

THE GLORY PROJECT



Seminar series in education, formation, and evangelism and discipleship.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God,

Ephesians 3:14-19

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THE MISSION AND VISION

The mission

The mission of the Glory Project is to 1) help believers grow in faith and the knowledge of God's Word and 2) equip believers with the tools to make disciples.

The vision

The Glory Project seeks to move believers beyond their own life of faith to begin investing in the faith life of other believers. Therefore, the Glory Project will serve as a one-week seminar to equip believers of all stages of faith with the essential tools to read and interpret the Scriptures and practical steps to grow their faith and spiritual lives. Equipped with these essential tools, believers will then be encouraged to reach out and begin teaching and walking with other believers in their lives of faith.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the next step in your journey of faith.

As Jesus commissioned the disciples, so too we are also commissioned and sent to go and make disciples.

Before we do, however, it is important for us to stop and take note of this reality: the disciples were disciplined *before* they went out and made disciples. They spent a

of time with Jesus learning and growing and forming in faith, then they went out and made disciples.

1 John 4:19, “We love because God first loved us.”

Our desire to reach out to others, then, comes as a direct response to God first reaching into our hearts and minds.

JOHN 21:15-17

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

When the disciples *did* go out, they did so out of a love for Jesus. It was because they had been touched; their lives had been changed; their hearts had been transformed; they weren't the same anymore. They had tasted and seen, touched and experienced the love of God. The love of God had so transformed them that it divinely inspired them to go. In the same way, discipleship *is not a duty it is our delight*.

Think of discipleship like the culinary art of cooking, and you are a Master Chef. Your ability to feed and nourish others with food comes out of the knowledge of first having learned to prepare food for yourself. It is out of a love for food and love for others, then, that the chef cooks and prepares their food to feed others.

Learning to feed others, then, will be a life-long journey of discovery, experimentation, and process-oriented learning and formation. Like any profession, however, there will be different seasons of discipleship, and inspiration and motivation may vary. With any vocation, maintaining

People in service-related industries are often required to participate in ongoing or continuing education. This emanates out of an understanding that *we never stop forming* and the needs and contexts are always evolving. Being disciplined, then, is a process-oriented space where a practitioner (one who disciplines others) can process – gain clarity and generate creative responses – to the everyday challenges of ministry.

and sustaining our passion for the work we do is of the essence. That is why it is encouraged that those who disciple others *are themselves disciplined*. We recommend that, beyond this evening, you stay in touch with Dave so that he can walk with you and sustain you in your growing ministry of evangelism and discipleship.

EDUCATION

God's Living Word is an abounding banquet for us to feast on.

We all probably have our own method or approach to getting into God's Word in our personal devotion time. That is super important. It's also great to share the meal. The following tool works well in discussion and serving God's Word to others. This tool is designed for small groups or in a one-on-one setting. This will also work well across multiple physical settings: live, on-line, phone, etc.

DISCOVER THE BIBLE

- **Pray** for understanding (or have someone in the group pray),
- **Tell** the passage to the group in your own words,
- **Read** the passage from the bible, (have someone in the group do this)
- **Say** the passage in your own words, (have one/some of the group do this),
- **Analyze** the passage by asking the following questions one question at a time (Encourage and give each group participant the opportunity to answer each question):
 1. "What does this teach us about God/Jesus?"
 2. "What does this teach us about people?"
 3. "How can I apply this?" (ie; What change(s) could I make in my life? What and to whom will I share what I just learned? or other action step that makes the Word alive in our lives.)

This tool offers several benefits. The re-telling portion, not only aids in retention, but gives us practice in telling the stories of Jesus and the Bible in our own words. When a passage is fitting to a conversation we may be having, we don't necessarily need to open up the nearest Bible and start reading. We can re-tell the story as best we are able in our own words. This may help God's Word be more readily palatable, especially for people who may not be familiar with the Bible.

Also, the simple questions will likely bring different answers from different people, giving you new insights into God's Word. In addition, this will help you to develop relationships with those you do it with and you will be able to see how God is speaking to them as well as how and what they are learning.

The action steps help us to apply our learning to our faith-walks, as well as encourage engagement with others regarding God's bountiful Word.

This format is easy to use and teach. It can be an introduction to the Word, start new study groups, or be used in discipleship.

MATTHEW 28:16-20

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Pray for understanding

Tell the passage to the group in your own words

Read the passage from the bible

Say the passage in your own words

Analyze the passage by asking the following questions

1. "What does this teach us about God/Jesus?"
2. "What does this teach us about people?"
3. "How can I apply this?"

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

JOHN 14:15-21

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pray for understanding

Tell the passage to the group in your own words

Read the passage from the bible

Say the passage in your own words

Analyze the passage by asking the following questions

1. "What does this teach us about God/Jesus?"
2. "What does this teach us about people?"
3. "How can I apply this?"

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

LUKE 19:1-10

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

He entered Jericho and was passing through.

² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.

⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Pray for understanding

Tell the passage to the group in your own words

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God/Jesus?"

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FAITH FORMATION

Now that we have developed some foundational tools for reading, interpreting, and understanding Scripture, we are going to employ these study methods to grow in faith and fruit of the Spirit. To do this, we will look to the image of a Master Chef to take our reading and interpreting the Bible to the next step.

One thing that all Master Chefs have in common is a large working knowledge of ingredients they can use to prepare any and all kinds of meals. Now that we have developed the basic foundation for reading, interpreting, and understanding God's Word, we are going to develop a specific way of reading Scripture so that we can build a large working knowledge of Spiritual Ingredients! We will use the ingredients we find in Scripture to create our own Master Recipes like: growing in grace, forgiveness, love of others, service, kindness, wisdom, prayer, intimacy with God, and a whole host of other Spiritual Recipes.

To gather ingredients, a Master Chef can do a general search or they can do a specific search. When a Master Chef does a general search, they may go to the pantry and look until they find something appealing or enticing or until something jumps out at them. In the same way, we can do a general search of God's Word until we find something appealing or enticing or until something jumps out at us. Likewise, we can do a specific search for Spiritual Ingredients as well. Here, we can open God's Word and search for specific ingredients that might be related to a particular recipe: e.g., forgiveness, grace, obedience, self-control, teaching, repentance, etc.



In the following action step, we are going to provide three Biblical texts. With each Biblical text we will assign either a general search or a specific search to the passage. For a general reading you will read until you find something appealing or enticing or until something jumps out at you. For a specific reading, you will be reading to find specific ingredients that will go well with a particular recipe (theme: e.g., forgiveness, humility, wisdom, etc.).

You might already be in tables and groups of 2-4, if not, break out into small groups of no more than 4 for the following activity.

Steps

- 1. Determine whether you are conducting a general or a specific search for ingredients**
- 2. Read the Biblical text and do not mark, highlight, underline, or do anything; just read the text**
- 3. Re-read the Biblical text and conduct:**
 - a. A general search for ingredients**
 - b. A specific search for specific ingredients**
- 4. Write down and organize your ingredients**
- 5. Pray and discern how you "cook" these ingredients into your spiritual life**

ROMANS 12:9-21

#Gather and #Grow

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PHILIPPIANS 2:2-8, 14-16

#Gather and #Grow

² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

#Gather and #Grow

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

EVANGELISM

The foundation of evangelism is God's love. If we have opened ourselves to it, and understand it enough to know we are called to share it, then we are ready to reach out...in love.

With examples like: God and His chosen people, the life of Jesus, 1 Corinthians 13 and so many more, God has begun to change our hearts of stone to workable vessels that can be filled with and pour out His love.

1. IDENTIFY (GEN 1:27, PSALM 139:13-14, ROMANS 5:8)

Identify someone in your life, or in the line at Safeway that God is calling you to love. Spend hours in prayer preparing, or just send up a quick momentary prayer for guidance and for God to love that person through us. Also, continue to ask in prayer for God to put specific individuals on your heart.

2. ENGAGE (1 JOHN 4:9-10, JOHN 15:9, ROMANS 5:5)

Let that love out. Whether its through a well thought out offer or an impulsive act of kindness, love that person with the intent that they could feel God's love. Whether a long conversation or a short introduction ensues, make the time and effort to meet that person. Show them you care enough to know their name (or something new about them, if you they are already a friend/acquaintance).

3. BUILD (1 THES 5:11, HEBREWS 10:24, EPHESIANS 4:12-15)

Remember their name or that new info you found out about them, and find ways to interact again. Ask good questions to know them better so that you can find more ways to show them love. Consistent caring is a great way to build the relationship. As love is offered based on their needs, maybe immediately or eventually you will arrive at their greatest need: to know the Savior.

**Caution: As we love as God loved, we will likely need to show grace and forgiveness as we share selfless love with others. I don't think it's out of the question to have boundaries and resist becoming a doormat that is used and abused. God drew up boundaries to help the Israelites continue in relationship, and at the same time He was very upfront about how He felt when those boundaries were violated. And then, He again returned to loving them.*

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Action Step: Do you have experience reaching out? Who has God put on your heart to reach out to? Who is in your spheres of influence that you could take further steps with?

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

CONGRATULATIONS!

For taking the time to feed and nourish your faith! We hope you are more equipped and prepared to reach out and help others grow in their faith as well. As discussed, all of ministry is about the relationship, and a relationship is grounded in walking with others throughout all of life. Discipleship is an intentional relationship that prioritizes love and affirmation but also seeks, specifically, to tend to the faith and spiritual formation of another.

As this seminar comes to a close, we hope this course has inspired you. This was designed to establish a relationship in hopes that you will *stay in relationship* with Dave. Our desire and prayer is that all who hear the good news of Jesus would become disciples of Christ, as well as disciple-makers.

When we developed this 1-week course there was a lot of material and practical life-skills that we had to leave out. The Glory Project was not designed to comprehensively cover every aspect of faith or any and all situations a person might encounter as they build relationships and begin walking in a discipling relationship with others. Therefore, we hope that this whet your appetite and that you avail yourself of the resource of Dave, or any elders, leaders, pastors in your home church community that can guide your growth and help you to maintain the motivation to keep reaching out in love to others.

NEXT STEPS

1. DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH A REGULAR ROUTINE OF READING THE BIBLE FOR PERSONAL NOURISHMENT USING THE TOOLS WE HAVE PROVIDED.
2. TARGET SPECIFIC AREAS OF FAITH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GROW AND BECOME A “MASTER CHEF,” DISCOVERING AND WORKING WITH INGREDIENTS FROM GOD’S WORD.
3. REACH OUT TO DEVELOP AND ESTABLISH CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.
4. STAY IN TOUCH WITH US (DAVE) AND LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN ENCOURAGE YOU AS YOU SEEK TO SERVE AND LOVE OTHERS.