These studies are designed to be discussed in small group settings. This curriculum is designed to work on group discovery and more importantly what the Lord reveals to each individual and to each group. This curriculum is not designed for settings that rely on formal teaching sessions etc.

The basic format is to begin with the "Community Caring and Communicating" questions:

- 1. What good things have happened in your life since we last met?
- 2. Do you have any struggles or concerns in your life right now?
- 3. How did you do with what you said you were going to change since last we met?
- 4. Did you pray every day as you had planned last time we met?

These are the first four discussions at each session (the questions are slightly different in the first session because there is no previous meeting to have planned for these questions adequately).

Question 1 is asked and then each member of the group shares his or her answer. After you have completed a round of the group discussing question 1 then you read question 2 and let each person share their answers and then question 3, then question 4.

After these discussions someone in the group reads the passage for that study aloud (you may want to have more than one person read it aloud especially if participants have different versions of the Bible). Next have the participants read the passage silently to themselves.

When the reading is completed, the group moves on to discussion of the four study questions:

- 1. What do you learn about God?
- 2. What do you learn about People/Believers?
- 3. What do you learn about The New Testament Church?
- 4. What do you learn about Church Leadership?

This is an open discussion of the passage that is facilitated by whoever the leader is and IS NOT TAUGHT LIKE A CLASS. The facilitator's goal is to get everybody else to share not to teach everyone else. It is important that if somebody share something that is not related to the passage your are studying that the questions: "Where does that appear in this passage?" be asked by the other members, but not as punishment. The question has to be asked with the mindset of truly seeing where the person is getting that from.

When that is done you move on to the "Commitment to Change" questions:

- 1. What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?
- 2. What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?
- 3. What are you going to pray about every day until the next time we meet because of this study?

The handouts for each lesson are designed to demonstrate what the participants can use to prepare for the sessions. The best way to use these is to give each member the next lesson's handout to fill out the four columns with the "What do you learn..." questions or simply give the participants the scripture for the next meeting and have participants fill out the answers on regular lined paper. YES THERE IS HOMEWORK TO PREPARE.

Attendees must agree to all of these things before the study begins. Once the group is 2 – 3 lessons in new people should probably not be added to the studies as they would be at a different place in their growth and would have missed too much. It is better to start a group probably facilitated by someone who has previously done the study or who is currently doing the study in this group.



Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁹We are God's coworkers. You are God's field. You are God's building. ¹⁰ As a skilled and experienced builder, I used the gift that God gave me to lay the foundation for that building. However, someone else is building on it. Each person must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ After all, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that is already laid, and that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹² People may build on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ The day will make what each one does clearly visible because fire will reveal it. That fire will determine what kind of work each person has done. ¹⁴ If what a person has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If his work is burned up, he will suffer the loss. However, he will be saved, though it will be like going through a fire. ¹⁶ Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him because God's temple is holy. You are that holy temple!

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 2:42-47 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁴² The disciples were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³ A feeling of fear came over everyone as many amazing things and miraculous signs happened through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers kept meeting together, and they shared everything with each other. ⁴⁵ From time to time, they sold their property and other possessions and distributed the money to anyone who needed it. ⁴⁶ The believers had a single purpose and went to the temple every day. They were joyful and humble as they ate at each other's homes and shared their food. ⁴⁷ At the same time, they praised God and had the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord saved people, and they were added to the group.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Romans 16:3-5 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in the service of Christ Jesus. ⁴ They risked their lives to save me. I'm thankful to them and so are all the churches among the nations. ⁵ Also greet the church that meets in their house. Greet my dear friend Epaenetus. He was the first person in the province of Asia to become a believer in Christ.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Hebrews 10:24-25 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁴We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. ²⁵We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Matthew 18:19-20 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁹ "I can guarantee again that if two of you agree on anything here on earth, my Father in heaven will accept it. ²⁰ Where two or three have come together in my name, I am there among them."

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership
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What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Galatians 6:9-10 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW) -

⁹We can't allow ourselves to get tired of living the right way. Certainly, each of us will receive everlasting life at the proper time, if we don't give up. ¹⁰Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 4:32-35 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

³² The whole group of believers lived in harmony. No one called any of his possessions his own. Instead, they shared everything. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify that the Lord Jesus had come back to life. God's abundant good will^[a] was with all of them. ³⁴ None of them needed anything. From time to time, people sold land or houses and brought the money ³⁵ to the apostles. Then the money was distributed to anyone who needed it.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

Brothers and sisters, we want you to know how God showed his kindness to the churches in the province of Macedonia. ²While they were being severely tested by suffering, their overflowing joy, along with their extreme poverty, has made them even more generous. ³I assure you that by their own free will they have given all they could, even more than they could afford. ⁴They made an appeal to us, begging us to let them participate in the ministry of God's kindness to his holy people in Jerusalem. ⁵They did more than we had expected. First, they gave themselves to the Lord and to us, since this was God's will.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Ephesians 1:16-23 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁶I never stop thanking God for you. I always remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the glorious Father, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Christ better. ¹⁸Then you will have deeper insight. You will know the confidence that he calls you to have and the glorious wealth that God's people will inherit. ¹⁹You will also know the unlimited greatness of his power as it works with might and strength for us, the believers. ²⁰He worked with that same power in Christ when he brought him back to life and gave him the highest position in heaven. ²¹He is far above all rulers, authorities, powers, lords, and all other names that can be named, not only in this present world but also in the world to come. ²²God has put everything under the control of Christ. He has made Christ the head of everything for the good of the church. ²³The church is Christ's body and completes him as he fills everything in every way.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW) -

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?

¹² For example, the body is one unit and yet has many parts. As all the parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether we are Jewish or Greek, slave or free, God gave all of us one Spirit to drink.



Verse: Romans 12:3-8 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

³Because of the kindness^[a] that God has shown me, I ask you not to think of yourselves more highly than you should. Instead, your thoughts should lead you to use good judgment based on what God has given each of you as believers. ⁴Our bodies have many parts, but these parts don't all do the same thing. ⁵In the same way, even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other. ⁶ God in his kindness gave each of us different gifts. If your gift is speaking God's word, make sure what you say agrees with the Christian faith. ⁷If your gift is serving, then devote yourself to serving. If it is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸If it is encouraging others, devote yourself to giving encouragement. If it is sharing, be generous. If it is leadership, lead enthusiastically. If it is helping people in need, help them cheerfully.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁵ God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness. ²⁷ You are Christ's body and each of you is an individual part of it.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Ephesians 2:19-22 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁹ That is why you are no longer foreigners and outsiders but citizens together with God's people and members of God's family. ²⁰ You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. ²¹ In him all the parts of the building fit together and grow into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² Through him you, also, are being built in the Spirit together with others into a place where God lives.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership
	People/Believers	People/Believers The New Testament Church

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Ephesians 5:22-32 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

Wives, place yourselves under your husbands' authority as you have placed yourselves under the Lord's authority. ²³ The husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. It is his body, and he is its Savior. ²⁴ As the church is under Christ's authority, so wives are under their husbands' authority in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. ²⁶ He did this to make the church holy by cleansing it, washing it using water along with spoken words. ²⁷ Then he could present it to himself as a glorious church, without any kind of stain or wrinkle—holy and without faults. ²⁸ So husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ No one ever hated his own body. Instead, he feeds and takes care of it, as Christ takes care of the church. ³⁰ We are parts of his body. ³¹ That's why a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will be one. ³² This is a great mystery. (I'm talking about Christ's relationship to the church.)

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Matthew 28:17-20 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁷ When they saw him, they bowed down in worship, though some had doubts. ¹⁸ When Jesus came near, he spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. "And remember that I am always with you until the end of time."

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



What good things have happened in your life since we last met? Do you have any struggles or concerns in your life right now? How did you do with what you said you were going to change since last we met? Did you pray every day as you had planned last time we met?

Verse: Matthew 22:34-40 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in Moses' Teachings, tested Jesus by asking, ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in Moses' Teachings?" ³⁷ Jesus answered him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and most important commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' 40 All of Moses' Teachings and the Prophets depend on these two commandments."

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Galatians 3:26-28 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁶ You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ Clearly, all of you who were baptized in Christ's name have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There are neither Jews nor Greeks, slaves nor free people, males nor females. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership
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What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: John 17:20-23 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁰ "I'm not praying only for them. I'm also praying for those who will believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that all of these people continue to have unity in the way that you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they may be united with us so that the world will believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me. I did this so that they are united in the same way we are. ²³ I am in them, and you are in me. So they are completely united. In this way the world knows that you have sent me and that you have loved them in the same way you have loved me.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Ephesians 4:1-6 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

I, a prisoner in the Lord, encourage you to live the kind of life which proves that God has called you. ²Be humble and gentle in every way. Be patient with each other and lovingly accept each other. ³Through the peace that ties you together, do your best to maintain the unity that the Spirit gives. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit. In the same way you were called to share one hope. ⁵There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over everything, through everything, and in everything.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:11-17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, some people from Chloe's family have made it clear to me that you are quarreling among yourselves. ¹² This is what I mean: Each of you is saying, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in Paul's name? ¹⁴ I thank God that I didn't baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius ¹⁵ so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I also baptized Stephanas and his family. Beyond that, I'm not sure whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ Christ didn't send me to baptize. Instead, he sent me to spread the Good News. I didn't use intellectual arguments. That would have made the cross of Christ lose its meaning.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Matthew 18:15-18 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁵ "If a believer does something wrong, go, confront him when the two of you are alone. If he listens to you, you have won back that believer. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation may be verified by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he ignores these witnesses, tell it to the community of believers. If he also ignores the community, deal with him as you would a heathen or a tax collector. ¹⁸ I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you imprison, God will imprison. And whatever you set free, God will set free.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

Your own members are aware that there is sexual sin going on among them. This kind of sin is not even heard of among unbelievers—a man is actually married to his father's wife. ² You're being arrogant when you should have been more upset about this. If you had been upset, the man who did this would have been removed from among you.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership
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What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 5:10-11 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁰ I didn't tell you that you could not have any contact with unbelievers who commit sexual sins, are greedy, are dishonest, or worship false gods. If that were the case, you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ Now, what I meant was that you should not associate with people who call themselves brothers or sisters in the Christian faith but live in sexual sin, are greedy, worship false gods, use abusive language, get drunk, or are dishonest. Don't eat with such people.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁵ If someone caused distress, I'm not the one really affected. To some extent—although I don't want to emphasize this too much—it has affected all of you. ⁶ The majority of you have imposed a severe enough punishment on that person. ⁷ So now forgive and comfort him. Such distress could overwhelm someone like that if he's not forgiven and comforted. ⁸ That is why I urge you to assure him that you love him. ⁹ I had also written to you to test you. I wanted to see if you would be obedient in every way. ¹⁰ If you forgive someone, so do I. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did in the presence of Christ for your benefit. ¹¹ I don't want Satan to outwit us. After all, we are not ignorant about Satan's scheming.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 13:1-3 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

Barnabas, Simeon (called the Black), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (a close friend of Herod since childhood), and Saul were prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me. I want them to do the work for which I called them." ³After fasting and praying, Simeon, Lucius, and Manaen placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul, and released them from their work in Antioch.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 14:21-23 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²¹ They spread the Good News in that city and won many disciples. Then they went back to the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (which is in Pisidia). ²² They strengthened the disciples in these cities and encouraged the disciples to remain faithful. Paul and Barnabas told them, "We must suffer a lot to enter the kingdom of God." ²³ They had the disciples in each church choose spiritual leaders, and with prayer and fasting they entrusted the leaders to the Lord in whom they believed.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 20:26-30 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am not responsible for the spiritual death of any of you. ²⁷ I didn't avoid telling you the whole plan of God. ²⁸ Pay attention to yourselves and to the entire flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as bishops to be shepherds for God's church which he acquired with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that fierce wolves will come to you after I leave, and they won't spare the flock. ³⁰ Some of your own men will come forward and say things that distort the truth. They will do this to lure disciples into following them.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Titus 1:5-9 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁵ I left you in Crete to do what still needed to be done—appointing spiritual leaders in every city as I directed you. ⁶ A spiritual leader must have a good reputation. He must have only one wife and have children who are believers. His children shouldn't be known for having wild lifestyles or being rebellious. ⁷ Because a bishop is a supervisor appointed by God, he must have a good reputation. He must not be a stubborn or irritable person. He must not drink too much or be a violent person. He must not use shameful ways to make money. ⁸ Instead, he must be hospitable, love what is good, use good judgment, be fair and moral, and have self-control. ⁹ He must be devoted to the trustworthy message we teach. Then he can use these accurate teachings to encourage people and correct those who oppose the word.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Timothy 3:1-11 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

This is a statement that can be trusted: If anyone sets his heart on being a bishop, ^[a] he desires something excellent. ² A bishop must have a good reputation. He must have only one wife, be sober, use good judgment, be respectable, be hospitable, and be able to teach. ³ He must not drink excessively or be a violent person, but he must be gentle. He must not be quarrelsome or love money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well. His children should respectfully obey him. ⁵ (If a man doesn't know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a new Christian, or he might become arrogant like the devil and be condemned. ⁷ People who are not Christians must speak well of him, or he might become the victim of disgraceful insults that the devil sets as traps for him. ⁸ Deacons must also be of good character. They must not be two-faced or addicted to alcohol. They must not use shameful ways to make money. ⁹ They must have clear consciences about possessing the mystery of the Christian faith. ¹⁰ First, a person must be evaluated. Then, if he has a good reputation, he may become a deacon. ¹¹ Their wives must also be of good character. They must not be gossips, but they must control their tempers and be trustworthy in every way.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: Acts 6:1-6 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

At that time, as the number of disciples grew, Greek-speaking Jews complained about the Hebrew-speaking Jews. The Greek-speaking Jews claimed that the widows among them were neglected every day when food and other assistance was distributed. ² The twelve apostles called all the disciples together and told them, "It's not right for us to give up God's word in order to distribute food. ³ So, brothers and sisters, choose seven men whom the people know are spiritually wise. We will put them in charge of this problem. ⁴ However, we will devote ourselves to praying and to serving in ways that are related to the word." ⁵ The suggestion pleased the whole group. So they chose Stephen, who was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and they chose Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, who had converted to Judaism in the city of Antioch. ⁶ The disciples had these men stand in front of the apostles, who prayed and placed their hands on these seven men.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Timothy 4:11-16 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹¹ Insist on these things and teach them. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you for being young. Instead, make your speech, behavior, love, faith, and purity an example for other believers. ¹³ Until I get there, concentrate on reading Scripture in worship, giving encouraging messages, and teaching people. ¹⁴ Don't neglect the gift which you received through prophecy when the spiritual leaders ^[a] placed their hands on you to ordain you. ¹⁵ Practice these things. Devote your life to them so that everyone can see your progress. ¹⁶ Focus on your life and your teaching. Continue to do what I've told you. If you do this, you will save yourself and those who hear you.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT:

God	People/Believers	The New Testament Church	Church Leadership	

What will you do differently or change because of what we discussed in this study?

What specific thing will you do differently from now until the next time we meet because of what we discussed in this study?



Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:17-23 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁷ I have no praise for you as I instruct you in the following matter: When you gather, it results in more harm than good. ¹⁸ In the first place, I hear that when you gather as a church you split up into opposing groups. I believe some of what I hear. ¹⁹ Factions have to exist in order to make it clear who the genuine believers among you are. ²⁰ When you gather in the same place, you can't possibly be eating the Lord's Supper. ²¹ Each of you eats his own supper without waiting for each other. So one person goes hungry and another gets drunk. ²² Don't you have homes in which to eat and drink? Do you despise God's church and embarrass people who don't have anything to eat? What can I say to you? Should I praise you? I won't praise you for this. ²³ After all, I passed on to you what I had received from the Lord. On the night he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread

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Verse: Colossians 3:12-17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹² As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. ¹³ Put up with each other, and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly. ¹⁵ Also, let Christ's peace control you. God has called you into this peace by bringing you into one body. Be thankful. ¹⁶ Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you. Use psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to teach and instruct yourselves about God's kindness. ^[a] Sing to God in your hearts. ¹⁷ Everything you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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Verse: Romans 6:1-11 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

What should we say then? Should we continue to sin so that God's kindness will increase? ² That's unthinkable! As far as sin is concerned, we have died. So how can we still live under sin's influence? ³ Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ When we were baptized into his death, we were placed into the tomb with him. As Christ was brought back from death to life by the glorious power of the Father, so we, too, should live a new kind of life. ⁵ If we've become united with him in a death like his, certainly we will also be united with him when we come back to life as he did. ⁶ We know that the person we used to be was crucified with him to put an end to sin in our bodies. Because of this we are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ The person who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, who was brought back to life, will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once and for all to sin's power. But now he lives, and he lives for God. ¹¹ So consider yourselves dead to sin's power but living for God in the power Christ Jesus gives you.

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Verse: Acts 8:36-40 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water. The official said to Philip, "Look, there's some water. What can keep me from being baptized?" ^[a] ³⁸ The official ordered the carriage to stop. He and Philip stepped into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they had stepped out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official joyfully continued on his way and didn't see Philip again. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in the city of Azotus. He traveled through all the cities and spread the Good News until he came to the city of Caesarea.

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Verse: Luke 24:45-49 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. ⁴⁷ Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people must be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This must be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses to these things. ⁴⁹ "I'm sending you what my Father promised. Wait here in the city until you receive power from heaven."

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Verse: John 20:21-23 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² After he had said this, he breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you forgive sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you don't forgive them, they are not forgiven."

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Verse: <u>Luke 10:1-12 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)</u>

After this, the Lord appointed 70 other disciples to go ahead of him to every city and place that he intended to go. They were to travel in pairs. ² He told them, "The harvest is large, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord who gives this harvest to send workers to harvest his crops. ³ Go! I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Don't carry a wallet, a traveling bag, or sandals, and don't stop to greet anyone on the way. ⁵ Whenever you go into a house, greet the family right away with the words, 'May there be peace in this house.' ⁶ If a peaceful person lives there, your greeting will be accepted. But if that's not the case, your greeting will be rejected. ⁷ Stay with the family that accepts you. Eat and drink whatever they offer you. After all, the worker deserves his pay. Do not move around from one house to another. ⁸ Whenever you go into a city and the people welcome you, eat whatever they serve you. ⁹ Heal the sick that are there, and tell the people, 'The kingdom of God is near you!' ¹⁰ "But whenever you go into a city and people don't welcome you, leave. Announce in its streets, ¹¹ 'We are wiping your city's dust from our feet in protest against you! But realize that the kingdom of God is near you!' ¹² I can guarantee that judgment day will be easier for Sodom than for that city.

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Verse: Revelation 2:1-7 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

"To the messenger of the church in Ephesus, write: The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lamp stands, says: ²I know what you have done—how hard you have worked and how you have endured. I also know that you cannot tolerate wicked people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not apostles. You have discovered that they are liars. ³You have endured, suffered trouble because of my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴However, I have this against you: The love you had at first is gone. ⁵Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first. I will come to you and take your lamp stand from its place if you don't change. ⁶But you have this in your favor—you hate what the Nicolaitans are doing. I also hate what they're doing. ⁷"Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the privilege of eating from the tree of life, which stands in the paradise of God, to everyone who wins the victory.

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Verse: Revelation 2:8-11 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁸ "To the messenger of the church in Smyrna, write: The first and the last, who was dead and became alive, says: ⁹I know how you are suffering, how poor you are—but you are rich. I also know that those who claim to be Jews slander you. They are the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Don't be afraid of what you are going to suffer. The devil is going to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested. Your suffering will go on for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. Everyone who wins the victory will never be hurt by the second death.

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Verse: Revelation 2:12-17 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW) - ¹² "To the messenger of the church in Pergamum, write: The one who holds the sharp two-edged sword says: ¹³ I know where you live. Satan's throne is there. You hold on to my name and have not denied your belief in me, even in the days of Antipas. He was my faithful witness who was killed in your presence, where Satan lives. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: You have among you those who follow what Balaam taught Balak. Balak trapped the people of Israel by encouraging them to eat food sacrificed to idols and to sin sexually. ¹⁵ You also have some who follow what the Nicolaitans teach. ¹⁶ So return to me and change the way you think and act, or I will come to you quickly and wage war against them with the sword from my mouth. ¹⁷ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give some of the hidden manna to everyone who wins the victory. I will also give each person a white stone with a new name written on it, a name that is known only to the person who receives it.

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Verse: Revelation 2:18-29 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁸ "To the messenger of the church in Thyatira, write: The Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire and whose feet are like glowing bronze, says: 19 I know what you do. I know your love, faith, service, and endurance. I also know that what you are doing now is greater than what you did at first. ²⁰ But I have something against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. She teaches and misleads my servants to sin sexually and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to turn to me and change the way she thinks and acts, but she refuses to turn away from her sexual sins. ²²Watch me! I'm going to throw her into a sickbed. Those who commit sexual sins with her will also suffer a lot, unless they turn away from what she is doing. ²³I will kill her children. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches hearts and minds. I will reward each of you for what you have done. ²⁴ But the rest of you in Thyatira—all who don't hold on to Jezebel's teaching, who haven't learned what are called the deep things of Satan—I won't burden you with anything else. ²⁵ Just hold on to what you have until I come. ²⁶ I have received authority from my Father. [a] I will give authority over the nations to everyone who wins the victory and continues to do what I want until the end. ²⁷ Those people will rule the nations with iron scepters and shatter them like pottery. ²⁸ I will also give them the morning star. ²⁹ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

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Verse: Revelation 3:1-6 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

"To the messenger of the church in Sardis, write: The one who has God's seven spirits and the seven stars says: I know what you have done. You are known for being alive, but you are dead. ² Be alert, and strengthen the things that are left which are about to die. I have found that what you are doing has not been completed in the sight of my God. ³ So remember what you received and heard. Obey, and change the way you think and act. If you're not alert, I'll come like a thief. You don't know when I will come. ⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have kept their clothes clean. They will walk with me in white clothes because they deserve it. ⁵ Everyone who wins the victory this way will wear white clothes. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life. I will acknowledge them in the presence of my Father and his angels. ⁶ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

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Verse: Revelation 3:7-13 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

⁷ "To the messenger of the church in Philadelphia, write: The one who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens a door that no one can shut, and who shuts a door that no one can open, says: ⁸ I know what you have done. See, I have opened a door in front of you that no one can shut. You only have a little strength, but you have paid attention to my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are in Satan's synagogue come and bow at your feet and realize that I have loved you. They claim that they are Jewish, but they are lying. ¹⁰ Because you have obeyed my command to endure, I will keep you safe during the time of testing which is coming to the whole world to test those living on earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon! Hold on to what you have so that no one takes your crown. ¹² I will make everyone who wins the victory a pillar in the temple of my God. They will never leave it again. I will write on them the name of my God, the name of the city of my God (the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from my God), and my new name. ¹³ Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

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Verse: Revelation 3:14-22 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

¹⁴ "To the messenger of the church in Laodicea, write: The amen, the witness who is faithful and true, the source of God's creation, says: ¹⁵ I know what you have done, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ But since you are lukewarm and not hot or cold, I'm going to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I'm rich. I'm wealthy. I don't need anything.' Yet, you do not realize that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I advise you: Buy gold purified in fire from me so that you may be rich. Buy white clothes from me. Wear them so that you may keep your shameful, naked body from showing. Buy ointment to put on your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. Take this seriously, and change the way you think and act. ²⁰ Look, I'm standing at the door and knocking. If anyone listens to my voice and opens the door, I'll come in and we'll eat together. ²¹ I will allow everyone who wins the victory to sit with me on my throne, as I have won the victory and have sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Let the person who has ears listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

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Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:2-3 GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

² To God's church that was made holy by Christ Jesus and called to be God's holy people in the city of Corinth and to people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours!

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