepared to tell someone about Jesus at any time we have the opportunity. What can we do to prepare and be ready for those times?

**Lesson 11: Leaders Prepare & Train Servants of Jesus**

*Video Part 11; Book chapter 7*

As you read this verse, I want you to catch one word, “Whoever.”

**Read again: John 3:16 (NIV)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Whoever means that it doesn’t matter. Jesus Christ came to save all people no matter who. This is very important. It helps us plan and train and go ahead.

**SERVANTS OF JESUS**

**Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father

What do these verses show? That Jesus Christ humbly came into the world. I wonder about one word – humble. What does the word “humble” means?

Does the word “humble” mean poor? Many Deaf sign the word “humble” with the word “poor.” No. Humble means to put yourself under someone. Jesus thought you people are more important than Himself – Jesus. Jesus is the best and first



example against the world which says: “Me first. Me first.” Did Jesus say that? No.

Jesus wanted you and I to feel that other people are more important than us. Jesus remained humble. The Bible says that Jesus was the most humble person ever. Now Jesus rose and ascended into heaven. Then what happened? God gave Jesus glory. God said “Your name – Jesus – is above your and my name, above all names.”

**Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)**

But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

This verse in the Old Testament talks about the “Suffering Servant.” Notice carefully this verse. Jesus willingly suffered beating, people mocking Him, tearing His beard, and whipping His back. Can you and I go ahead and suffer the same as Jesus? We can’t do that. But Jesus willingly gave up. He was humble for you and I. Wow!

**Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

What do these verses show? It shows that Jesus wants you and me to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ. More important, Jesus has established a home for everyone there in heaven. We eagerly join Him. That means earth, world, or home belongs to us? No. It belongs to Him. And more, Jesus suffered here. You and I will suffer here, but what did Jesus promise? Jesus lives in heaven with a glorious body, and we who belong to Him will live in heaven with Him.

Why? Because Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts. You and I plan to teach people to learn about service. Jesus served you and me.

Now we focus on three groups:

**1. Sick – when someone is sick.**

**James 5:13-16 (NIV)**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

What do these verses talk about?

- 1) Call the church leaders to come together into a group.
- 2) Put their hands on the sick person.
- 3) Pour olive oil on their head.
- 4) Pray with faith. God will answer prayer.

Remember you and I can't heal the sick person. No. God Himself heals. Believe that God can heal no matter what the name of sickness. Remember sometimes God answers "No." I ask you which is more important? Spiritual health or body health – which one? You think now please. What is your answer? Yes, spiritual health. Once you know through faith that Jesus rose again from the dead to give you life, then you have eternal life in heaven with God. You and I will die just like Jesus. Jesus' body died. He rose again. You and I will rise again also. We will have a new glorious body soon. The Spirit is more important than the body. Now perhaps the person not yet has health. What do you do? Sit down with the sick person. Explain, share, sometimes God can use that person's sickness more than health. Remember His grace. Jesus shows mercy to us. What do we do? First.... Listen! Listen, comfort, never criticize. Don't lose patience. Remember, listen, listen.

**Lesson 11 Study Questions:**

**Read John 3:16 (NIV)**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1. Who will receive eternal life?

**Read Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)**

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father

2. What Jesus do to humble Himself?

**Read Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)**

But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

3. Jesus' suffering and death brings us what?

**Read Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

4. Where is our true home?

**Read James 5:13-16 (NIV)**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

5. As we visit someone who is sick, what should we do for them?

**Lesson 12: Leaders Prepare & Train Servants of Jesus (continued)**

*Video Part 12; Book chapter 7 (continued)*

**2. When someone is dying (near death).**

**John 11:1-27 (NIV)**

*Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus*

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 11:17-27 talks about what?

Yes, Jesus went. What did He say? It doesn't matter that His friend Lazarus died. Jesus said, “Have hope, he will rise again.” It doesn't matter. Yes we will die. Jesus promised that we will live. We can comfort and visit people in a hospital who are approaching death, maybe in a hospice or at home. The doctor will examine the person. Many times they are afraid about dying. They hope for eternal life. They prefer that you and I give honest answers about their future. Give honest answers. The doctor says they are dying. They don't want confusing talk. No. They want straight and honest answers. I will give you an honest answer. Then they feel relaxed. Then they want you to give them God's Word of comfort even though they are dying.

John, chapter 11, opens and shows a positive answer about Jesus' resurrection. Many people think that Jesus rose, but they will stay forever in the grave. No. Jesus rose. You and I will rise also. People near death need to hear that and understand that as Jesus rose, they will rise.

Jesus in heaven waits for you to explain and give comfort. Let the person express himself and listen carefully. We talk little, they talk as much as they want. The Holy Spirit will give the right words of comfort at the right time. Don't worry about words to say. The Holy Spirit will help you. Be patient, don't worry.

### **3. When someone is grieving.**

The word "grieve" happens all the time. All people grieve, no matter how strong and faithful.

Do Christians grieve? Yes.

Remember Jesus Himself cried. He grieved when He heard His friend Lazarus had died. Martha said that Lazarus was dead and Jesus cried. If Jesus can cry, then you and I can cry also.

Grief is natural.

Read **John 11:35 (NIV)**  
Jesus wept.

John tells us that Jesus cried.

**Romans 12:15 (NIV)**  
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Romans talks about crying together with people who are crying. Don't be a hypocrite. Cry honestly with them.

If they are happy, you be happy. It is not wrong to share.

### 1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

These verses say that some people grieve because of a guilty conscience. For example, my mother or father is nearing death and I left him alone. I was too busy. I had no time. An accident happened. It was bad. These verses say that your sins are forgiven. You are free. Don't dwell on the past. Forgiveness finishes the past. It is finished. Move forward now. Don't worry. Once God forgives you, forget it, don't remember it. Wonderful.

Remember Jesus made you His servant. That means He called you His brother or sister. Wow! Jesus is not embarrassed to call you His brother or sister. Feel free. Don't have a guilty conscience. Don't grieve. Ok, I understand. Guilty conscience? No. Free? Yes.

## NETWORK

This is the sign for networking: Contacting.

### 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This verse in 1 John talks about showing love. Don't just talk about it. Do it. People will notice endless talking but when joined with action, that is good.

This verse encourages us to do and show love. Go ahead. Imagine you are visiting the sick or the dying or the grieving. Maybe their problems and situations overwhelm us and we can't control it. What will I do? This is too deep. I can't answer. Then think about referring...

## TIME TO REFER?

Refer means to send to another person. The city has skilled counselors in various areas. Some are spiritual counselors who will share with the sick or the dying or the grieving. Don't be afraid. Imagine I send a person to a counselor, does that

mean I am poor, not skilled? No, God uses all people together as one family. This is not wrong. Imagine you have no referral list. You need to work on that.

Sit down with your mentor and work on that (referral list).

- 1) Contact an important Deaf organization like the Society or Club. See if they have a referral list. Use some of their names if they will permit you. It is important to refer. Imagine a support group or AA or a drug rehabilitation group. They will have a referral list. Be careful and make sure that the list is up-to-date. Phone numbers change all the time. Always share an up-to-date phone number. Make sure. Now we move on. Maybe you don't have any experience visiting the sick, the dying, or the grieving. What will you do? Make a schedule with your pastor. Go with him and learn as you watch him. That is how to do that. When you go home write notes in your journal or diary. Discuss this with your mentor. Share ideas.
  
  - 2) If you have no referral list, ask your mentor. Maybe he doesn't have one. Maybe it is old or out-of-date. Work together to develop a referral list. Keep it with you all the time in your billfold or in the car. Make sure you have it ready.
1. Arrange visits along with your mentor to the sick, grieving, and dying. Keep a journal of these visits.
  
  2. If you have no referral list, develop one with your mentor of all other counseling agencies within your community.



**Lesson 12 Study Questions:**

**Read John 11:1-27 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived. <sup>2</sup> Mary would later pour perfume on the Lord. She would also wipe Jesus' feet with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick in bed. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Lord," they told him, "the one you love is sick."

<sup>4</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it." <sup>5</sup> Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So after he heard Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. <sup>7</sup> And then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short time ago the Jews there tried to kill you with stones. Are you still going back?"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Aren't there 12 hours of daylight? Anyone who walks during the day won't trip and fall. They can see because of this world's light. <sup>10</sup> But when they walk at night, they'll trip and fall. They have no light."

<sup>11</sup> After he said this, Jesus went on speaking to them. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep," he said. "But I am going there to wake him up."

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him."

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas, who was also called Didymus, spoke to the rest of the disciples. "Let us go also," he said. "Then we can die with Jesus."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary. They had come to comfort them because their brother was dead. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup> “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, “I know he will rise again. This will happen when people are raised from the dead on the last day.”

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she replied. “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. I believe that you are the one who is supposed to come into the world.”

1. What hope and comfort does Jesus give for people who are dying?

**Read Romans 12:15 (NIV)**

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

2. What comfort can we give to people who are grieving?

**Read 1 John 1:8-9 (NIV)**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

3. What makes God sad (and should also grieve us)?

**Read 1 John 3:18 (NIV)**

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

4. How do we show true love for someone?

*Ask your pastor to show you how to visit people who are sick, dying, or grieving. Then you may volunteer for this service in your church.*

**Lesson 13: Leaders Build Up Group Fellowship & Support**

*Video Part 13; Book chapter 8*

Leaders establish fellowship groups and support groups. Notice many people come to church for one reason. That, what?

**WHAT IS FELLOWSHIP?**

Think. Why do new people come to church? Christian fellowship. There are different signs for the word “fellowship.” Now you think about the word “fellowship,” don’t sign the word. Write the answer: “What is fellowship?” you could sign it. You have 7 seconds to think.

.....

Fellowship means good friends come together as your family and friends come to a picnic fellowship. But more to the point, Christian fellowship means only happy, good party? No.

Fellowship means special sharing, showing a common faith. Faith in Jesus Christ, who called you. We are His brothers and sisters in Christ. We share.

**1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)**

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

That verse talks about God calling and choosing you for fellowship with Christ, God’s Son. Fellowship (sharing) means that you and I do three things:

- 1) We share eternal life with Jesus.
- 2) His life living in you and me in this world.
- 3) A message about who – naturally Jesus Christ.

Fellowship with Jesus Christ means fellowship with His brothers and sisters in Christ. Yes, you and me.

**Philemon 17 (NIV)**

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

What does this verse say?

Accept one another as brothers or sisters in Christ. That is like fellowship.

**Philippians 1:7-8 (NIV)**

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

What do these verses talk about?

Sharing and fellowship even though you are sad or happy. Imagine a group of people that are happy, successful, have good jobs, nice houses. Are you jealous? No. Be happy, celebrate with them. Imagine another group that is sad, crying, and grieving. Join with them, cry with them, share with them. That is fellowship. Read the Bible. Jesus was happy with happy people and sad with sad people. You and I do the same.

Now you and I are leaders. We encourage one another.

**LEADERS ENCOURAGE FELLOWSHIP**

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NIV)**

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

These verses says that we share one bread, one body of Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Notice we are together, united in Christ.

The Bible says, “We are one in the Lord, one baptism, one family.” Now it is important to establish fellowship and share.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Questions to be asked to see if groups support the idea of Christian Fellowship (meet expectations):

- Do you understand the purpose of the fellowship group?
- Do you understand that the purpose of the fellowship group is part of the purpose of the church?
- Do you work hard to accomplish your purpose, not exaggerate business details?
- Do you show personal care for group members?
- Do you involve all group members in planning and carrying out goals?
- Do you arrange comfortable and relaxed atmosphere to permit free fellowship/sharing?
- Do you know the gifts (skills) of all members and put them to use?
- Do you open fellowship to all members to grow stronger in their faith? Can we find this?

## WHEN PEOPLE DISAGREE

The word “disagree”. Disagreement happens in a fellowship. Is it wrong? Must we stop people who disagree? Look at this next verse.

### **Acts 15:1 (NIV)**

certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

In this verse the disciples in the Jewish town of Jerusalem had a fellowship in Christ. They argued about one idea. The Jewish law said that all men must be circumcised. Some didn’t want that. Others argued, “Yes.” They fought and argued. Now read the next verse.

**Acts 15:28-29 (NIV)**

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

*Continued in the next lesson...*

**Lesson 13 Study Questions:**

Read:

**1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)**

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 12:3-16 (NIRV)**

<sup>3</sup> God’s grace has been given to me. So here is what I say to every one of you. Don’t think of yourself more highly than you should. Be reasonable when you think about yourself. Keep in mind the faith God has given to each of you. <sup>4</sup> Each of us has one body with many parts. And the parts do not all have the same purpose. <sup>5</sup> So also we are many persons. But in Christ we are one body. And each part of the body belongs to all the other parts. <sup>6</sup> We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us. Do you have the gift of prophecy? Then use it according to the faith you have. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup> Is it encouraging others? Then encourage them. Is it giving to others? Then give freely. Is it being a leader? Then work hard at it. Is it showing mercy? Then do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup> Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Welcome others into your homes.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who hurt you. Bless them, and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Be joyful with those who are joyful. Be sad with those who are sad. <sup>16</sup> Agree with one another.

Don't be proud. Be willing to be a friend of people who aren't considered important. Don't think that you are better than others.

1. What is Christian Fellowship?

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (NIV)**

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

2. How does the Lord's Supper help us have fellowship with each other and with Christ?

3. How does Christian fellowship help Christians grow in faith and in service for Christ?

**Lesson 14: Leaders Build Up Group Fellowship & Support (continued)**

*Video Part 14; Book chapter 8 (continued)*

**Acts 15:28-29 (NIV)**

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

These verses show finally the argument was solved. It is important to focus on His grace. Don't focus on the law. Grace from God. Clearly the Holy Spirit has control and power. Another word for disagree is "conflict." God can solve it. If you and I are involved in fellowship and disagreement pops up, do you and I feel depressed? Don't. That can happen. Even in Christ' Church disagreement shows up. People argue and have conflict. As you know you and I and they are sinners. We can't be perfect in unity with one mind and one heart. Can't. Conflict will happen.

Imagine people disagree, conflict shows up, don't be surprised. See this as a special wonderful time to sit down together. We know God permits disagreement and conflict. Where is help? Through the Holy Spirit, you and I grow stronger in fellowship than before.

Notice many times if you look back, naturally disagreement pops up. Finally God solves it as we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. We know God has everything under control. God fully rules over everything. He permits things to happen, but He rules. That is wonderful. God helps the world.

Notice people fight and argue, but when they depend on God and not themselves the problem goes away. That is wonderful and a good witness. Fellowship shows that we are different, yet we are joined in fellowship with Jesus Christ. It is important to show that God succeeds with you and me.

**QUICK TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK**

**James 1:19-20 (NIV)**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.



The Holy Spirit inspired James to write these verse? What do they say? “Be quick to listen and slow to speak.”

Imagine that something pops up we did not expect or plan and we went off the subject. Don’t stand up and fuss. No. Be slow. Calm down. Remember God permits that to happen. He has a reason. Keep cool. We want to follow my plan? No. God permits some confusion, so that I will learn that He, not me, He is in control.

James gave good advice to you and me. “Keep cool.” For example, I planned to take a picture when you promised to show up with an important report to the fellowship group. At the last minute you did not show up. We need to go ahead. We have no report. The meeting is falling apart. We become upset? No. Keep cool. You probably have a good reason. Many different things happen. It is important that the leader keep cool. Go ahead and finish the fellowship. Later on go to the person and quietly discuss what happened. You may find out that the person had a good reason many times. Keep cool.

### **AS GOOD STEWARDS (MANAGERS)**

#### **1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)**

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

These verses talk about four “t’s” These words are not in the verses.

- 1) “Toil” means work.
- 2) “Time” means time.
- 3) “Talents” means skills.
- 4) “Treasure” means money.

Those four together we give. Work, managing His gifts, managing for Him. Now I want you to sit down and talk with your mentor (pastor), and write those verses in your own signs in video or words.

Important is fellowship to know each of their strength and their weakness in the four of “t’s”. Find out which of the four “t’s” is your strength or weak and share with your mentor/pastor. Important.

Next, I want you to think why it is important to setup fellowship group. If they have and find out. Important to know. If they don’t have fellowship group, then discuss with the mentor/pastor to setup one.

1. Please share with your mentor use of four “T’s”, (toil, time, talent, and treasure), support missions of preaching and teaching, know skills of each member and put them to use.
2. Talk with your mentor regarding support groups and establishing fellowships.

**Lesson 14 Study Questions:**

**Read Acts 15:1-21 (NIRV)**

<sup>1</sup> Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup> The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

<sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> “After this I will return  
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.  
Its ruins I will rebuild,  
and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,

even all the Gentiles who bear my name,  
says the Lord, who does these things’—  
<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup>“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

**Read James 1:19-20 (NIV)**

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

1. How should we resolve conflict in Christian fellowship?

**Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)**

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

2. How do each of the “Four Ts” support Gospel mission?

- (a) Time
- (b) Toil (work)
- (c) Talents
- (d) Treasure

3. What can you do to help your church to start a new fellowship group?

**Lesson 15: Leaders Build Up Group Fellowship & Support (continued)**

*Video Part 15; Book chapter 8 (continued)*

**Anticipate Trouble?**

Anticipate. What does that word mean?

It means “expect,” we are ready. Problems and troubles pop up. We are ready. We expect them. This world is full of sin. Remember it makes no difference that we are strong. We are members of one family and we have the Spirit and faith. If you notice, you can eagerly search around and find problems. Don’t do that. Be ready when problems come.

For example, Jesus Christ Himself, in life did Jesus Christ look for and seek troubles? No! When problems showed up, Jesus was ready. You and I are the same. Be ready. The word “trouble,” what does it mean? I want to use another word, “opportunity.”

Opportunity means eagerly waiting for something to pop up. Crisis is a negative word meaning trouble. Opportunity is a positive word meaning now we can go ahead.

Some of you think of evaluation times as crisis and trouble. Sometimes everything goes smooth. The mentor maybe suggests something to discuss or some of the members bring up something to discuss. You feel you must suffer patiently the criticism. No! Maybe they noticed something you overlooked. Remember the first goal of the evaluation is to help you grow. Remember the following rule.

**Jesus Is The Only Way.**

Most important rule to remember during a crisis is seek peace together without sacrificing the truth.

For example, Jesus is the only way to heaven. Many people think faith alone is important. It makes no difference what is important to God. Only going to heaven is important, period. We share peace but speak the truth. Which is more important: only truth or only peace? How do you feel? Which is more important?

Which is more important: Peace or Truth?

Which is more important: Blessing or Truth?

**Study Questions:**

**Read Romans 8:26-29 (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

<sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

**Read Philippians 4:1-9 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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1. How can you turn a problem or crisis into an opportunity?
2. If someone criticizes you, how can that criticism help you grow?
3. Answer these questions from the video:
  - (a) Which is more important: peace or truth? ...and why?
  - (b) Which is more important: blessing or truth? ...and why?

**Lesson 16: Evaluation**

*Video Part 16; Book chapter 9*

Are you afraid of evaluation? Don't be. Evaluation is a special way to help you improve. Some skills you may think you have good, and find "I need to improve, I am a little weak." Other skills you may think "I am weak." You are surprised to learn that you are strong. You didn't know your strength. Evaluation involves you and me and other people.

It involves three groups:

- 1) Self-evaluation.
- 2) Pastor's evaluation.
- 3) Pick three or four church members to evaluate you.

Remember evaluation means help. Don't tear down with negatives. "You need to improve." Use positives to help, encourage and learn. See your weaknesses and strengths. We all need evaluation. Don't be afraid.

Now look at the textbook (see STUDENT EVALUATION FORM below). Please read the evaluation on pages 75 and 76 of your book.

Notice two pages of ideas. Questions one to five ask questions. Notice question six in long and complex. It evaluates weakness and strengths. Questions seven to fourteen are like questions one to five.

Now begin with question one.

**SCHEDULE IT!**

Schedule means... Set up a time for the evaluation.

Set a time

- 1) For yourself,
- 2) With the pastor, and
- 3) With three to five members.

Set up a time for you to meet together. Find a good place. Maybe you will have the evaluation in the church or in the pastor's office. Get comfortable. Have an open discussion. That is an important goal. Make a habit of regular evaluations. Don't postpone it. Keep your goal.



The evaluation can be done every six months or once a year. Fine. Important. Keep going. Remember the main goal of the evaluation is to grow in Christ and to grow in serving skills. Learn more about Christ. Notice how Jesus acts. Learn the bible.

Through your practice and actions you become more skilled more able to serve Christ and other people.

Now do a very important task. Sit down with your mentor and develop an evaluation process. You can use STUDENT EVALUATION FORM below on the last pages or you can adapt those pages with your mentor. Do it now please. Find out where you are weak and where you are strong. Do it now. It is important.

God bless you.

**Lesson 16: Final Exam**

List four attitudes that a caring leader shows in his or her activities as a leader.  
Give an example to help explain each attitude.

1. The First Attitude \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example that shows this attitude.

2. The Second Attitude \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example that shows this attitude.

3. The Third Attitude \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example that shows this attitude.

4. The Fourth Attitude \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example that shows this attitude.

**Caring Leader: Evaluation**

1. Answer questions in the evaluation form on pages 67-69 of this study guide.
2. Ask your pastor or a church leader who knows you well to answer the questions on pages 70-71 about you.
3. After you both have completed each form, meet together to discuss your answers and to discuss how you can serve your church and your community.

**STUDENT EVALUATION FORM**

Student answers these questions

1. My church's goals and my own goals are
  - the same.
  - a little different.
  - a lot different.
  - (I don't know the church's goals.)
  
2. What do church members think about my ministry?
  - Church members understand my ministry and they want me to serve.
  - Church members don't fully understand my ministry.
  - Church members don't want me to serve in the church.
  
3. Sometimes situations in the church change that means we must change the way we serve the church. What that happens...
  - it is easy for me to change the way I serve the church.
  - it is hard for me change the way I serve.
  - if someone will show me how, I can change the way I serve.
  
4. Church members and I
  - work well together.
  - are patient with each other.
  - have many conflicts.
  
5. I ask church members and leaders to evaluate my work
  - often
  - sometimes
  - never

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6. Evaluate your skills in these areas of ministry:

	not good - - - - - very good				
(a) Teaching children	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Marriage and family education	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Leading worship	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Preaching/Teaching	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Program planning	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Personal counseling	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Home visits	1	2	3	4	5
(h) Continuing professional education	1	2	3	4	5
(i) Ministry with sick, dying, or grieving	1	2	3	4	5
(j) Promoting fellowship	1	2	3	4	5
(k) Stewardship education	1	2	3	4	5
(l) Equipping and supporting others	1	2	3	4	5
(m) Leading adult growth groups	1	2	3	4	5
(n) Meeting human care needs	1	2	3	4	5
(o) Evangelism ministry	1	2	3	4	5
(p) Administration and management	1	2	3	4	5
(q) Organizing and presiding at meetings	1	2	3	4	5
(r) Personal and spiritual growth	1	2	3	4	5
(s) Services to the Synod-at-large	1	2	3	4	5
(t) Community service	1	2	3	4	5
(u) Other	1	2	3	4	5

7. One skill that I want to improve is \_\_\_\_\_

8. What will I do to improve my skill?

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9. Two goals I have in my church ministry for the coming year are:

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What I will do to achieve (accomplish) these goals:

*These questions are adapted from the textbook, The Caring Elder: A Training Manual for Serving, by Victor A. Constien; 1986, Concordia Publishing House; pages 75-76.*

**STUDENT EVALUATION FORM**

Pastor, mentor, church leader answers these questions about the student

1. My church's goals and the student's goals are

- the same.
- a little different.
- a lot different.
- (I don't know.)

2. Church members

- understand the student's ministry and they want me to serve.
- don't fully understand the student's ministry.
- don't want the student's to serve in the church.

3. Sometimes situations in the church change that means we must change the way we serve the church. What that happens...

- it is easy for the student to change the way he/she serves the church.
- it is hard for the student change the way he/she serves.
- the student can adjust the way he/she serves with guidance and training.

4. Church members and the student

- work well together.
- are patient with each other.
- have many conflicts.

5. The student asks church members and leaders to evaluate his/her work

- often
- sometimes
- never

## Deaf Pah – Caring Leader

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6. Evaluate the student’s skills in these areas of ministry:

	not good - - - - - very good				
(a) Teaching children	1	2	3	4	5
(b) Marriage and family education	1	2	3	4	5
(c) Leading worship	1	2	3	4	5
(d) Preaching/Teaching	1	2	3	4	5
(e) Program planning	1	2	3	4	5
(f) Personal counseling	1	2	3	4	5
(g) Home visits	1	2	3	4	5
(h) Continuing professional education	1	2	3	4	5
(i) Ministry with sick, dying, or grieving	1	2	3	4	5
(j) Promoting fellowship	1	2	3	4	5
(k) Stewardship education	1	2	3	4	5
(l) Equipping and supporting others	1	2	3	4	5
(m) Leading adult growth groups	1	2	3	4	5
(n) Meeting human care needs	1	2	3	4	5
(o) Evangelism ministry	1	2	3	4	5
(p) Administration and management	1	2	3	4	5
(q) Organizing and presiding at meetings	1	2	3	4	5
(r) Personal and spiritual growth	1	2	3	4	5
(s) Services to the Synod-at-large	1	2	3	4	5
(t) Community service	1	2	3	4	5
(u) Other	1	2	3	4	5

Other feedback that is important for the student to know:

*These questions are adapted from the textbook, The Caring Elder: A Training Manual for Serving, by Victor A. Constien; 1986, Concordia Publishing House; pages 75-76*