

ALL THINGS NEW A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING

*Overcoming the Effects of
Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness*

WORKBOOK #3: HEALING



2 Cor. 5:17

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All Things New: A Discipleship Ministry for Healing
Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness
Workbook 3: Healing

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DBarrMinistries@gmail.com
www.DBarrMinistries.org

True Potential, Inc.
PO Box 904
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
www.truepotentialmedia.com



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



The All Things New Ministry was born out of my transition out of nearly two decades of homosexuality through the love and support of a women's ministry Bible study group and the leadership of a church that was not willing to compromise their convictions while continuing to welcome and embrace me. When I first began attending this church, I had not yet accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I was happy living my life as a lesbian. I knew 'about' Jesus and what He did for me, and even labeled myself as a Christian, but I had not yet surrendered my whole life to Him. I had also been involved in a gay church for many years where I was indoctrinated in gay-theology, which affirmed my lifestyle as a part of the gay community. I was still living my life the way I wanted to, and that included being in a committed lesbian relationship with the woman I loved.

Once I fully surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, I began to regularly read the Bible and pray that God would reveal areas of sin in my life that I needed to repent of and turn away from. It was through my study of the Word of God that I realized that many areas of my life did not line up with His Word. As God revealed areas of sin, I repented and asked for his forgiveness, and He began to change me from the inside out. When I finally realized that God did not approve of my choice to live as a lesbian, I decided to turn away from homosexuality and live a life in a way that was pleasing to Him. The transition was not easy, and I relied heavily on the women in my Bible study that supported me with unconditional love and prayed for me as I turned away from the gay community, which had been my support structure for many years. I had to walk away from a relationship with the woman that I loved and we had to unravel our lives that we had previously intertwined together.

This Bible Study/Discipleship Ministry is modeled after my own transition out of years of homosexuality and the healing I received along the way, and has been proven to help both men and women who want to break free from life choices that are not pleasing to God. My prayer is that every person who experiences same-sex attraction will find the same freedom in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that I did. His love is everlasting and completely satisfying – it is unlike anything we can ever experience in human relationships. I never knew that I wasn't living my best life until I was able to experience His love as I aligned my life with His Word. Jesus makes all things new!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

Contact the author:
www.DBarrMinistries.org
DBarrMinistries@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

ALL THINGS NEW: A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING is a Bible Study and Discipleship Ministry for people who experience same-sex attraction (SSA). It is designed to be facilitated by lay leaders and assisted by volunteer prayer/Accountability Partners. The purpose of the All Things New Ministry is to aid in the spiritual healing and growth of people who have in the past, or are currently experiencing SSA. This ministry is designed to help release people from the bondage of SSA and to allow them to experience healing from the effects of their exposure to SSA and sexual brokenness.

Each lesson contains five days of homework to be completed by the ministry participants prior to meeting as a group to discuss the lesson and complete the in-class exercises. Another very important aspect of this ministry is the weekly memory Scripture that relates to the lesson for the week.

If you are completing this workbook on your own and not using it as a part of a facilitated weekly Bible study, you will need to purchase the companion Facilitator Guide in order to have access to all of the material you need to get the most out of this Bible Study. This is especially relevant to the in-class exercises presented in this workbook. If you don't have the Facilitator Guide, or someone who is facilitating this Bible Study that is using that Facilitator Guide, some of the exercises may not make sense.

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS

We grow spiritually as Christians by sharing our lives with other Christians. One important aspect of this Ministry is for you to have a trusted Christian Accountability Partner to share your journey with as you work through the homework assignments and weekly lessons. There will be times as you work through this material that you may feel like giving up or giving in to temptations that have been gripping you for years. Having an Accountability Partner who you can reach out to in times of temptation, or when you need a friend who understands what you are going through, can really help you to stay the course and experience victory over your struggles.

You may be assigned an Accountability Partner by the Ministry Facilitator(s) to work with you, or if you are completing this workbook on your own, please find someone who you trust; who you feel comfortable talking to; and who you can contact when you have questions or are struggling to complete an assignment. That person's role is to encourage you and to pray for you. Stay in regular contact with your Accountability Partner – sharing the homework assignments with them and letting them know how you are feeling as you work through this material.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE:

A Guide for Listening and Inner Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places by Rusty Rustenbach (NavPress 2011) ISBN: 978-1-61747-086-8 – used for Lessons #18-#27

All Things New: a Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love by Debora Barr (True Potential Publishing 2012) ISBN: 978-1-935769-32-3 – Ministry Break Reading Assignment following Lesson #27

MINISTRY BREAK READING ASSIGNMENT

Read *All Things New: a Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love* by Debora Barr. Available at: <http://www.DBarrMinistries.org/>

As you read this book, notice how Debora leaned on God and on other Christians to help her walk away from her life of homosexuality. Think about your life, and how you have been leaning on God and other Christians so far in this study. What have you learned so far? What victories have you achieved so far? What do you want God to do for you as you continue in this study? Write a prayer to God below asking for what you desire from Him:

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The Power of Sharing Your Testimony

LESSON #28

HOMEWORK

There is great power in the telling and hearing of a personal testimony regarding what God is doing and has done in a person's life. Testimony is defined as a declaration by a witness under oath, as that given before a court or deliberative body; evidence in support of a fact or an assertion; or a public declaration regarding a religious experience (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language). The Bible is full of stories about what God did in the lives of His people thousands of years ago, but don't you agree that it is a bit hard to relate to some of these stories of people who lived in a far different time, place, and culture than our own?

What if you heard from someone today, who you know and who lives right where you live, about something incredible that God did in his or her life? What if someone you know was healed of an "incurable" disease? Wouldn't that have a stronger impact on you than reading about King Hezekiah being healed from the disease that was supposed to kill him around 700 years before Jesus was born? (Isaiah Chapter 38) What about the testimony of a woman in your town who was barren for years, prayed fervently and then was able to conceive and have a child? Wouldn't her story have a much more powerful impact on you than reading about Hannah in the Bible who lived approximately 1,000 years before Christ? (1 Samuel Chapter 1) What about hearing the personal testimony of a man or woman who lived for years as a gay man or lesbian, and who, through the power of God working in and through their lives, has walked away from that lifestyle, and is now living free from that bondage?

Sharing a personal testimony brings healing and encouragement not only to the person hearing the testimony, but also the person sharing it. For the person sharing, it "seals it" and makes it more real even to them. Sometimes, we can go through something incredible in an almost 'out of body' experience where it doesn't become real and tangible to us until we hear ourselves telling the story, or see a video, or hear someone else tell it. Sharing a testimony also reminds the teller of what God did in his/her life, when in the future, they may be discouraged about something. Just remembering what God has already done in your life can encourage you to hold on when the going gets rough. If He did it before, He can do it again!

Personal testimonies can reach some people for God like nothing else can. To see living tangible proof of the power of God working in a person's life today might just be the thing that leads someone to Christ. And, by the way... Satan hates it!

This Week's Memory Verse:

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

DAY 1

Read Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think that Joshua recounted to the people the entire history of the Israelites just before he died?

2. What is significant about your history, and what can be learned from recounting the history of your life?

3. Do you think other people can learn from you and be encouraged by hearing your story? _____ Yes
_____ No

Why/why not?

4. In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to reveal to you the importance of sharing your testimony, and what He will accomplish through your obedience.

Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation 12:11).

Sample

DAY 2

Read Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:

1. What is revealed in Joshua 24:2-3 about what God did for Abraham and how does this relate to your salvation story?

2. How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to leave everything he knew and go to an unknown destination led by God?

3. How did you feel when you first accepted Jesus and began to walk in this new relationship with God?

4. How has your life changed since you accepted Jesus and began walking with God?

DAY 3

Read Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:

1. What is being conveyed to the Israelites through Joshua 24:4-13 and how does the message relate to your life?

2. Why do you think that God allows His people to experience the types of things that the Israelites experienced in the passages we just looked at?

3. Why do you think God allowed you to experience the things that you have experienced in your life, both good and bad? What can be learned from your experiences?

4. Names in the Bible have great significance. In Joshua 24:11 we see a list of names of the 'peoples' that came against the Israelites. The names of the seven 'peoples' that were conquered by the Israelites are seven 'spirits' that had to be conquered by the Israelites so they could acquire what God promised them. What deeper meaning is revealed in this passage about what the Israelites faced when they crossed into the promised-land?

NAME	MEANING	ATTRIBUTES
Amorites	Mountain People	Obsession with earthly fame/glory
Perizzites	Belonging to a Village	Limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem
Canaanites	Lowlands People	Addictions, perversions, people pleasing
Hittites	Sons of Terror/Break Down	Phobias, terror, depression, deceit
Girgashites	Clay dwellers	Focus on earthliness and unbelief
Hivites	Villagers	Vision limited to earthly inheritance
Jebusites	Threshers/Humiliate	Legalism, suppression of spiritual authority

Taken from <http://shamah-elim.info> (Shamah-Elim Bible Studies)

5. Do you recognize any of these ‘ites’ over the course of your life that had to be conquered or still need to be? Be specific.

6. In the space below, write a prayer to God targeting the remaining ‘ites’ in your life and ask Him to help you conquer them as He did for the Israelites.

Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation 12:11).

DAY 4

Read Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:

1. What is Joshua saying to the people in Joshua 24:14-15?

2. Have you determined in your heart to serve God? Yes No

Why/why not? Be specific.

3. Part of serving God is telling others about what God has done for you, so they can grasp the real wonder-working power of God through your story in addition to reading about people in the Bible who they have never met. What is it about your personal testimony that could impact another person if you were brave enough to tell it?

4. Who would most benefit from hearing your testimony? Think about age groups, gender, populations, people in the church, people outside the church, etc.

5. In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him whom He would like to reach through you sharing your testimony. Following your prayer, write down what He tells you.

Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation 12:11).

Sample

DAY 5

Read Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:

1. In Joshua 24:22-27, Joshua and the people sealed their covenant to serve the Lord. They had reviewed the history of the Israelites: what God had done for them over the years from the time He called Abraham out of the world to follow Him, through all of the trials and tribulations they encountered along the way, to the promised land where He planted them. Why do you think at this point, they were willing to make a promise to serve the Lord?

2. Look back over your life (review your personal timeline that you have been working on from Lesson #6) and make notes below specifically identifying the work of God over the course of your life (even when you didn't know Him).

Event

God's Role

Event	God's Role
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3. After reviewing what God has done for you over the course of your life, are you willing to say “I will serve the Lord!”? _____ Yes _____ No

Why/why not?

4. How would sharing stories about your life encourage others to come to know and trust God?

5. Are you fearful about sharing your story with others? _____ Yes _____ No

Why/why not?

6. Has someone else encouraged you to trust God through the sharing of his or her testimony? If the answer is yes, what impact did their sharing have on your life?

Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation 12:11).

Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

Sample

