

10 DAYS OF
PRAYER

MULTIPLY!

4-14 JANUARY 2023

"But the word of God
grew and multiplied."

Acts 12:24, NKJV

SINGAPORE ADVENTIST CONFERENCE





A DISCIPLE IS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

who **GROWS** to become
more and more like Him

and **GOES** with Him
to help others do the same.

*"By this all people
will know that
you are my disciples.
if you have love
for one another."*

John 13:35

A DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY IS THE LIFELONG JOURNEY A DISCIPLE TAKES

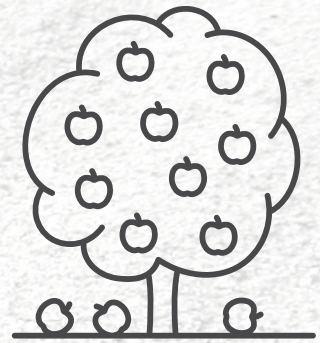
as they **LOVE** Him & others more,
LEARN from Him more,
and **LIVE** like Him more.

OUR DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

It is a direction,
not a destination.

*"The goal for a discipleship pathway
is never to get someone through it;
it is to get the disciple to own it"*

Multiply



Mature



Make



10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 1 - MAKE

GOD MAKES DISCIPLES (4TH JANUARY 2023, WEDNESDAY)

God makes you a disciple
as you learn and experience Him
through different people & ways,
growing in faith & love,
like a seed planted
in the soil of your heart.



"As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him."

Matthew 9:9

Levi Matthew's call to discipleship seems like a "love at first sight" story. Jesus pops up, invites Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew leaves everything behind, money and all, to follow the Master. Is it possible that making disciples is so simple? What are some of the hints that the narrative gives us in relation to discipleship?

According to the biblical account, Matthew was a tax collector, perhaps the most loathed, if not the most hated, job a Jew could have. Although the pay was good enough to lead a comfortable life, the cost of being an outcast was a high price to pay in a society that highly valued religious and collectivist values. The fact that Jesus thought of Matthew as a potential disciple tells us that God does not discriminate, and neither should we, when it comes to making disciples. This is the first lesson we learn from Christ concerning discipleship.

The second hint the narrative gives us is how quickly Matthew reacted to Jesus' call to join Him in ministry. It seems that Levi Matthew was waiting for Christ to extend an invitation to join Him and serve Him. In this sense, Ellen G. White discloses what was happening in Matthew's heart when she wrote,

"Matthew had listened to the Saviour's teaching. As the convicting Spirit of God revealed his sinfulness, he longed to seek help from Christ" (Desire of Ages, p. 272).

Here is a second lesson concerning discipleship, although we may be afraid of asking the people around us to join us in serving the Master, we should trust that God's Spirit is working in them, preparing the ground for God's invitation to discipleship through us.

The third and last hint given in the story is even more revealing. The narrative gives us a sneak peak of what happened after Levi Matthew said "yes" to Jesus. A banquet ensued and "many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with [Jesus] and his disciples" (Matt 9:10). In other words, the third lesson of Matthew's calling to discipleship is that making disciples has a ripple effect. Matthew's acceptance into Jesus' circle made a regular tax collector into a channel of salvation for others with the same job.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) After seeing how simple it was to make a disciple out of Levi Matthew, what do we learn about discrimination and disciple-making?
- 2) What may be hindering us from trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit?
- 3) What is the ripple effect that accepting new believers can cause?
- 4) Do we sometimes over-complicate the beginning of discipleship?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Have an inclusive attitude toward everyone because anyone can be a disciple of Jesus.
- 2) Trust in the invisible yet powerful work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those we want to reach to.
- 3) Prepare for the ripple effect that making disciples has by training the church to be accommodating and understanding toward newcomers.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

PRAY:

Praise

God for His inclusiveness, which allows you and anyone to be His disciple.

Repent

From having a judgmental attitude toward potential disciples.

Ask

The Holy Spirit to empower you to be a channel of salvation and discipleship.

Yield

Your life to Jesus, following His perfect example as the ultimate model of disciple-making.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Jesus Loves Me (SDAH 190)
- 2) Happiness Is to Know the Saviour
- 3) Walking with Jesus

Today's reading is written by Pastor Roger O'Connor

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 2 - MATURE

GOD MATURES DISCIPLES (5TH JANUARY 2023, THURSDAY)

God matures you as a disciple
as you learn how to
grow to be like Him,
and go to help others do the same,
like a seedling
growing into a fruitful tree.



*"11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,
and some pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the
body of Christ,
13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of
God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with
every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness
of deceitful plotting,
15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is
the head—Christ—
16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint
supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share,
causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

Ephesians 4:11-16

What does it mean to mature?

Maturing is learning to take ownership of your discipleship pathway by cultivating spiritual habits and learning how to grow in love for God and others and to go make disciples of all nations. One of the best ways to do this is together in a D-Group.

From Ephesians 4, the maturing process has a few elements. (Grow)

- 1) Serve - To serve in ministry by using the spiritual gifts God has given (v11-12)
- 2) Know - Unity in faith and experiential knowledge of God (v13-14)
- 3) Love - Speaking truth in love and growing up into Christ (v15-16)

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Firstly, to discover the spiritual gifts that God has given either through a spiritual gifts survey, trying out in serving in various ministries based on interest or based on observations of spiritual leaders. To respond to God's call in serving, including making disciples, experience the joy of being co-labourers together with God and the fruits of service.

Secondly, amidst the temptations of comparison, different styles, power struggles to unite under the banner of Jesus, in his faith, for the Mission of the Church, to make disciples. Maturing and uniting under the banner of the gospel. Despite the false teachings, trials and tribulations, to grow in experiencing Jesus and have greater intimacy with Him.

Thirdly, speaking the truth in love and growing up into Christ is a challenge and is a life long journey. There are 2 relevant verses and 1 quote from Ellen White which will help us.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." - John 15:5

"The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian." - Ministry of Healing, pg 470

It is God's work as we surrender to Him, to allow His work in us to bear fruit. Through service in ministry, through spending time with Him in prayer and the Word, to know Him more, to have the self-sacrificial love to be a loving and lovable Christian and continuously abide in Jesus is a lifelong process.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Testimony:

When I first gave my life to Jesus publicly through baptism at the age of 15, my favourite ministry to serve in was the music ministry, through playing the piano. The first time I did so, I remember my hands and legs shaking nervously and uncontrollably and I made several mistakes while playing for the service. I went to the toilet at the back and cried. It was a kind lady who came to me and encouraged me, telling me not to worry and how proud she was of me that gave me the courage to know that it was not perfection but the heart to serve that was required. It was a maturing moment in serving the Lord. I explored various ministries from cooking to AV to teaching Sabbath School and so on. It was joyful to serve in ministry.

A few years later, when Pr. Mark Finley came to Singapore, there was a call to give Bible Studies. I felt the Holy Spirit working in my heart and answered the call. It was the next step taken in service. We were taught the process of doing so and I approached a Bible Study teacher to be paired up with and learn the ropes from. It was an eye-opening process and a joyous one that eventually resulted in my Bible Student's baptism. It was a monumental step and the most joyful experience ever in my life.

When I went to university, we had a Bible Quiz during AY which I won. It led to people praising me, and I felt a sense of pride swell up within me. I stepped out and prayed to God to take away my pride, to humble me and to stay connected with Him. Praise God that after persistent prayer, he did so. It was a clear sign of the difference between the intellectual knowledge of God verses the relational knowledge of God, to know Him as an intimate friend and person, not just facts about Him.

I started to look forward to the experiential knowledge of God. Joyfully spending time in the Word, rejoicing in discovering new truths, hearing God's voice speaking to me such as when the same message was given to me 3 times in a week through various people. I enjoyed the joy of God's presence through nature, through His Word and through prayer, eventually prayerfully surrendering the choice of my life partner to the Lord during the 10 days of Prayer.

During the 10 Days of Prayer, we prayed unitedly in faith for various people, for healing, confessing our sins before the Lord to let nothing be between us and Him, we chose to fast, some chose physical fast, others from social media fast. The unity of faith in the campus grew and there was a spiritual awakening, desiring the relational knowledge of God.

Speaking the truth in love is question that I have asked myself over the years on how to do so. Growing up into Christ is remembering to take the next step that God shows in faith even though we cannot see the end.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

One day, I had a Bible Student who smoked, drank and so on. In response to his questions, I shared the truth about why it was not in harmony with the Bible to do so. Nevertheless, he struggled in practice and did not embrace the truth.

On another occasion, I visited him and was surprised to find him drinking. What should I do? It was the first time and an eye-opening experience for me. I remembered the principle of speaking the truth in love. After prayer, I decided to listen to him, why he was drinking, his struggles and prayed for Him. It was the loving thing I could have done at that moment. The truth, he had known, was not the moment to use as a hammer but to envelope him in arms of love, praying that the Lord will continue to work in his heart through love and truth.

Speaking the truth in love and growing up into Christ is a continuous, daily decision and a lifelong one. But practicing it, grows our spiritual muscles in abiding with Him and helps us to become a loving and lovable Christian as we will be known as Jesus disciples because of our love.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What should I do when I feel discouraged in my Christian journey or how can I encourage others in their Christian journey?
- 2) How can I experience God or help others to do so?
- 3) How can I speak the truth in love?
- 4) How can I be a loving and lovable Christian?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Start serving in a ministry or find 1 Bible Student to disciple
- 2) Start a prayer journal, writing down daily of God's working in your life, pray for a spiritual adventure with God and to have a relational knowledge of God
- 3) What is one thing I need to surrender in order to be in a loving and lovable Christian? Prayerfully ask God to help

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

PRAY:

Praise

- 1) Praise God for choosing us to be co-labourers in ministry, experiencing the joy of leading others to know Him
- 2) Praise God for his abundant grace for us in the maturing process, though each time we fall, he picks us up
- 3) Praise God for all who are praying for us (our loved ones, our church etc.)

Repent

- 1) From the unkind words or actions that I have done that were unloving
- 2) From the pride in my heart that prevents me from surrendering to the Lord
- 3) For being concerned only about my own salvation or my loved ones

Ask

- 1) For boldness to find 1 person to encourage in his/her Christian journey
- 2) For experiences, to share with others, God's working in our life
- 3) For the Lord to lead me to a mentor or to disciple someone

Yield

- 1) By God's grace, that we may surrender and daily be a loving and lovable Christian and disciple
- 2) My plans, to be at Jesus feet each morning, to allow myself to be used for His glory and His purpose each day
- 3) My heart, that I will put God as a priority in my calendar, my energy, my thoughts, and feelings

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Tis Love That Makes Us Happy (SDAH 579)
- 2) Tell Me The Story of Jesus (SDAH 152)
- 3) Lord I Want to be a Christian (SDAH 319)

Today's reading is written by Pastor Kion Chuen Rong

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 3 - MULTIPLY

GOD MULTIPLIES DISCIPLES (6TH JANUARY 2023, FRIDAY)



"But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Mark 4:8

Command To Multiply

From the beginning of Christianity, the natural overflow of being a disciple of Jesus has always been to make disciples of Jesus. "Follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). This was a promise: Jesus would take His disciples and turn them into disciple makers. And this was a command: He called each of His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them to obey Him (Matt. 28:19-20).

From the start, God's design has been for every single disciple of Jesus to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples until the gospel spreads to all peoples. In the harvest the seed is multiplied. A single grain of wheat, increased by repeated sowings, would cover a whole land with golden sheaves. So widespread may be the influence of a single life, of even a single act.

Multiplying A Result Of Dying

By the casting of grain into the earth, the Saviour represents His sacrifice for us. "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die." He says, "it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. Only through the sacrifice of Christ, the Seed, could fruit be brought forth for the kingdom of God. In accordance with the law of the vegetable kingdom, life is the result of His death. "There can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die." (White, Desire of Ages, p.106).

So with all who bring forth fruit as workers together with Christ: self-love, self-interest, must perish; the life must be cast into the furrow of the world's need. But the law of self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation. The husbandman preserves his grain by casting it away. So the life that will be preserved is the life that is freely given in service to God and man.

Fruit Bearing And Abiding

The wheat develops, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." Mark 4:28. The object of the husbandman in the sowing of the seed and the culture of the plant, is the production of grain—bread for the hungry, and seed for future harvests. So the divine Husbandman looks for a harvest. He is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts and lives of His followers, that through them He may be reproduced in other hearts and lives.

The inward working of the Holy Spirit is revealed outwardly in the appearance of fruit, ripening and perfecting to the glory of God. The inward life speaks in the outward action, in the producing of rich fruit. This is showing forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. If the Lord Jesus is formed within, the hope of glory, the life will be rich in good works, corresponding with the truth which they profess to believe. "Every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Our fruit-bearing testifies whether we are really abiding in Christ...(White, 5BC, 1143).

Testimony:

I was born in an Adventist family and I always thought that I am pretty much a good member of the Church. I regularly attend Church and its services and I am also actively supporting its ministries. I was even proud to call myself an Adventist knowing that I belong to the last-day remnant Church of God.

Recently Discipleship groups was introduced to our Church and as a good member I did not hesitate to join knowing that this is another program that I must complete. All was going well and I do enjoy the company of my friends during our meetings. I was thinking to myself this is just like another Bible study discussion. Everything changed when we reached term 4. We were told to multiply by finding someone whom we can introduce to Jesus. I would admit that this is totally outside of my Christian comfort zone. It was easier for me to do things in the church and serve in its ministries but not going and intentionally looking for someone outside of the church so that I can introduce Jesus to them.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

I was looking for a way out but I remember one of our lesson clarifies that everyone born into the Kingdom of God is a missionary, the receiver becomes a channel of the light. I was confronted by the fact that for the past 38 years of being in the Church, I have never prayerfully and intentionally made an effort to win a single soul for Jesus. It was a relief that the first steps to multiplying is by prayerfully mingling with friends and showing them my genuine sympathies and concerns for their well-being and slowly planting seeds of truths. I was surprised that after more than a month of praying, the Lord has given me a Bible student, God is faithful!

"In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand;" Ecclesiastes 11:6 for He has promised, "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Spiritual life and fruit bearing are the results of accepting the life and death of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think many of the professed followers of Jesus are not bearing fruits?
- 2) In John 15, Jesus revealed the secret of being fruitful in the Kingdom of God. What areas of your life or activities that are not yet connected to the Vine that is Jesus? What actions can you do to ensure your life is fully connected to Him?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Connect with God daily through prayer, reading and meditating of His Words.
- 2) List the names of the people within your circle of influence and pray for them daily.
- 3) Be intentional in allocating a time each day in activities to win soul for Jesus.

PRAY:

Praise

- 1) Praise God for the people who have help led you to Him.
- 2) Praise God for the blessing it has been in knowing Him.

Repent

- 1) For times you have been touched to share or bring someone to Jesus but didn't.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Ask

- 1) Pray for the Lord of the harvest to lead you to people whom you can lead to a relationship with Jesus.
- 2) Pray for God's blessings to be with all the missionaries and soul winners around the world.
- 3) Pray for all Singapore Adventists to have the courage and boldness to reach Singapore for Jesus.
- 4) Pray for your local Church's evangelistic plans and multiplication cycle to be accompanied by power from on high and be vigorously supported by the members.
- 5) Pray for all D-group members to actively multiply this year.

Yield

- 1) Surrender yourself to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Go, Tell It On the Mountain (SDAH 121)
- 2) Seeking the Lost (SDAH 373)
- 3) Work, for the Night Is Coming (SDAH 375)

Today's reading is written by Pastor Isagani Valencia

DAY 4 - WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

(7TH JANUARY 2023, SABBATH)

"25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:25-27

Is it possible that many Adventist Christians today do not understand what it means to be a genuine disciple of Jesus? The biblical definition of discipleship becomes muddy and confusing.

These two terms (Disciple and Christian) mean the same thing in the same way that we mean the same thing when we speak of my "spouse" or my "wife."

The term "disciples" occurs 269 times in the New Testament, while the word "Christian" only appears three times. In the Book of Acts, we've told that "the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26)." This makes clear that the terms are interchangeable. For instance, Jesus' words in Luke 14:27 says, "anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple (Christian)."

The first thing-- Luke notes specifically that "large crowds" were following Jesus and that Jesus specifically "turned to them" and elaborated on being a disciple.

These were people who were "travelling with Jesus." There are positives in their attitude toward Jesus. They were interested in what he had to say. They mistook this positive attitude and interest in Jesus for true discipleship, as many people do today. They considered themselves followers of Jesus, but they were only casual followers, not committed followers.

They were willing and even anxious to follow Jesus, providing the cost was not too high or the demands too great. They were like many people today who

do "Christian things" like go to Church, pray, sing Christian songs, etc. but are not committed to Jesus.

Jesus addresses this mistaken understanding of discipleship in Luke 14:26-27. To be a disciple of Jesus, you must be committed to him above everything else. In our hearts, Jesus must come before our loved ones, self-interest, possessions, careers, hobbies, goals in life, and even our very lives. In practice, this commitment to Jesus will be tested, and sometimes, in a moment of weakness, Jesus will not come first in our choices. Still, genuine disciples have made a sincere commitment in their hearts and will not continue to put other things before Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are commonly mistaken as attributes of disciples but may not be so?
- 2) What misconceptions of disciples and disciple-making have you held before?
- 3) Are you willing to call yourself a disciple of Jesus?

Practical Action Steps:

Write down below on specific areas you want to improve as a disciple.

Share this with groups you may be in (sabbath school class, small groups, D-Groups).

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

PRAY:

Take time to prayerfully fill in the PRAY segments below, on items you would like to praise, repent, ask, and yield.

Praise

Repent

Ask

Yield

Suggested Songs:

- 1) It Starts With Me
- 2) Give Thanks
- 3) All The Way (SDAH 516)

Today's reading is written by Pastor Johnny Kan

What is the Multiplication Cycle

The multiplication cycle offers a continuous step-by-step process and cycle for multiplying, to share the blessing of knowing God with others.

It is inspired from the agricultural cycle, and helps us lead others to become disciples of Jesus, just as we have.



10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 5 - PREPARE

STEP 1 OF THE MULTIPLICATION CYCLE (8TH JANUARY 2023, SUNDAY)



The first phase in the Multiplication Cycle is to **PREPARE** the soil of the heart. With the heart of Jesus, and a spirit of love, care, and service, we mingle and make friends with people. We can hold or join interest groups, community service, or simply do this wherever we go! Pray for guidance.

This helps people to catch a glimpse of Jesus and readies their heart to receive the gospel.

"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them'"

Luke 15:1-2

In the parable of the sower (Mark 4: 14-20) the ground is described as the soil of the human heart. Often, the ground is hardened with many other things that the ground need to be prepared to be softened before it is ready to receive God's words.

Christ method involves personal ministry through mingling, caring for people, minister to their needs and win their confidence. Then He invite them to follow Him. Jesus did not wait for people to come to Him but He sought them out in many different places, take notice what interest them. Intentional social encounter with people is given to us to follow. When we intentionally take notice of another's interest in life, it helps to build relationships with people through common activities. The intentional interest leads us to not only socialise but become observant of what people share with us.

After which, we are able to understand their life story and what is important to them. Caring for what is important to the person, expands the relationship and the importance of their values to us. Being heard and understood is especially important in this age where one's voice can be often drowned by the many daily messages through media. Genuine concern for another's life is a value to be cultivated in us. Time and time again, Jesus cared for different people including sinners, children, and vulnerable adults like widows.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Ministering to people's needs was a huge part of Jesus ministry. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, cover the naked as he travel through towns. Jesus taught his disciples to do the same and we should also follow. Each of us have an area of concern that prompts us to reach out to at least a group of people when opportunity arises in the people that we have shown interest. It can be the concern towards a person's family member who needs care while sick, helping the find the channel of resource for someone with specific needs or reaching out to those who feel vulnerable and naked in specific circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Dwell on this amazing truth that the One who made all created things (see John 1:3), Jesus, took upon Himself human flesh and in the flesh mingled with and ministered to fallen humanity as He did. How should this amazing truth, so full of hope, impact how we mingle with and minister to others?
- 2) Have you ever avoided witnessing to a person who would likely not fit well in your church? What would it take for you and your church to find sufficient grace to embrace those "sinners"?
- 3) How many non-Adventist friends do you have? What is the nature of your relationship? Who is influencing whom more, you them or they you?
- 4) Though we need to mingle in order to minister, why is the support from, and accountability to, the church family an important factor that we mustn't neglect? How can we as a church body help one another as we seek to minister to the world but not get pulled into it?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Take time to build a friendship by striking up a conversation and being a good listener.
- 2) Minister to a need (prepare a meal during sick times, babysit, provide transportation etc.)
- 3) Give a gift that would be meaningful.
- 4) Do an activity together of particular interest to your friend.
- 5) Go out to a restaurant together or invite your friend home for a meal.
- 6) Take time to help with project (home repair, craft project, car repair, etc.)
- 7) Be sensitive to periods of stress and crisis in your friend's life and go out of your way to offer support.
- 8) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your friend's heart to spiritual things.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

PRAY:

Praise

Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for his goodness

Repent

Take a few minutes for private confession and thanks God for His forgiveness

Ask

Pray for a friend that you want to reach out to and pray that God will open his/her heart to spiritual things.

Yield

Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) A New Commandment
- 2) Amazing Grace (SDAH 108)
- 3) Change My Heart, O God
- 4) People Need The Lord

Today's reading is written by Pastor Charlie Oh

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAY 6 - Sow

STEP 2 OF THE MULTIPLICATION CYCLE (9TH JANUARY 2023, MONDAY)



The next phase is to **PLANT** seeds of spiritual truth. We do this by introducing spiritual elements into our conversations, offering personal testimonies, or sharing truth-filled literature or media. We can also invite friends to care groups, worship service, or other church activities.

This allows the Spirit to work in the hearts (or soil) of the people we interact with.

"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed."

Matthew 13:3

A young Christian was asked by his pastor, "With whom have you shared Christ with since you baptise in the church? The young Christian answered "I need to learn how to do it first before I can start sharing Christ. Without such training, I feel very uncomfortable to share".

The pastor replied to him, "Do you light a candle to make it more comfortable or do you light it to give light?" "To give light of course", the young Christian reply.

The pastor then continues to question him, when do you expect it to give light? After it is burn halfway through or when it is first lid? "As soon as it is lit," said the new believer.

"Very well then, go and do likewise. You were given light not to make you comfortable but to share the light upon receiving it.

In Matthew 13:3, the Bible says that a "farmer went out to sow his seeds". In this parable in particular, we see that the farmer went out as usual with his bag on his shoulder and just sow the seeds as he walks in the field. He didn't sow the seeds in a particular spot nor threw them in a specific way. All he did was to consistently spread the seeds in the field.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

In sowing seeds of truth, if we understand it correctly, it is something that everyone can do. We can befriend someone, can share a Christian book, share online messages or even invite people to a Christian gathering. God is calling each one of us to be the Sower and to sow the seed of truth in someone today.

Testimony:

Uncle Labas loves to invite people to church. His desire is to see as many people come to church. With tracts in his hand, he would go to Chinatown in Melbourne city to talk to anyone who would respond to his simple and only Chinese phrase he knows "Ni Hao Ma"?

He would give them the tracts and invite them to church. Through his simple gesture and well-meaning ministry, many people came to know and accept Christ as their personal saviour.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Any there any barriers that would hinder you from being a sower?
- 2) What are some practical things that you can do to sow the seed of truth to someone today? For example, giving our tracts.

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Introducing spiritual elements into everyday conversation
- 2) Giving short personal testimonies when there is opportunity
- 3) Sharing spiritual material or short clips.
- 4) Invite a friend to a small group, bible study, worship, and other church related activities

PRAY:

Praise

- 1) Praise God for the spread of the Gospel around the world and for causing the Seventh- day Adventist church to grow.
- 2) Praise God for using us as His instrument to be the light of this world.

Repent

- 1) Confess our indifference and lack of passion for the lost and fear of witnessing.
- 2) Spend 1-2 minutes privately confessing and remove the hardness in our heart.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Ask

- 1) Pray that God will give us the passion to share God's love and witness for him.
- 2) Pray that God will open the way for us to work together with the church to find ways to sow the seed of truth to our community, friends and neighbours.
- 3) Pray that God will grant us the boldness to invite the people God has placed a burden in our heart.

Yield

- 1) Thank God for the opportunity to be part of His end time church
- 2) Let us surrender our lives to Him and yield everything to Him.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Lord I Offer You My Life
- 2) Bringing in the Sheaves (SDAH 369)
- 3) Pass It On

*Today's reading is written by
Children and Family Ministries Director Debbie Chan and Pastor Johnny Wong*

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DAY 7 - CULTIVATE

STEP 3 OF THE MULTIPLICATION CYCLE (10TH JANUARY 2023, TUESDAY)



When the seed of truth has sprouted, the following phase would be to **CULTIVATE**. Led by the Spirit, the time comes to offer an invitation for your friend to receive Bible Study. This helps them to know God and the Bible in a systematic and structured manner.

You could be the one teaching, or assisting in the Bible Study by accompanying your friend, praying for them, and offering support.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

In the previous days, we have been following the agricultural cycle of growth from a spiritual perspective. The soil has been prepared, the seeds sown, and now the cultivation phase. Terminologies attached to that phase of agriculture include transplantation, tilling, digging, pruning, fertilising, and watering.

Transplantation of the seedling is delicate. The receiving soil is tilled, fertilisers added together with mulch to give the young plant the best start to growth. So it is with young plants of faith. The Holy Spirit tills the soil of the hearts and minds to render the person receptive to the internalisation of the nutrients of God's words. The Holy Spirit further waters the growing shoots of faith as time is spent in prayer and bible study that enables growth into strong plants of Jesus's similitude.

During the process of growth, often the gardener has to till and dig around the roots to loosen the soil of hardness. Attitudes and perceptions need loosening so faith can grow. Periodical required pruning challenge and shape the world views to shift priorities and loyalties, enlarging a kingdom view. This enables further up-taking of spiritual fertilisation and watering by the Holy Spirit.

The work of cultivation is one of intentionality that aims towards the fruiting of the plant. We as disciple making disciples are often invited to be co-workers in the field (1 Corinthians 3:9- 17). The different agricultural attention given to the

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plant we co-work to tend need to be done at the appropriate time and in the right quantity. Regular watering of the plant and at the right time is needful for continuous growth. Sporadic watering and fertilisation will produce stunted growth.

Just as the young plant drinks in the moisture from the soil that then enables the growth and spreading of more roots, spiritual watering of the study of the Word and prayer needs to be routinely constant so more rooting of faith can take place.

In this simile of cultivation, an important aspect of cultivation is grafting, where a shoot or young branch is grafted onto another sturdy growing plant or tree. In John 15:1-17, Jesus tells us He is that sturdy Vine that we are grafted onto, and God The Father is the Gardener. Discipleship is like the grafting of a shoot onto Jesus The sturdy Vine that leads to the fruiting. In this process of cultivation, God, The Gardener supplies all that the young shoot or plant needs. The plant need only put out the roots or stay grafted on The Vine and drink.

Testimony:

Sow, for you do not know where the seed will fall

**I share this testimony from a church sister in my country Seychelles. I will tell it in the first person as she shared it. **

Hi. My name is Jocelyne. I am so happy to being baptised today. I thank God and especially I thank Sister Jessy. Had she not met me the day I had to make a serious decision, I would not be here.

I had been coming to church sporadically as a new interest. My job as a waitress meant that I sometimes had to work on Friday evening shifts or Saturday afternoon shifts so I was not sure I could join the church. Whenever I had met Sister Jessy in church and moaned about my shift work and how I wished it could be otherwise, she never judged me but always had a word of encouragement.

One Sunday afternoon when I was on shift, I saw Sister Jessy come for a meal at my place of work. I had been praying and felt I really wanted to make the right decision, but I was fearful. I needed that job. Could I trust God to take care of my needs? As if by some miracle, Sister Jessy walked into the restaurant; just the person I needed. I went to take her orders wanting to be professional but the way she looked at me, it was as if she knew something.

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After handing in her orders, as the restaurant was a bit quiet, I went back to her table. From a few questions, we had more or less a short Bible study there and then. Sister Jessy gave me words of hope and then put me in touch with the Pastor for follow-up Bible study.

Today, I joyfully stand here baptised. My life has changed. God is able and is taking care of my needs. I am grateful for the words of comfort, affirmation and encouragement that I heard that fateful Sunday. It is like the seed of truth that had been slow to take root in my heart was suddenly given water and germinating and growing.

Note: Jocelyne is now one of the strong, faithful member in my home church in Seychelles. She never ceases to make herself available for those in need. She and her husband ferries people who need lifts to church every Sabbath and take them back.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How have you allowed the Holy Spirit to lead you in your growth of systematic and structured Bible study and prayer?
- 2) How have you allowed God's Spirit to use you as a co-worker to invite your friend to encounter God in Bible Study?
- 3) In the work of cultivating what is your answer to God's call for you to be the one teaching, or assist by accompanying a friend to Bible study and praying?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) If you have not been doing so, set a time apart for you to meet with God in personal Bible study and prayer (preferably upon waking up).
- 2) If you have not done so, share your faith walk with your friend and invite to Bible study.
- 3) Encourage your friend / disciple by making space for them to share their questions with you and their findings as they study

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PRAY:

Praise

Praise God for being the ever tender and watchful Gardener and for giving you the opportunity of growing in Him

Repent

Repent for the times you have neglected to feed on the Biblical nutrients He has supplied and or for not catching the opportunity to invite your friend to Bible study/ knowledge of God

Ask

Ask for the guidance of His Holy Spirit on how to step out in faith and invite your friend if you have not done so, or courage to give Bible studies yourself.

Yield

Yield to God's leading in using you to be co-worker with Him in making disciples for His kingdom.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Make Me a Servant
- 2) Here I Am, Lord
- 3) Take My Life and Let It Be (SDAH 330)

Today's reading is written by Women's Ministry Director Jessy Quilindo

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DAY 8 - HARVEST

STEP 4 OF THE MULTIPLICATION CYCLE (11TH JANUARY 2023, WEDNESDAY)



After cultivating interest with Bible studies, it is time to reap a **HARVEST** of spiritual decision for Jesus and for baptism. This can be done through public calls in evangelistic meetings and sermons, or in personal Bible Study.

The Bible says "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).

"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

John 4:35

Praying for the Harvest

The soul without prayer is like lungs without air. Prayer allows God to change our hearts and open our eyes to the harvest. Our Lord commanded us to pray for the harvest. Prayer for the harvest is not an option. His teaching in these passage suggest at least three reasons why we must pray for the harvest:

1. The harvest is "now" and ripe.

We cannot postpone to tomorrow what we can do today. The best time to do something worthwhile is between yesterday and tomorrow. We are living in the last of the last days. We cannot afford to say let's wait for, "4 months". We need to prepare our hearts right now in these days to bring the harvest in. Rev 14:15 speaks of the harvest being ripe: "Thrust your sickle and reap, for the time has come for you to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe".

2. The harvest will be destroyed.

All it takes for evil to abound is for good men to do nothing. If a fruit is ripe and it is not plucked, it will drop and be destroyed. All over the world, people are hungry hoping for good and are searching for God. They are getting ripped for

harvest. That's why there has been steady growth among various religions. If we Adventists are slow and not fast enough to pluck the fruit when it is ripe, we will lose the souls to other faiths. Prophet Joel warned the Leaders of Israel, their lethargy with regard to their responsibilities, "Be ashamed you farmers. Wail, you vine dressers, for the wheat and the barley; because the harvest of the field has perished" (Joel 1:11).

During the dark ages, between 300 AD to 1500 AD, the harvest was destroyed being lost to paganism because of the backslidden state of the Church. Most of the areas where Paul won for Christ were lost to sweeping major religions.

3. The harvest must be seen and labourers sent out

When Jesus geared His disciples, "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields", He urged them not only to see with their eyes but also with their hearts. The problem with Christians is that many are asleep and others do not care. When God searched desperately, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?", Isaiah quickly responded, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). Our churches got to be filled with hearts of Isaiah.

Paul screamed, "How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent" (Rom 10:14-15). Isaiah reminds us to see the feet that stretched seeking the lost. He admires, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring good tidings of good things" (Isaiah 52:7). The world around us cannot be reached unless we are sent into the nooks and corners of our city. Our church members should be willing to go.

Testimony:

Here is an amazing story of another child of God who returned to church after several years of straying. Let's name her Gracy (pseudonym). Stuffed with the saving experiential knowledge of our Lord, she nurtured in her a relentless passion and zeal to lead her family members to the truth. She brought her family members for Bible studies. Our intensive Bible studies with the seekers were also focussed on discipling. It was the Lord's leading that, after several months of Bible study, one of the seeker's (let's name her Tracy) was baptised revealing her conversion experience.

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Having experienced the constraining love of Christ, Tracy began to respond to God's love with the burning passion to reach her family members and close contacts leading them to Bible study groups. Tracy's passion to reach her contacts is revealing in her gentle moves in reaching them. Patience and perseverance matters. Seekers moved by Tracy have begun to taste the love of God through our regular weekly Bible studies.

Gracy's precious contact Tracy is now in the front line being counted to team work with members of Church. Being contracted into the family of God to be counted for the task of bringing some more closer to Christ is the sign of true conversion. Me, as a pastor journeying with Gracy, Tracy and several other seekers, am delighted to experience the Lord's leading as our members turn disciples.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How have you helped/do we help seekers make the decision to accept Jesus as their Saviour?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Get down from our "donkey" (as did the Good Samaritan who also emptied himself to care for the perishing soul on his way). We need to shift from our comfort zone.
- 2) Find a few like-minded people in church to plunge into the field – it will do wonders being moved by the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Let your group meet at least once a week physically. There is nothing compared to meeting as a group in person. Your meeting venue could be anywhere but focus only on talking and praying about reaching the unreached. No strategy is better than what the Lord would inspire you during your moments of discussion with one another, earnest searching and praying. Let's keep in mind, that this group meeting is to be neither focussed on Bible study or praying for our personal needs.
- 4) After a few meetings, escalate to the next step. Once in two weeks hang around among the people whom you want to reach out. Be it a market place, eating place, centres of sports, public parks, wherever people gather just be there. As you see people caught in different walks of life see them with your heart. Pray earnestly in your heart pleading the Lord to build bridges between you and them. If you have yielded yourself to be used by Him, He will navigate you through all kinds of hurdles.

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PRAY:

Praise

- 1) Dear Father, your love is amazing and awesome. We praise you and thank you for the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and the sins of the World.
- 2) We praise you for the nudges of the Holy Spirit urging us to team-work with the agents of heaven in the task of reaching the least, the last and the lost.
- 3) We praise you for your persevering love and long suffering despite our rebellious and complacent attitude. You have not given up with us.

Repent

- 1) Father, we have become self-centred caring only for our personal needs. We are concerned about our health, wealth, influence and social status and we care for all about us. We are complacent, lethargic, lazy to stretch out to care for the perishing souls. Even if we try to serve others, we have begun to seek returns and profits only to nourish our selfish motives. Forgive us Lord, let your mercies speak for us.
- 2) We plead that you purge us of every sin we have committed in the open, in secret through the words of our mouths, thoughts of our hearts, through disobedience against the plan of God for our lives, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

Ask

- 1) We ask that you fill me and our church with the ever burning zeal and desire to reach-out to win souls for your Kingdom.
- 2) Help each one of us to discover the spiritual gifts that you have instilled in us. You have given them for the noble purpose of reaching the unreached. Let us not ignore them or misuse them. If we do not use them, for sure, we will lose them.
- 3) May we be faithful to the calling. You have called us to be your witnesses. That indeed is the purpose of our existence here on earth.

Yield

- 1) Lord, we release ourselves as vessels for soul winning. Please empower us with the Holy Spirit. Help us that we totally yield our lives and stay committed to the task until the end.
- 2) Discipleship starts with me! I commit my life, with all its entirety right now. Use me Lord as you will.

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Suggested Songs:

- 1) Far and Near the fields are Teaming (SDAH 358)
- 2) Rescue the Perishing (SDAH 367)
- 3) Redeemed! (SDAH 337)

Today's reading is written by Pastor Paulraj Masillamony

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DAY 9 - PRESERVE

STEP 5 OF THE MULTIPLICATION CYCLE (12TH JANUARY 2023, THURSDAY)



The harvest is not the end. Baptism is but a beginning of a spiritual journey. We must **PRESERVE** the newly baptised believer, to help them grow from spiritual childhood to adulthood.

Form a D-Group with them, so that they can learn how to continually grow and mature in Jesus. They too can then learn and experience the joy of making disciples, just as you have in helping them.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher"

Luke 6:40

The harvest is not the end. When someone has been baptised, it is but a beginning of a spiritual journey. Furthermore, our work is not yet finished, we must *PRESERVE* the newly baptised believer, to help them grow spiritually, from childhood to adulthood. In that growth journey, we must mentor, train, and nurture the new members into active disciples of Christ who make other disciples. While we want to retain members, just keeping people in the church is not our goal. The truth is that if we want to keep our members, we must send them out! If we want them to hold on to the truth, we must train them to give it away.

"Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of leading souls into the truth." Christian Service, p. 69. This statement is powerful. Not only does it reveal that our members must be involved in soul-winning service to grow spiritually, but it also gives us insight into the nature of soul-winning. We aren't only called to "spread" the truth or "scatter" the truth but also to "lead souls into the truth." That implies a process, a cycle, multiple steps that individuals go through before embracing the truth and becoming disciples of Christ.

In every harvest of fruit or grain, there are seeds. The purpose of those seeds is to be replanted so the cycle can continue. Passionate new disciples can become passive spectators if they are simply gathered into the store house. Newly committed disciples need to take their place as disciple-makers to

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multiply the harvest. The harvest is multiplied as new disciples become disciple makers, followers become leaders, leaders become mentors, newly gathered churches become missionary senders, and small groups become outreach focused.

As this reproduction happens the growth of the movement becomes exponential. Our view of and participation in the harvest spreads from a local focus to a national outlook to a global vision. The influence and reach of the Kingdom spread geographically and socially to reach new people groups, subcultures, social classes and languages.

Testimony:

To help preserve his new members in the harvest cycle, Pastor Jacob Serns (Weatherford Seventh-day Adventist Church, Texas, United States) intentionally conducts New Member Orientation classes every week. "We want to give those joining our church a strong start, including members transferring from another church. The meeting has various 30-minute segments such as, Our Stories, Our Beliefs, and Our Hopes"

Our Stories is a chance to highlight the testimony of each person joining by asking them, "How has God brought you to this place in your life?" Celebrating what God is doing invigorates all those in the class, and we also have each new member share a two-minute version of it during our church worship service.

Our Beliefs gives people a chance to review the 28 fundamental doctrines of the Adventist Church, or as we like to call them: the 28 fundamental ways of following Jesus. We encourage participants to pick out a favourite belief or two and to ask for clarification on a belief they would like to be able to explain better to a stranger.

Our Hopes involve the four hopes that we have for every new member in their first six months:

- 1. That they have a regular personal Bible reading plan, strengthened by a Sabbath School class*
- 2. That they join or start a ministry group, serving in a way they enjoy*
- 3. That they have the joy of leading someone else to Jesus and seeing them baptised*
- 4. That they make at least seven good friends in their new church family*

These New Member Orientation classes provide a strong start to accelerate the growth process of the new members.

In Singapore, we have Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) that help new members achieve similar goals, and progress on their discipleship pathways.

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Discussion Questions:

- 1) If all we do is evangelistic meetings, is that sufficient?
- 2) If we do reap a harvest of baptisms, but fail to have an intentional and regular discipleship plan for the continued growth of new members, what will happen?
- 3) If every member was involved in some form of personal outreach service, how would the church grow?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) Serve as mentors/disciplers to newer members
- 2) Follow a systematic plan to aid new members in establishing vital spiritual habits (daily prayer and Bible study, consistent attendance, regular witnessing, etc.).
- 3) Provide them with ongoing instruction in areas such as the devotional life, church life, Christian lifestyle, and evangelism.
- 4) Integrate new members into the life and ministries of the church while training the rest of the membership to befriend and pray for each newly baptised member.
- 5) Pray for labourers and for spiritual growth through the new member discipleship ministry.

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PRAY:

Praise

We praise the Lord for giving us the Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29) as a model for multiplying disciples, planting churches and building movements of Kingdom living.

Repent

Forgive us for not embracing the principles as taught in this story.

Ask

Ask the Lord to help us examine Jesus' teaching and ministry and adopt each of the principles in which the harvest can be multiplied leading to the spread of His message and the growth of His Kingdom.

Yield

Yield to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that its powerful influence can transform every member of the church to become disciple making disciples for Jesus.

Suggested Songs:

- 1) I Will Follow Thee (SDAH 623)
- 2) All The Way My Saviour Leads Me (SDAH 516)
- 3) I Want Jesus To Walk With Me (SDAH 624)

Today's reading is written by Dr Eric Teo

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DAY 10 - A DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENT

(13TH JANUARY 2023, FRIDAY)

"18 Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:18-23

It all began with a movement. In A.D. 33, the followers of Jesus witnessed the death of their Messiah. They were lost, disappointed and afraid. They did not know what to do, for their Saviour was gone. But then, 3 days later, Jesus rose again. These 12 disciples gave the rest of their lives to be disciples of Jesus - and in the world today more than 2.2 billion people are Christians.

It all began with a movement. In the 1830s - a Baptist preacher, William Miller, taught that Jesus was coming on October 22, 1844. In his interpretation of Daniel 8:14, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed". This started one of the biggest discipleship movements the world had ever seen. Thousands of people, believing that Jesus was coming soon, gave everything to spread the word. They sold homes, quit jobs and dedicated their lives to preparing for the soon coming of Jesus. But Jesus didn't come, they felt lost, disappointed and afraid. Many lost their faith. However, out of this Great Disappointment arose a discipleship movement - a group of disciples who still believed that Jesus was coming soon, and were willing to give everything to tell others so they could be prepared. This group would become the Seventh-day Adventist Church - today with 21 million members worldwide.

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It all began with a movement. In 2019, the pastors and workers of the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Singapore gathered together to talk about the growth of the Adventist church in Singapore. The vision was launched – ‘Every Adventist A Disciple, Making Disciples For Jesus’. The goal – that every single Seventh-day Adventist in Singapore is not only attending church, but is a multiplying disciple for Jesus. This was a change in mindset: Discipleship is not a destination, but a journey – it is the Discipleship Pathway that we all need to walk as we mature in Christ. As a result of this new movement, Discipleship Groups arose – groups which would sharpen each other spiritually, helping members not just to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and love for Christ, but also to multiply and bring more to Jesus. Little did we know that from 2020-2022, the Discipleship would be essential help to the spiritual health hundreds of Seventh-day Adventists in Singapore during the pandemic where we could not meet for church.

This year, in 2023, the Discipleship movement continues, focusing on Multiply. This lifelong journey that a disciple takes – loving Jesus & others more, learning from Jesus more, and living like Jesus more – will lead us not just to be mature disciples, but multiplying disciples through the Multiplication Cycle. This mindset shift – the a mature disciple isn’t just one that knows the Bible or has gone through a Discipleship Group, but one that is actively multiplying and bringing people to Jesus – this is what will revolutionise the mission to Singapore. God is calling each and every one of us to be part of this call – to be disciples, making disciples for Jesus – to be a multiplying disciple!

Testimony:

When I was first invited to join a D-group shortly after completing my Bible study, I saw it mainly as an activity to help me learn and build my knowledge. I thought it was simply meant to help me become a better follower of God.

However, I quickly learnt that D-groups are not just about growing as a follower, but also to build our capabilities. I learned how to help develop others to be disciples of God and grow in their own spiritual journeys.

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At the time, fear and doubt seeped into my mind. Am I really the right person for this? Am I capable enough? Do I even know what I am doing? How can I help someone else to grow when I still have so much more to learn?

Now, coming to the end of the final term of my D-group, these questions, while they no longer induce strong emotional reactions, still come to mind occasionally. The only difference is that I am now more equipped and I realise I am not alone in this. I will always have support from my other brothers in Christ in the group.

To me, the D-group is not just about my end goal of growing spiritually or just to help others achieve the same goal. Instead, it is about appreciating the journey and enjoying the step-by-step process of gathering, bonding, and growing together, not just as individuals.

I have just started my new D-group, and I am continuing this journey with a new Christian, and I hope that I can impart to him what I have learnt in my journey – discipleship is a journey, and I look forward to them continuing this journey with another new disciple in the future!

by James Tong

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Describe your discipleship journey since you got to know Jesus
- 2) Were there any mindset changes you have made since you were baptised in terms of discipleship?
- 3) What is the difference between a disciple and a multiplying disciple?

Practical Action Steps:

- 1) What changes can you make to your discipleship journey this year to move towards being a multiplying disciple?
- 2) How can you be a part of the Discipleship Movement in Singapore?
- 3) Is there someone that you would like to bring to be a disciple of Jesus?

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PRAY:

Praise

- 1) Praise God for His leading in the discipleship movements through history
- 2) Praise God for how He has led you personally

Repent

- 1) Ask God for forgiveness for the missed opportunities to multiply
- 2) Confess the times you have chosen not to be a disciple for Christ

Ask

- 1) Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower all Seventh-day Adventists in Singapore to join the Discipleship Movement to be multiplying disciples for Christ
- 2) Pray that God will help you personally to be a better, multiplying disciple for Him

Yield

- 1) Yield your life to God, allowing Him to use you to bring others to Christ
- 2) Ask that God's will be done in your own church as we seek to make multiplying disciples for Jesus

Suggested Songs:

- 1) Heart of Worship
- 2) Shepherd of My Soul
- 3) Softly and Tenderly (SDAH 287)

Today's reading is written by Pastor Christon Choo

DAY OF CELEBRATION - ONWARD THIS JOURNEY

(14TH JANUARY 2023, SABBATH)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..."

Hebrews 12:2

In 1952 Florence Chadwick attempted to swim 26 miles from the coast of California to Catalina Island. After 15 hours, a heavy fog began to block her view, she became disoriented, and she gave up. To her chagrin, Chadwick learned that she had quit just 1 mile short of her destination.

Two months later Chadwick tried a second time to swim to Catalina Island from the coast. Again a thick fog settled in, but this time she reached her destination, becoming the first woman to swim the Catalina Channel. Chadwick said she kept an image of the shoreline in her mind even when she couldn't see it.

When the problems of life cloud our vision, we have an opportunity to learn to see our goal with the eyes of faith. The New Testament letter to the Hebrews urges us to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (12:1-2). When we feel like quitting, this is our signal to remember not only what Jesus suffered for us but what He now helps us to endure—until the day we see Him face to face.

Jesus presented to His twelve disciples the challenge of evangelism. Then Jesus gave them a mission as the antidote to doubt. The commission was not to go out and baptise everyone to increase the number of members of the new church but to out and make disciples. A disciple is a person who follows Jesus daily, learning of the Master to become more like Him.

The commission of Jesus shook other structures of comfort that is characteristic of human nature. The disciples had to go. Disciples are not made without getting out of the four walls of the temple, or without leaving the comfort of their seats. It is necessary to break the barrier of inactivity and get out, unlike the mission given to Israel, whom other people should come and see. This is the challenge! This is the order! Christ is the commander!

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In the end, don't forget that the power to share is not just information. The power to share is Jesus. He is asking us to share Him, and He promises to give us spiritual power and go with us wherever we go. He is the nucleus, the primary subject of what we are sharing, and He is the power of what we are sharing - Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Looking back on how God has led you thus far, how do you feel?
- 2) Are there any people you would like to thank God for in your walk with Him?
- 3) Looking forward, what steps would you like to take with Jesus, write down in the "Practical Action Steps" below.

Practical Action Steps:

PRAY:

Take time to prayerfully fill in the PRAY segments below, on items you would like to praise, repent, ask, and yield.

Praise

Repent

Ask

Yield

Suggested Songs:

- 1) I'd Rather Have Jesus (SDAH 327)
- 2) I Would Be Like Jesus (SDAH 311)
- 3) Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (SDAH 290)
- 4) It Start With Me

Today's reading is written by Pastor Peter Foo