

WORLDCHANGERS

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For more information on the 'World Changers Bible Project' see spdyouth.com or search Facebook for 'World Changers Bible Project' or visit <https://discipleship.adventistchurch.com>

WHAT IS A WORLD CHANGER?

How would you define a World Changer?

The mass media has influenced people's perceptions on what it takes to change the world. Often the media highlights that World Changers are people with money, fame, or power. But this is far from the truth.

Jesus was able to change the world, yet He lacked money and political power. Instead, He connected with His Father in Heaven, and followed the Spirit's leading to impact people in His circle of influence one meeting at a time and He became a World Changer. You have the same opportunity to be a World Changer.

A World Changer is a disciple of Jesus on a journey to becoming more like Jesus in every way—and who seeks to live as a disciple who makes more disciples.

In your hands, you hold a Bible that is a testimony to the life Jesus lived as a human being. Yet there is so much more to this story. The Bible shares the life, death and resurrection of our Creator, Saviour

and Lord. By sharing His story with people you come in contact with, you also have the opportunity to be a World Changer!

In the next few pages, we invite you to begin the journey of being a World Changer. Philippians 4:13 states "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." You will need to spend Time Alone with God (TAG) and become familiar with God's Word. As the stories in this World Changer Bible become more real to you, try to share your discoveries with others. As you talk about Jesus more and more, you will find that sharing Him with your friends becomes easier to do. So enjoy your journey to becoming a World Changer within the space God has placed you.

It is our hope and prayer that you will be able to use this Bible and, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, make a difference in people's lives and become a World Changer.

Go change your world!

It doesn't take much to be a World Changer! It does not take much to make a huge difference in the world you live in. There is power in just one person. You!

If you had the choice of receiving a one-off payment of one million dollars or one cent doubled weekly for a year, which would you choose? If you do the arithmetic, you would be much better off to have just one cent that would double each week for a year.

In fact, on the final week of the year, you would be owed \$22 trillion!!

If an evangelist was able to preach to 100,000 people daily over the course of 35 years of ministry—and after the sermon, every person gave their hearts to God and never struggled again with their spiritual walk—that evangelist would win the souls of 1.27 billion people.

However, an alternative would be for you to pray, spend time with,

encourage and study scripture with one person for a period of a year. Then at the end of the year, get that person to do exactly the same for another friend while you did the same for another person. If this chain reaction continued for a period of 35 years, there would be a total of 6.1 billion people brought to Christ!

Which do you think is more effective? The 20-minute sermon from a travelling preacher? Or you spending time loving, caring and nurturing one person spiritually for a whole year?

With this in mind, remember the "Power of One" and see how you as one person with God can become a World Changer.

Think of five people in your network of friends who might not understand Jesus. List their names below.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Now commit to praying for each of these individuals daily. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts to be more receptive to God. Look for ways to love and impact their lives as a friend. In addition, use these opportunities to give them a better understanding of who God is and why God is important in your life.

Use this page as a reminder to continually pray for your friends. James 5:16 says:

"...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power."

If you commit to praying for your friends daily, and look for opportunities to love and share with them, you can be a World Changer.

So you've decided to be a World Changer? Now, you need to spend time with the greatest World Changer ever.

What characteristics come to your mind when you think about what makes a true friend? How can these characteristics be nurtured?

Without doubt, one of the best ways you can nurture the characteristics that make a true friend is by spending quality time with those you want to befriend.

To be a powerful World Changer, it is important that you spend quality time alone with God and quality time with the people you are wishing to make a difference with.

How often are you able to spend quality time alone with God? This is called TAG time. How often are you making contact with the people you want to make a difference with?

Jesus spent quality time with both. Mark 1:35–39 tells the story of how

Jesus daily spent time alone with God and that this helped remind Him of His purpose. He also spent time daily with His disciples. Mark 3:14 describes how Jesus chose the 12 disciples and that they were chosen to “be his regular companions.” TAG time is simply finding time to get away from all the busy distractions in our lives so we can spend time both talking and listening to God.

It is important that prayer not be only a one-way conversation. John 10:3-4 says that “the sheep hear his voice And they follow him because they recognise his voice.” It might take time to discern His voice, but take the time to try.

A number of models of prayer can be found in the Bible. However, the best illustration of a prayer to become a World Changer is the prayer Jesus prayed in John 17.

1. PRAY FOR YOURSELF: Jesus prayed, “Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.” He asked for God to glorify Him with His presence. This gave Him the ability and power to give glory to God in fulfilling His purpose on earth.

2. PRAY FOR DISCIPLES: Jesus prayed for His friends that He was working with to make a difference in their lives. He prayed for God to protect them, for wisdom to help make them holy and that they, too, would make a difference to change their world.

3. PRAY FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS: Jesus then prayed for people who were not even in His network, that they would come to know God and also be World Changers.

Make a commitment to pray for these three areas often:

1. Pray for yourself.
 2. Pray for your listed friends to become disciples.
 3. Pray for more people to become World Changers.
-

Spending time alone with God is great, now you need to read His Word.

If you are travelling to somewhere you have never been, a map or a Global Positioning System (GPS) is helpful. A GPS looks at where you are and where you want to go. Then it provides directions for the most efficient way of getting there.

This is the role of Bible study in our lives with God. So a World Changer needs to “Be in the Word!”

In 2 Timothy 3:14–17, Paul gives two reasons why we should know the scriptures. The first purpose is to get to know Jesus and discover how to receive salvation (see verse 15). The second purpose is to help us grow spiritually, so we can be equipped to do whatever God wants us to do (see verse 17).

Bible truths can transform you into a World Changer by shaping you with the character and ways of Jesus. This is because “the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than

the sharpest two-edged sword . . . It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires . . . Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes” (Hebrews 4:12).

There are different ways to study the Bible. Some will appeal to you more than others:

- 1. SUMMARY:** Choose a book of the Bible and read through chapter-by-chapter, asking God to give you insights to help in your spiritual journey.
- 2. BIOGRAPHICAL:** Read about a Bible character and make notes on how that person related to God. Discover what things would be good for you to apply in your own life and what to stay away from.
- 3. THEMATIC:** Choose a topic or theme you are interested in and look through a concordance to discover what the Bible says about that particular topic.
- 4. JOURNALING:** Read a passage of Scripture and write down your thoughts as you reflect on it.

The Six Step Bible-study plan: Here are six steps that might guide you on your journey in the Word:

step 1 - Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

step 2 - Meditating on the verse(s) you have chosen to study. Take time to read slowly and reflect on the words, meaning and story in the texts

step 3 - See how these verses can apply to your spiritual journey.

step 4 - Memorise key verses from your time of Bible study.

step 5 - Talk to God about what you've discovered and ask Him to help you to be His follower.

step 6 - Share what you have learnt with someone else.

An exercise book devoted to writing down your thoughts or ideas might be beneficial. If you like drawing pictures, diagrams or researching on the internet, these can be included to help you better understand your Bible-study journey.

You are not alone, invite someone you respect to share the discipleship journey with you!

While God grants you the power to change the world, even a World Changer needs an **accountability partner—there's Power in Two**. This individual is a person you respect who will encourage you and pray with and for you as you become a World Changer. You need to be on God's team and follow Jesus' model. But you also need an accountability partner to help you stay on track. The Bible says, "For where two or three are gathered together as my followers, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Can you think of someone in your network who you would be willing to connect with regularly so they can hold you accountable? This person would ask questions to see how you are developing in some of the following areas: your spiritual life; relationships with others; lifestyle issues you are facing; and your commitment to using your time and talents the way God would expect. This is why there is Power in Two.

Why is it beneficial to have someone do this for you?

1. Relationship: We all thrive in genuine caring relationships. It is better to have someone alongside us rather than try to do it alone (see Ecclesiastes 4:9–12).

2. Accountability: Few things in life get done without accountability. You need to find someone to cheer you on and encourage you, as well as speak kind words of reprimand when you go off course (see Hebrews 12:7–13).

3. Spiritual support: You will benefit from spiritual nurture and emotional support (see Philippians 4:4–9; Ecclesiastes 4:12).

4. Confidentiality: Having an accountability partner gives the opportunity for honest talk, knowing it won't go anywhere else (see Matthew 18:15–17).

When you meet with your accountability partner, you will need to make the time spent together meaningful and helpful, not just a social catch up. Maybe encourage one another to pray and read a passage of scripture in the Word before meeting each time.

Here are some questions that you might consider asking each other:

1. How are the most important relationships in your life going currently? (God/spouse/friends/family/future World Changers)

2. How did your Bible reading go? What are you going to apply in your life?

3. Have you been a good example of a "Christian" since we met last? Why/why not?

4. Have you lacked integrity in any way in your dealings with people since we saw each other (coveting, gossiping, anger, etc)?

5. Have you had victory over your addictive behaviour/s since the last time I asked?

6. Have you been completely honest with me?

7. What would you like me to pray for regarding your journey?

Since you've spent time with God and read His Word, now you've got to tell somebody!

The first time you talk to someone about Jesus can be stressful. The emotions you feel might range from nervous excitement to feeling “sick-in-your-stomach” fear! Don't worry—this is your body's way of telling you that you are beginning a new adventure.

You might feel like a fake or unfit to be having the Jesus conversation because you are a sinful person. Don't worry—we are told in the Bible that “everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23).

You are not alone. Talking about Jesus is an adventure, and the best part of it all is that Jesus promises to be with you (see Matthew 28:20).

Remember, you will feel less like a sales person “selling” Jesus if you build your own personal connection with Him. Your personal TAG time is important. You will be confident to speak about Jesus because you have seen what He has done in your own life. Share and talk about Jesus from your personal experience.

Be aware of current events in the news or in the world around you. Starting the Jesus talk can begin from an everyday conversation.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you, then go and talk about Jesus with those you meet. Below are some possible conversation starters! Some are more direct than others, and each of them works on the premise that you have a relationship with the person you are sharing with.

Indirect starters:

“Hey, I just got this World Changer Bible . . .” “It's amazing how God . . .” “On Saturday mornings, I go to church . . .”

“Thanks—but I have a regular date on Friday night with the King of the Universe . . .”

“Yes, of course your body is a temple . . .”

“Jesus is one of my best friends because . . .”

“I'm going to church/ay's/Pathfinders/a youth rally . . .”

Direct starters:

“Have you ever read a Bible?”

“Do you believe in God? Why or why not?”

“How do you see the world ending?”

“What does your church believe about Jesus coming back?”

“As an Adventist, I believe that . . .”

“What do you think happens after we die?”

Word Stack:

A Big Brass Nameplate: My name is _____, what's your name?

Around the nameplate is a **House With a Roof:** Where do you live?

On the roof is a **Family Waving:** Tell me about your family?

They are wearing a **Big Round Watch:** What do you do with your time?

Taking off from the watch is a **Plane Flying:** Where have you travelled? Or where would you like to travel?

The plane has **Propellers Made of Tennis Rackets:** “How do you use your spare time?”

Above the plane is a **Red Flashing Light:** “Tell me your story”—share your testimony. See page ix for more details.

Leading someone to Jesus—it's as easy as one, two, three!

There are a few simple steps to remember when you lead people to Jesus, but the most fundamental element in this journey is that you pray daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Step 1**To be able to lead others to Jesus, you need to be a follower of Jesus!**

Make sure you are spending TAG time with Jesus daily. This is where your wisdom and discernment will come from. If you want people to believe in the “product,” you need to be using the “product.” Psalm 34:8 states, “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!” To lead someone to Jesus is to have a person follow you on a spiritual journey. That person needs to see you as a spiritual being. **You must be credible.**

Step 2

Build relationships. It is important you care for and nurture your relationships. The ways in which you connect with people will help you discuss various issues. Be a friend first, get to know the person and share in their interests. Perhaps you may both enjoy a sport or hobby. Try to mix within a group setting and build a genuine relationship with the person. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.” When the time is right, you will be able to lead the conversation toward a spiritual focus. **You must be relational.**

Step 3

Bring Jesus into your everyday conversation. When talking with your friend, listen for an opening in the discussion that will help you introduce Jesus naturally into the flow of the conversation. For example, your friend might say, “It’s a beautiful day today!” You could respond with, “Isn’t it amazing how God made beauty in the world?” When you first speak in this way, you might feel uncomfortable and perhaps receive some strange looks, but persevere. Every chance you get, praise God and be positive. If you want your friends to notice that God is a part of your life, you need to include Him in your everyday conversations. **You must be intentional.**

Here are some things you need to know when you are reading the Bible together!

You are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Leading someone to Jesus is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a World Changer! Remember, your end goal is to introduce Jesus to the person you are sharing with. Further, every time you read together, your goal is to discover the next step to take, so you can know Jesus better. As you begin your time of sharing, focus on Jesus. Pray that your friends will enjoy reading the Bible so much that they will want to introduce Jesus to someone they know.

Before reading the Bible, you need to . . .

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading. 2. Follow the Discovery Bible Reading format (see page xiii) or read through the entire Bible Bookmark. (Make sure you are familiar with the content of the Bookmark study | <p>Guide or Discovery Bible Reading card.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Organise the place where you will meet. Make sure everyone who is coming knows the time you will begin, the place the group will be happening and that they are comfortable with the setting. |
|--|---|

During the Bible reading, you need to . . .

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start and finish on time. 2. Start with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading. 3. As you begin, ask questions that show you are interested in what's been happening in the lives of your friend. For example, "How has your week been?" or "What have you been up to today?" Listen to their response and try to reflect back to | <p>them what they have said during the sharing time.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Explain what you plan to do during Bible reading. 5. Check for understanding by asking questions and allowing them to ask questions. 6. Close with prayer. 7. Agree on when you will next meet. |
|--|--|

After the Bible reading, you need to...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for your friend and ask the Lord to help you as you prepare for your next group session. 2. Connect with your friend at some point through the week . . . just to see how they're going. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pray for divine appointments, so you can share Jesus with others. |
|---|--|

Share your story, and your friends will be more comfortable to share their story with you.

One of the easiest ways to be a World Changer for Jesus is to tell your personal story (called a testimony) to those you come into contact with. Describe your first memory/recollection when your faith became your own. Your story is important for three reasons:

1. People are interested in stories.
2. People can relate to stories.
3. It is difficult to argue with someone's story.

In Acts 26, we find Paul giving his testimony. Paul's story can be broken into three simple sections:

SECTION 1: Before Christ

(Acts 26:4–11)

SECTION 2: Conversion

(Acts 26:12–18)

SECTION 3: After Christ

(Acts 26: 19–23)

You, too, can design and share your testimony using this simple plan.

For section one, think of what your life was like before you met Christ. Remember, we are not talking about going to church, we are talking about having a relationship with Jesus. Use one word to describe how you felt at the time: lonely, afraid, searching, angry before you made a commitment to Jesus? Do not dwell on or glorifying on your past. The focus should always be on Jesus.

For section two, think of how you specifically came to know Jesus. Where were you? What happened? What was the process? How did it feel for you? It might have been a

gradual process over time and that's OK too.

For section three, think of how your life has changed as a result of knowing Jesus and making a decision to follow Him. Use one word to describe the change: easy, hard, healing, exciting. What difference has He made in you? What benefit has Jesus brought to you?

Here are some other tips to consider when constructing your story:

- Is there one text in the Bible that has helped give you a reason for why you believe/act as you do?
 - Is my story easy to understand and avoids religious clichés?
 - How long does my story take to tell? An ideal length is 2 to 4 minutes. Less time is probably not enough to make an impact, more is possibly too long. It might vary depending on the situation and that's OK too.
 - Does your story relate to where other people's concerns and interests are? Or is it too self-focused? The point of telling your story is that the person listening might identify with how God has worked in their life as well.
- Look to ask the question—"Does any of this relate to you?" or "Does it make sense?"—at the end of your story.
- It might help you to write out your story first to help structure it. Take the time to practice telling your story.
- Remember, your role is simply to share your story with others. It is the Spirit's role to convict those who are listening. Be bold and be strong for God is with you (see Joshua 1:9).

1. Adapted from Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel & Bill Hybels, *Becoming a Contagious Christian Leader's Guide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), Pages 122–49.

You're about to tell God's story? Here are some simple ways you can share the gospel story with someone.

Once your friend has heard your testimony, they might be willing to know and learn more about what you believe and why. If so, it is great to know an easy and effective way to present the gospel. You might want to try one of the following methods:

A. Gospel message in four points

1. GOD

I Is *Loving* (1 John 4:16b); *Holy* (1 Peter 1:15-16); and *Just* (2 Thessalonians 1:6).

2. US

I We were *created good* but became *sinful* (Romans 3:23).

II We *will die*, both physically and spiritually (Romans 6:23).

3. CHRIST

I Christ died as our *substitute* (1 Peter 2:24).

II Christ offers His *forgiveness as a gift* (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

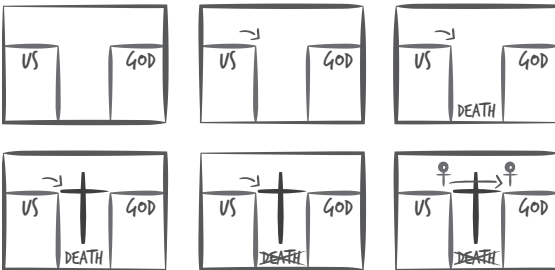
4. YOU

I You can *ask Christ to forgive* and *lead* in your life (1 John 1:9).

II You can *pray for transformation* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

One of the most effective ways to share the gospel is by using a visual illustration. Here is an illustration that could be used to share the gospel with your friend.

B. The Bridge Connection: A Pictorial Illustration³



2. Mittelberg, *Becoming a Contagious Christian*, Pages 122–49.

3. *Ibid.*, P 170-5.

Here are more ways to share the Gospel story with others.

C. Gospel in Colours

Black - Everyone messes up and falls short of God's glory (Romans 3:23).

Red - The blood of Jesus shed at the cross is evidence of the lengths God is willing to go to show His love (John 3:16).

White - If we are willing to apologise, God is willing to forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9).

Green - We can continue to grow in a relationship with Him (2 Peter 3:18).

Yellow - God has promised to take anyone who has a relationship with Him home to heaven (John 14:1-3).

D. The ABCs of the Gospel

A-dmit you are a sinner.

B-elieve completely that Jesus died for you, so that by asking for forgiveness, you can accept the gift of eternal life.

C-hoose to turn away from anything that keeps you from having a strong ongoing relationship with Jesus, and share His story with others.

E. The Gospel in Three Circles (see next page)

Circle 1: We're all born broken. We live in a broken world. (Brokenness)

Circles 2: But God originally designed us with a purpose (God's design) and we lived in God's purpose unbroken for a while.

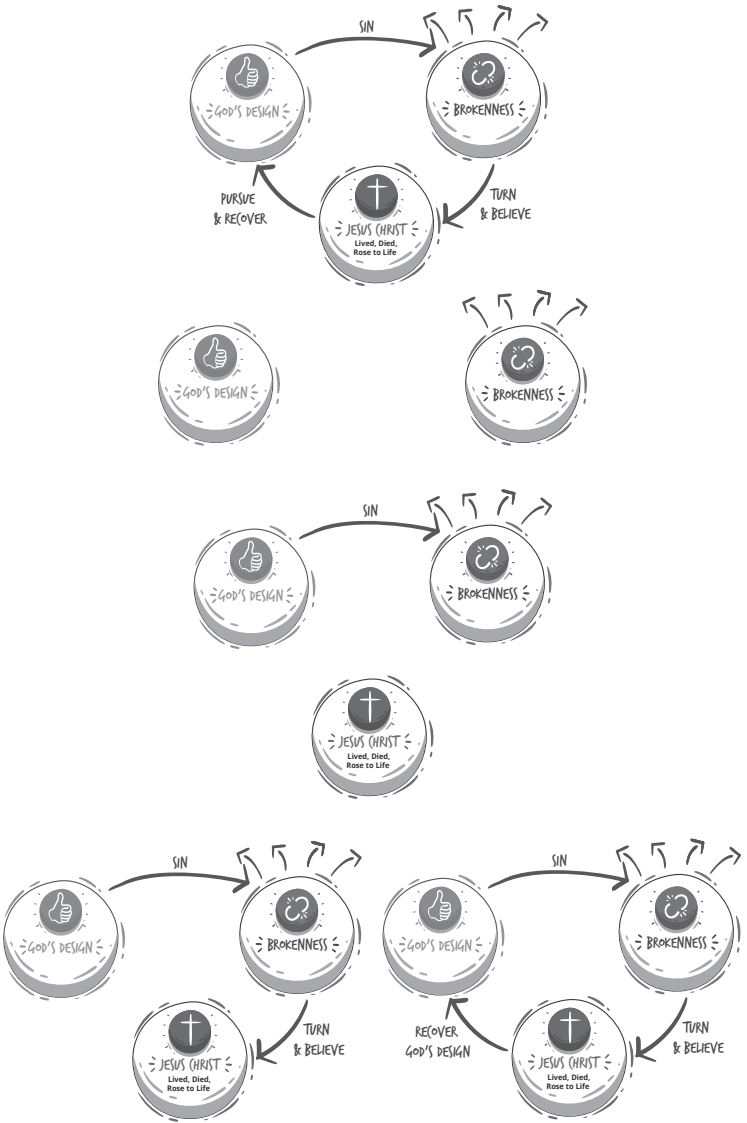
Arrow 1: But when humanity sinned (arrow from God's design to our brokenness), which led to our brokenness. We try to get out of our brokenness by being good, successful, going to church, addictions.

Circle 3: We cannot get out of our brokenness, so God sent Jesus Christ. He led a perfect life and He willingly died on a cross in our place. He rose again and conquered death, then returned to heaven.

Arrow 2: The Bible says, if we turn from our sin and believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again, we will live.

Arrow 3: As believers in Jesus, we will be able to recover God's design and pursue His purpose for our life. Our role is to share the gospel with others who also need salvation and restoration.

Appeal: You can close the conversation with a question like: "Which circle would you like to be in, brokenness or God's design?" If your friend is still in a state of brokenness, invite your friend to recover God's design for his or her life by turning and believing that Jesus died for their sin and brokenness. If they are willing or interested, begin Discovery Bible Readings with them and lead them into a better understanding of God and His will for their lives. You can also ask them to share their story with a friend, for example: 'who will you tell now that you have become a follower of Jesus?'



You came, you've read the Bible, now go and share Jesus with your friends!

Now that we've discussed with you several ways to share Jesus, choose a method that suits you and—in partnership with the Holy Spirit—have a go! Sometimes we can feel uncomfortable or unworthy to share the gospel with friends and family, because we might feel we don't know enough. Remember, it is not us who convict but the Holy Spirit. Everyone has a conscience that the Holy Spirit can use to help them understand and grow in spiritual truths. We just need to provide the opportunities.

John 14:26, 27 states, **“But when the Father sends the Counselor and as my representative— and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.v I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.”**

Ephesians 1:17 also reminds us that we should **“asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”**

Therefore, if we give people the opportunity to read the Bible for themselves and guide their thinking with questions, it gives the opportunity for the Spirit to do His work of teaching and growing.

One strategy might be to get friends to read about the life of Jesus story by story, then ask them questions about their thoughts on what they have read. Perhaps Mark as it is the shortest or Luke as it is written for unbelievers, is the best place to start.

This could be done one-on-one, with a small group of friends or family members. Read the story twice and have one person retell the story in their own words.

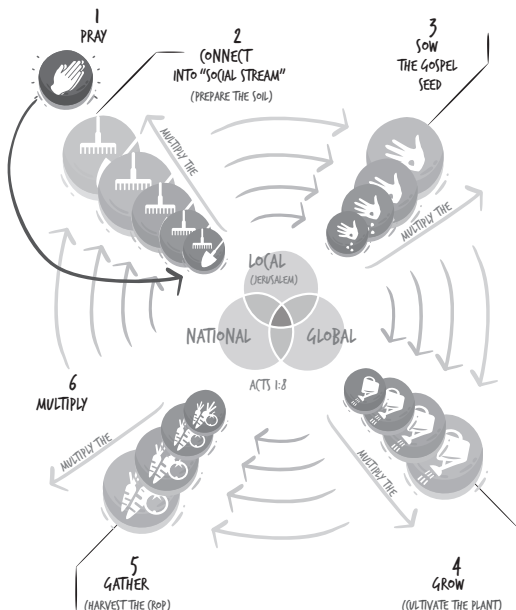
Once the story has been read and shared, follow on by asking the reflection questions below, that help to promote discussion and provide a personal application to the story.

1. What is new?
2. What surprises you?
3. What don't you understand?
4. What will you obey or apply?
5. What will you share with someone this week?

So now you're ready to become a World Changer. When you put into practice the skills you have learned in these pages, you will see the Lord's hand in your life in mighty ways. Remember to get into the Word, pray for the guidance of the Spirit and work with your accountability partner as you go. God is waiting for you to follow His lead in changing the world forever.

<p>MONTH 1 <i>Pick & Pray for 5 People (TAG)</i></p>	<p>MONTH 2 <i>Be in the Word</i></p>	<p>MONTH 3 <i>Accountability Partners (P2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A look at the book • Godhead
<p>MONTH 4 <i>Talking about Jesus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father • Son • Holy Spirit 	<p>MONTH 5 <i>Steps to Jesus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Nature of Man • The Great Controversy 	<p>MONTH 6 <i>Starting Out in the Word</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life, Death, Resurrection in Christ • The Experience of Salvation • Growing in Christ
<p>MONTH 7 <i>Your story?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church • The Remnant Church & its Mission • Unity in the body of Christ 	<p>MONTH 8 <i>Friend Bring a Friend</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism • Lord's Supper • Gifts of the Holy Spirit 	<p>MONTH 9 <i>Easy ways to share the Gospel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift of Prophecy • Law of God • Sabbath
<p>MONTH 10 <i>Just do it</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship • Christian behaviour • Marriage & Family 	<p>MONTH 11 <i>It all belongs to Him</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary • Second Coming 	<p>MONTH 12 <i>Reap and Sow</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death & Resurrection • Millennium & the End of Sin • New Earth

As you get your friends together to read and discuss the Bible in groups, God could use this as a basis of starting something more than just a new group. World Changers could start a new church. If this is the case, what should you do? What does the Bible say about what a new church is?



Jesus taught us how to enter new fields and make disciples (see Luke 10:1–24). In Jesus' *harvest model* (Mark 4:26–29), we can identify steps for planting new groups or churches that multiply: (1) Prepare, (2) Sow, (3) Cultivate, (4) Harvest/Gathering, and (5) Multiply.

The harvest model of church planting involves:

1. Prepare: Developing relationships with our friends and neighbours.
2. Sow: Sharing our faith in Jesus in relevant ways that allows our friends to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
3. Cultivate: Growing young disciples through Bible reading, training, mentoring and modeling a missional lifestyle.
4. Harvest: Gathering our friends together to form small groups and begin new churches.
5. Multiply: As our friends develop their faith and discipleship skills, they will in turn begin to mentor others who will repeat the process of discipling their friends. They will continue to multiply the harvest and form new groups of believers.

What is church planting?

Church is a gathering of disciples! New Testament churches were gatherings of new disciples, not buildings, institutions or denominations. Church buildings were not introduced until the fourth century after Jesus. So as we gather a group of disciples to learn together, we need to remember that the church is people. Eph 2:19-22; 4:2-16.

Why plant new churches?

Planting new churches puts us in tune with God's missionary heart, where His Spirit is active. We are compelled to engage with community, connect with new people, focus on disciple-making and equip new leaders. By being involved, taking full responsibility for making disciples among peers and raising up a new generation of churches, World Changers experience a fresh relationship with God, developing spiritual maturity and resilience.

Who is the planting team?

Jesus taught His disciples to work in teams. It is good to have at least four in a church-planting team. Here are some important pointers for the team:

1. Learn to pray together conversationally.
2. Read and re-read the book of Acts. This is your church-planting textbook.
3. Put into practice Jesus simple three-step process (Luke 10:8, 9) to make disciples engaging the harvest model p. XV:
 - Eat with people—and listen to their stories.
 - Heal people—offer practical help where needed and share your story.
 - Share God's good news—and introduce *Discovery Bible Reading*.
4. Identify your values or attitudes that will determine how you will relate.
5. Put into practice what the Holy Spirit is saying to the team.
6. Look for a “person-of-peace”—a person with relationships and connections who might be interested in the good news about Jesus—in your community.
7. Share with other believers, encourage them to make disciples and form more church-planting teams or groups.

What do you do to start a new church?

Planting a church is not only about organising Bible classes and a worship service. Each church exists to make disciples—to serve the community; provide fellowship; give teaching, prayer and worship opportunities; and plant new churches. Here are some steps to take in preparation:

1. Form a prayer support team—and share with them prayer needs and answers.
 2. Start a *Discovery Bible Reading* group straight away.
 3. From the start, equip all new disciples to share their story and invite people to Jesus.
 4. Invite an experienced church planter to be a coach or mentor.
 5. Start a community-service project that meets the needs of people.
 6. Write a project plan and discuss this with your church and leaders.
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How will you plan worship services?

Weekly worship times will include:

- Prayer and praise.
- Bible discussions, learning and application for all, including children.
- Worship and teaching, using *Discovery Bible Reading* preaching and training.
- Opportunities for all to participate.
- Celebration of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis.
- Baptisms by water and the Holy Spirit each time a person is ready.
- Weekly giving of tithes and offerings.
- Prayer and anointing for healing.
- Encouragement.
- Fellowship around shared meals, keeping the food simple.

How do you plant a new church?

The team will connect with people to make new disciples. To do this, you might have *Discovery Bible Reading* groups, home Bible studies and *Bible Making Classes*, and conduct seminars and evangelistic meetings. When some are ready for "harvest", it is time to gather them into a new church group. Some might join existing churches, but they will be more active in a new church plant. Here are some important things to think about:

1. **Who will lead the new church?** The church-planting team might provide leadership for the new church, but it is important for new disciples to be equipped and involved. There are *natural leaders*, such as the heads of households, especially if you meet in a home.
 2. **What about a leadership team?** Involve the new disciples in prayer and conversation to select those who will provide leadership. Provide simple job descriptions and outline the processes for decision-making. But, do not allow meetings to distract from God's mission!
 3. **Who will teach?** It does not strengthen the new church if there are too many visiting preachers who do not know the people. And do not rely on videos. Every new plant can have worship services using the *Discovery Bible Reading* approach in the place of a sermon.
 4. **Where will the new church meet?** New Testament churches met in the houses of new believers. Other good places are: community houses or halls; meeting rooms in public libraries; lecture theatres on the campuses of schools, colleges, or universities; or conference rooms in hotels; or outdoors in parks or gardens. Choose places that cost little or nothing. If there is a cost, ensure the new church can cover it without relying on allocations from others.
 5. **What is "zero-dollar" church planting?** With a team of dedicated disciples, it costs little or no money to start a *Discovery Bible Reading* group, conduct home Bible studies or readings, or to launch a branch Sabbath school. When it is time to gather as a new church, the key is to use a venue that costs little or nothing. Of course, if the church planter is an employed pastor, there are added expenses.
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6. What structures are important? It is important to have a simple structure for decision-making and review, to ensure the church plant is faithful to God's purpose and mission. Talk with your pastor and leaders to get guidance on simple structures and processes:

- Will this plant relate directly to a mission/conference or through a "parent" church?
- Pastor: Who will be the coach or mentor? Will this be the district pastor?
- Finances: How will tithes and offerings be collected, recorded and dispersed?
- What moral, legal and ethical responsibilities need to be met for working with children, providing safe places for vulnerable people and liability insurance for gatherings and activities?

What factors ensure the new plant is sustainable?

1. Leaders are equipped from within the new church group.
2. A clear purpose (see Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 2:42–45; Revelation 14:6–13).
3. Focus on making and equipping new disciples.
4. Each one: (1) shares their story, and (2) invites others to follow Jesus.
5. A clear understanding of guiding values or attitudes.
6. Central beliefs shared in the language of the community.
7. Structures are simple, functional and open to all.
8. Facilities do not create a debt burden.
9. Able to conduct worship without a visiting preacher.

When will this new church multiply and plant again?

Every healthy church reproduces and multiplies. For Jesus' disciples, involvement meant *participation* in mission, not running the structures and systems of the church. Like the church in Ephesus, your church could be a church-planting hub, equipping church planters and other teams (see Acts 19:1–20). Here are some key planning questions for your leadership team to consider in each meeting:

1. Who are we equipping to plant another church?
2. What community-service projects have they started?
3. How many Discovery Bible Reading groups are they cultivating?
4. Where will they plant?
5. How are we multiplying spiritual leaders and new prayer teams?

What environments cultivate multiplication movements?

New churches multiply in environments of encouragement where every spark of interest and kingdom initiative is fanned; people are equipped and released; simple, reproducible models of church are followed; the Holy Spirit's presence is celebrated and affirmed; disciples are made in relational streams; and where they are constantly on the lookout to disciple persons of peace (see Luke 10:1–24).

CANONICAL LISTING OF BIBLE BOOKS

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis.....	3	2 Chronicles.....	277	Daniel.....	547
Exodus.....	37	Ezra.....	301	Hosea.....	557
Leviticus.....	66	Nehemiah.....	308	Joel.....	564
Numbers.....	87	Esther.....	318	Amos.....	567
Deuteronomy.....	116	Job.....	323	Obadiah.....	572
Joshua.....	140	Psalms.....	344	Jonah.....	573
Judges.....	156	Proverbs.....	397	Micah.....	575
Ruth.....	172	Ecclesiastes.....	415	Nahum.....	579
1 Samuel.....	175	Song of Songs.....	420	Habakkuk.....	581
2 Samuel.....	195	Isaiah.....	424	Zephaniah.....	583
1 Kings.....	213	Jeremiah.....	468	Haggai.....	585
2 Kings.....	234	Lamentations.....	510	Zechariah.....	586
1 Chronicles.....	255	Ezekiel.....	514	Malachi.....	593

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew.....	597	Ephesians.....	731	Hebrews.....	749
Mark.....	620	Philippians.....	734	James.....	756
Luke.....	635	Colossians.....	736	1 Peter.....	759
John.....	660	1 Thessalonians..	739	2 Peter.....	762
Acts.....	678	2 Thessalonians..	741	1 John.....	764
Romans.....	700	1 Timothy.....	742	2 John.....	766
1 Corinthians.....	711	2 Timothy.....	745	3 John.....	767
2 Corinthians.....	721	Titus.....	747	Jude.....	767
Galatians.....	727	Philemon.....	748	Revelation.....	768

ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF BIBLE BOOKS

Acts.....	678	James	756	Nehemiah	308
Amos.....	567	Jeremiah.....	468	Numbers.....	87
1 Chronicles.....	255	Job.....	323	Obadiah.....	572
2 Chronicles.....	277	Joel	564	1 Peter	759
Colossians	736	John	660	2 Peter	762
1 Corinthians	711	1 John	764	Philemon	748
2 Corinthians	721	2 John	766	Philippians.....	734
Daniel.....	547	3 John	767	Proverbs	397
Deuteronomy.....	116	Jonah	573	Psalms	344
Ecclesiastes	415	Joshua.....	140	Revelation.....	768
Ephesians.....	731	Jude.....	767	Romans	700
Esther	318	Judges.....	156	Ruth	172
Exodus	37	1 Kings	213	1 Samuel.....	175
Ezekiel	514	2 Kings	234	2 Samuel.....	195
Ezra.....	301	Lamentations....	510	Song of Songs	420
Galatians	727	Leviticus.....	66	1 Thessalonians	739
Genesis.....	3	Luke	635	2 Thessalonians	741
Habakkuk.....	581	Malachi.....	593	1 Timothy.....	742
Haggai	585	Mark	620	2 Timothy.....	745
Hebrews	749	Matthew	597	Titus	747
Hosea	557	Micah	575	Zechariah.....	586
Isaiah	424	Nahum	579	Zephaniah.....	583



Introduction to the NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

Translation Philosophy and Methodology

English Bible translations tend to be governed by one of two general translation theories. The first theory has been called “formal-equivalence,” “literal,” or “word-for-word” translation. According to this theory, the translator attempts to render each word of the original language into English and seeks to preserve the original syntax and sentence structure as much as possible in translation. The second theory has been called “dynamic-equivalence,” “functional-equivalence,” or “thought-for-thought” translation. The goal of this translation theory is to produce in English the closest natural equivalent of the message expressed by the original-language text, both in meaning and in style.

Both of these translation theories have their strengths. A formal-equivalence translation preserves aspects of the original text—including ancient idioms, term consistency, and original-language syntax—that are valuable for scholars and professional study. It allows a reader to trace formal elements of the original-language text through the English translation. A dynamic-equivalence translation, on the other hand, focuses on translating the message of the original-language text. It ensures that the meaning of the text is readily apparent to the contemporary reader. This allows the message to come through with immediacy, without requiring the reader to struggle with foreign idioms and awkward syntax.

The translators of the New Living Translation set out to render the message of the original texts of Scripture into clear, contemporary English. As they did so, they kept the concerns of both formal-equivalence and dynamic-equivalence in mind. On the one hand, they translated as simply and literally as possible when that approach yielded an accurate, clear, and natural English text. Many words and phrases were rendered literally and consistently into English, preserving essential literary and rhetorical devices, ancient metaphors, and word choices that give structure to the text and provide echoes of meaning from one passage to the next.

On the other hand, the translators rendered the message more dynamically when the literal rendering was hard to understand,

or yielded archaic or foreign wording. They clarified difficult metaphors and terms to aid in the reader’s understanding. The translators first struggled with the meaning of the words and phrases in the ancient context; then they rendered the message into clear, natural English. Their goal was to be both faithful to the ancient texts and eminently readable.

Translation Process and Team

To produce an accurate translation of the Bible into contemporary English, the translation team needed the skills necessary to enter into the thought patterns of the ancient authors and then to render their ideas, connotations, and effects into clear, contemporary English. To begin this process, qualified biblical scholars were needed to interpret the meaning of the original text and to check it against our base English translation. In order to guard against personal and theological biases, the scholars needed to represent a diverse group of evangelicals who would employ the best exegetical tools. Then to work alongside the scholars, skilled English stylists were needed to shape the text into clear, contemporary English.

With these concerns in mind, the Bible Translation Committee recruited teams of scholars that represented a broad spectrum of denominations, theological perspectives, and backgrounds within the worldwide evangelical community. Each book of the Bible was assigned to three different scholars with proven expertise in the book or group of books to be reviewed. Each of these scholars made a thorough review of a base translation and submitted suggested revisions to the appropriate Senior Translator. The Senior Translator then reviewed and summarized these suggestions and proposed a first-draft revision of the base text. This draft served as the basis for several additional phases of exegetical and stylistic committee review. Then the Bible Translation Committee jointly reviewed and approved every verse of the final translation.

The New Living Translation was first published in 1996. Shortly after its initial publication, the Bible Translation Committee began a process of further committee review