

Discipleship Relationships

Growth for Life



- "Discipling is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ."

-Greg Ogden-

- "Therefore go and make disciples...and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

-Jesus Christ-

- "A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher." -

Jesus Christ-

Jesus has called us to go and make disciples. Jesus made disciples by gathering with a few, and in an atmosphere of trust, honesty and accountability they learned how to obey HIS teachings. With this as our foundation, the following is a guide to assist anyone who desires to gather with a couple other disciples and commit to a journey together inviting the teachings of Jesus into their personal lives. This is called a discipleship relationship!

A Suggested Guide for Your Journey

1. **The top priority of getting together with a few other people to share life, pray and study is growing relationships!**
2. The curriculum is important, but getting to a place where we can be vulnerable, honest and accountable with each other will be the key.
3. A suggested time for a meeting is about an hour and a half. (30 minutes for personal sharing, some follow up from last session, and mutual enjoyment of what is happening in each other's lives; the other hour is spent on the responses to the questions in the material covered.)
4. Go at a pace that is comfortable for those with you.
5. Some suggested starter questions before you get into the material are:
 - a) *What has been happening in your relationship with God and your relationships with others in the past week or two?*
 - b) *What do you need Jesus to do for your today?*
6. When you get to the material you can follow a simple guide that can go something like this:
 - a) *Talk about what strikes you from the week's Scriptures, and how can they be lived out, in your opinion.*
 - b) *What does the character quality bring to mind & who or what is an example of that quality lived out?*
 - c) *Share the questions together, which one stood out to you, which one convicted you, did any bless you or make you see your life from a different perspective? Is there a question you would add?*
 - d) *Share your prayer requests & then pray for one another.*
7. You probably want to be sure you have the next session on everyone's calendar before you leave.
8. **Remember that relationship is priority.** If you don't get through a lesson because you needed to focus on one thing, or someone had something very urgent or special happen, IT IS OK! The goal is not to "plow through the study." The goal is to grow relationships with each other and together grow closer to the Lord by letting Him and His Spirit and His Word do the changing in each of our lives.
9. **ENJOY THE JOURNEY!**

A Disciple's Covenant

In order to grow toward maturity in Christ, I commit myself to the following standards:

- 1. Complete all assignments prior to our meeting in order to contribute fully.*
- 2. Meet weekly/bi-weekly with my discipleship partners to dialogue over the content of the assignments.*
- 3. Offer myself fully to the Lord with the anticipation that I am entering a time of transformation in my life.*
- 4. Contribute to a climate of honesty, trust and personal vulnerability.*
- 5. Give serious consideration to continuing the discipling chain by committing myself to invest in other people following the initial completion of this Journey.*

Signed _____

Dated _____

Suggested Ways to Use the Guide

1. Each lesson begins with “JESUS TAUGHT.” We want our conversation to focus around what Jesus says.
2. Next, there are verses from the Bible that support that particular teaching of Jesus. One suggestion is to read the verses, talk about what they are saying to you, which one sticks out the most or blessed you the most? Or which one do you understand the least and want to hear how someone else sees it?
3. Then, there is a character quality of Jesus that is suggested for this teaching of Jesus. **These are just suggestions**; you may see other qualities that are needed. But to talk about what it takes to carry out the teaching of Jesus is very important. The character qualities help us see what we need to have growing in our lives in order to truly be walking like Jesus walked.
4. Next, there are questions that lead you in sharing your own life. It is helpful to come to the time with the questions answered. Go around and share your answers, learn to be vulnerable, open and honest. There may be one question you spend more time on than others. You may have your own question you’d like to pose to everyone. But **be a good listener** when others are sharing.
5. Finally, there is prayer for the week. From the study and time together, what would be an honest prayer from your heart? Be sure to share your prayers with each other. A suggestion is to pray for each other the prayers you have written down. Hearing someone pray for your personal needs can be very powerful! Also, agreeing together in prayer is very powerful!
6. This is only a suggested guide. As your journey together begins you will make the time and the study your own. Enjoy the journey!

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 4:17 - “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

The Bible says:

- **Acts 3:19 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.**
- **Proverbs 1:23 – If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.**
- **Revelation 3:19 – Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes HUMILITY to really repent (turn from my ways and turn to God’s ways). Humility is recognizing that in myself I am nothing and have nothing; therefore everything in life is really a gift from God.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Have you repented of your sin and asked Jesus into your life? Talk about your salvation experience.**
2. **What does repentance look like in the life of a believer?**
3. **What is the Lord convicting you of lately?**
4. **Do you need to humble yourself right now and repent?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in John 3:3; 7 - I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. You should not be surprised at my saying, you must be born again.

The Bible says:

- **John 14:1 – Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**
- **Romans 10:9 – That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**
- **1 Peter 2:2 – As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes true SECURITY to really become born again (knowing that God will never leave us or forsake us and that whatever we give to him will become an eternal treasure.)**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Do I trust Christ alone for salvation, or am I counting on my good works? How do you balance the two in your life?**
- 2. Am I growing in Christ and becoming like him? How have you seen Christ-like growth in your life over the past year?**
- 3. Am I being fed with the Word of God? When and where?**
- 4. How does my life show that I belong to the family of God?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 4:19 – “Come follow me...and I will make you fishers of men.”

The Bible says:

- **Matthew 19:28-29 – I assure you that when I, the Son of Man, sit upon my glorious throne in the Kingdom, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will have eternal life.**
- **Psalm 63:8 - I follow close behind you; your strong right hand holds me securely.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes MEEKNESS to follow Jesus. Meekness is yielding our rights to God so He can demonstrate His peace and power through us.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. How will the priorities of my daily life change if I truly commit to following Jesus’ directives?**
- 2. What are some goals I have, that I might need to set aside in order to follow Jesus?**
- 3. How have I exchanged my priorities for the priorities of Jesus?**
- 4. How am I attracting others with the light of Jesus?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 5:3-10 – Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- This passage of Scripture is referred to as the “Be-attitudes.” Jesus is teaching us how we can be blessed and be a blessing to others and it all begins with our personal attitude.
- An attitude list from the Lord: poor in spirit, be able to mourn, meekness, hunger for what is right, merciful, purity, peacemaker, suffering for the sake of the kingdom.

SHARING MY LIFE

1. Which one of these stands out the most in your mind? Why do you think it stands out to you?
2. Have you noticed that before each beatitude is the word blessed? How is your attitude a blessing to others?
3. Which quality listed by Jesus above do you need to work on the most? Which do you understand the least about?
4. How have you been blessed by these attitudes in other people that are in your life?

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 5:23-24 – “If you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

The Bible says:

- **Ephesians 4:26 – Be angry and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath.**
- **Acts 24:16 – So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.**
- **1 Corinthians 12:25 – So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes RESPONSIBILITY to truly reconcile. Responsibility is knowing and doing what God and others are expecting of me.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Think for a minute, have you taken full responsibility for your offenses?**
- 2. Is there anyone you have offended and have not gone to them to make it right and ask forgiveness?**
- 3. Is pride keeping you from clearing the record with anyone?**
- 4. Do you examine your heart before worship?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 5:44-46 – “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?”

The Bible says:

- **1 Peter 3:8-9 – Finally, all of you should be of one mind, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it.**
- **Romans 12:2 – Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes CREATIVITY to love your enemies. Creativity is when we approach a task or a challenge from a new perspective.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Who are the enemies in your life? (people who believe differently than you, people of different religions or political views or live by other standards)**
2. **What might be some creative ways you can love your enemies?**
3. **How can you be ready to keep loving them even when they don’t change?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 6:6-8 – “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.”

The Bible says:

- **Jeremiah 29:12 – Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.**
- **Luke 18:1 – Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.**
- **Philippians 4:6 – But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes FAITH to pray in secret. Faith is when we recognize God’s will in a particular matter and do it even if we can’t see it.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **What does your *secret* prayer life look like?**
2. **What is your biggest obstacle to growing a consistent prayer life?**
3. **What is one commitment you can make to help overcome that obstacle?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

The Bible says:

- **John 3:3 – In reply Jesus declared, I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**
- **John 6:27 – Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.**
- **Matthew 6:25 – Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes INITIATIVE to seek first God’s kingdom. Initiative is recognizing and doing what needs to be done before you are asked.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **How are you building your life around things that will last for eternity?**
2. **Are you becoming content with what God has provided for you?**
3. **Are there any changes you think you need to make in order for God to be the priority in your life?**
4. **What needs are you trusting God to meet for you?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 7:1-3 – “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

The Bible says:

- **James 4:11-12 – Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?**
- **Galatians 6:1 – Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes DISCERNMENT to “*judge not.*” Discernment understands the DEEPER reasons why things happen.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Have you ever asked God to reveal a “*plank*” in your own life? What did He show you?**
2. **When you see a problem do you get all the facts and involve only those who are part of the solution?**
3. **What do you see as the key difference between judging and discerning?**
4. **When you see a fault in another, have you ever considered it might be the Lord wanting you to examine your own heart?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 7:12 – “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

The Bible says:

- **Luke 6:38 – Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”**
- **Galatians 6:10 – Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**
- **Romans 12:10 – Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes SENSITIVITY to “do unto others.” Sensitivity is when we perceive the true attitudes and emotions of those around us.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Do you ever think about the fact that what you do for others you are also doing for Jesus?**
- 2. Are you treating others the way you want to be treated?**
- 3. When have you seen God bless you when you have made an effort to give to someone else rather than fulfill your own desire?**
- 4. How do you want others to treat you?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 7:13- 14 – “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

The Bible says:

- **Isaiah 30:21 – Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it.”**
- **Colossians 3:5-7 – Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways in the life you once lived.**
- **Proverbs 4:26 – Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes DECISIVENESS to “*choose the narrow way.*” Decisiveness is the ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Do you evaluate your decisions based on God’s ways?**
- 2. What blessings have come when you have chosen God’s way?**
- 3. What trials have you experienced because of the narrow way?**
- 4. In what current situation do you need to choose the narrow way?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 9:37-38 – “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

The Bible says:

- **John 4:34-35 – My food, Jesus said, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you say four months more and then the harvest? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.**
- **1 Corinthians 3:9 – For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.**
- **Romans 10:14-15 – How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one on whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes COMPASSION to “*pray for laborers.*” Compassion is responding to a deep need with a longing to meet that need.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Who are “*laborers*” you can be specifically praying for?**
2. **Are you praying that God will make you a soul winner?**
3. **For you, what is the “*hardest part*” about sharing your faith?**
4. **What is the “*field*” God has placed you in?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 11:28-30 – “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The Bible says:

- **Philippians 2:5-7 – Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness**
- **1 Peter 2:21 – To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes OBEDIENCE to “*come unto Jesus.*” Obedience is when we quickly & cheerfully carry out the directions of those in authority over us.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Are there any areas right now God wants you to surrender?**
2. **Are you seeking to follow God’s ways or your own?**
3. **What are ways I can grow a humble, meek, gentle spirit?**
4. **Could your soul use some rest?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Luke 9:23-25 – “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”

The Bible says:

- **John 12:25-26 – The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servants also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**
- **Acts 20:24 – However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes DETERMINATION to deny yourself. Determination happens when we purpose to accomplish right goals at the right time regardless of the opposition.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **How do you daily deny yourself?**
2. **What are some Godly disciplines you have developed in your life?**
3. **What is a “cross” that God has called you to carry?**
4. **What are the challenges to denying yourself daily?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Luke 12:15 – “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kind of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

The Bible says:

- **Hebrews 13:5 – Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.**
- **Exodus 20:17 – You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**
- **1 Timothy 6:6-7 – But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes CONTENTMENT to not covet. Contentment is realizing that God has already provided everything we need to be happy.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **What are the areas in your life where discontentment grows?**
2. **Do you look to things or God for your security in life?**
3. **Have you thanked God for all the “little” things He has given you?**
4. **What’s the difference between earthly riches & heavenly treasures?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 18:21-22 – “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, **I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”**

The Bible says:

- **Colossians 3:12-13 – Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**
- **Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**
- **James 2:13 – Mercy triumphs over judgment!**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes FORGIVENESS to have mercy. Forgiveness is when we clear the record of those who have wronged us and we no longer hold a grudge.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Are there people who have deeply hurt you?**
2. **Is there evidence of bitterness in your life, what would others say?**
3. **Have you fully forgiven those that have hurt you?**
4. **Why is forgiveness at times so hard to do?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 19:4-6 – “At the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

The Bible says:

- **Ephesians 5:31-33 – For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the Church. However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**
- **Malachi 2:16 – I hate divorce says the Lord God of Israel, and I hate a man’s covering himself with violence as well as with his garment, says the Lord Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes LOYALTY to honor marriage. Loyalty is a bonding of individuals with sacrificial support and defense.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Are you married, is it your desire someday to be married?**
2. **What has divorce done to our culture?**
3. **Are you doing everything possible to be loyal to your mate?**
4. **Once a person gets married there is no more I or me, it is us. How important is that principle to a successful marriage?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 22:19-21 –“Show me the coin used for paying the tax...Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription...Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

The Bible says:

- **Romans 13:2 – He who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.**
- **1 Peter 2:13 – Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men.**
- **Proverbs 21:1 – The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes GRATEFULNESS to honor authorities. Gratefulness is expressing sincere appreciation to others for the ways they have benefited my life.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Do you view all your money and possessions as belonging to the Lord?**
2. **Honestly, have you been honest in your tax returns?**
3. **How do you speak about your civil authorities, with honor?**
4. **Do you pray for godly civil authorities and do you see civil authorities as God’s ministers?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 22:37-38 –“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

The Bible says:

- **John 14:15 – If you love me, you will obey what I command.**
- **1 John 5:3 – This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commandments are not burdensome.**
- **Proverbs 8:17 – I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes ENTHUSIASM to love the Lord. Enthusiasm is expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Have you ever thought that the way you love God is by keeping His commands?**
2. **Does your love for God show in your love for others?**
3. **What might be something in your life that competes for your love for God?**
4. **How has God tested your love for Him?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 22:39-40 –“And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

The Bible says:

- **Romans 13:8 – Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.**
- **Philippians 2:3 – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.**
- **Galatians 5:13 – You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature: rather, serve one another in love.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes GENTLENESS to love your neighbor. Gentleness is supporting others in their time of weakness, so that they can achieve their full potential in the Lord.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Who are the people closest to you to whom you need to show more love?**
2. **Think about it, does your love for others reflect your love for God?**
3. **What chance meetings have you had where you could show love to a neighbor?**
4. **What is your greatest challenge when it comes to loving others?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 24:42,44 –“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come...So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

The Bible says:

- **1 Peter 4:7 – The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.**
- **James 5:7-8 – Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes PUNCTUALITY to watch and wait. Punctuality is showing esteem for others by doing the right thing at the right time.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Are you using your time wisely for the kingdom of God? How?**
- 2. Think about it, what are you doing to prepare others for Christ’s return?**
- 3. Who are people you love that you feel are not ready for Jesus’ return?**
- 4. Reflect on your life where you are right now. Are you at peace and ready for Christ’s return?**

MY PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

JESUS TAUGHT in John 14:15 –“If you love me you will obey what I command.”

The Bible says:

- **John 14:21 – Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.**
- **Joshua 1:8 – Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**
- **1 John 2:3 – We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes DILIGENCE to obey Jesus’ commands. Diligence is investing my time and energy to accomplish each task given to me.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Have you ever thought that in order to really get to know Jesus well, He said it will happen as we look to obey His teachings?**
2. **Since we are not saved by obeying His commands, do you think we sometimes ignore them?**
3. **We love Jesus by keeping His commands. Are you reading, praying & perhaps memorizing His commands in order to show your love to Jesus?**
4. **What “commands” of Jesus are the most challenging to you?**

WEEKLY PRAYER

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 26:41 –“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the body is weak.”

The Bible says:

- **James 5:16 – Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteousness man is powerful and effective.**
- **Romans 8:26 – The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**
- **Matthew 6:13 – And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes ENDURANCE to watch & pray. Endurance is the inward strength to withstand stress and do my best.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **What are ways we can be alert to spiritual danger?**
2. **Have you asked God to bind & rebuke Satan’s influences?**
3. **Do you spend time just listening to God so that you can be guided by the Holy Spirit?**
4. **What defeats have you had in your life because you weren’t “Watching & praying?”**

WEEKLY PRAYER

JESUS TAUGHT in Matthew 28:19 –“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The Bible says:

- **Acts 2:38 – Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**
- **1 Peter 3:21 – And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also-not removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes CAUTIOUSNESS when considering baptism. Cautiousness is planning for future success by following the ways of God rather than what I think.**

SHARING MY LIFE

- 1. Have you ever been baptized in water, share your experience?**
- 2. We are not saved by water baptism so why is it important?**
- 3. If you haven’t been baptized in water, what is holding you back?**
- 4. If you had to explain water baptism to someone considering it, how would you go about it?**

WEEKLY PRAYER

JESUS TAUGHT in Luke 24:49–“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Bible says:

- **Acts 1:8 – 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.**
- **Acts 2:4 – All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**
- **Luke 11:13 – If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**
- **Acts 19:6 – When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.**

CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

- **It takes ORDERLINESS in receiving God’s power. Orderliness is arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve harmony & greater efficiency.**

SHARING MY LIFE

1. **Have you asked God to fill you with His Spirit?**
2. **Are you producing the fruit of the Spirit in your life? (Galatians 5:22)**
3. **Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoken in tongues?**
4. **Could you explain the baptism in the Holy Spirit to a new believer?**

WEEKLY PRAYER
