

Lesson 8: Next Steps

Part 1

What are some of the key things you need to do in the next three months to be successful in building the Kingdom of God?

MODULE 2

Story of Mr Lim

Mr Lim, a farmer, went out to prepare his piece of land for planting. While on his way, he remembered his wife had asked him to feed the chickens. So he went home, got the chicken food, and went to feed the chickens. While he was feeding the chickens, he looked at the goat pen and noticed that it was broken. He felt worried that if it wasn't repaired immediately then the goat may escape. He returned home to look for wire to fix the goat pen. As he didn't have the right tools; he went to his neighbour's, Mr. Son, and asked to borrow tools from him. Since he was already visiting, he decided to take a few extra minutes to talk to Mr. Son, who was a new Christian in the church and whom he heard was having a difficult time.

At 11:30 Mr. Son's wife asked if he would like to join them for lunch. Realising the time, Mr. Lim apologised and returned home quickly for lunch with his family. After a short nap he went to finish repairing the goat pen. While completing that job, his wife reminded him that the pump on the well wasn't working and said that while he had Mr. Son's tools he should fix it as well. As the day finished, he had almost finished fixing the pump. Yet again, he hadn't made it to the field for planting. But he felt somewhat satisfied in knowing tomorrow morning he would just need to finish fixing the pump and return the tools. Then he could get started on planting.

- What happened in this story?
- Were the things he did bad things or necessary things?
- What will be the end result if the farmer continues to manage his farm like this and never gets the planting done?
- Do you ever have days like this?
- How can we ensure that this doesn't happen to us?

Part 2

Act of Love Planning Steps

Step 1: Pray

The first thing to do is to pray. Take time now to pray. Ask God to show you what you should do for your Act of Love. Make sure you take a few minutes of silence to listen to God.

Step 2: Select an activity

As a group, decide what you could do as an Act of Love. Did God give any inspiration? If anyone has any ideas of what would make a good Act of Love, ask them to share. Also look at some of the ideas that you listed in lesson 5: God wants the church to help and Lesson 6: What are some needs we can help with. Together, agree on what you feel God is leading you to do.

Once you have selected a topic, make sure it is something that you can do in just one day. Some groups choose something too big. Keep thinking until you have something you can do in one day, using local resources, and involving as many people as possible.

Facilitator Instructions: *If you are making plans in small groups, have each group share their idea and get feedback from the others.*

- Does it show love?
- Is it small and simple?
- Can it be done using resources you have available?
- Does it involve as many people as possible?

Step 3: Prepare a plan

Discuss the following questions. If possible, have someone record the answers so that you don't forget.

- What are you going to do?
- What resources do you need? Where will you get those things? Who will get them?
- Who are you going to help?
- Who is going to participate in helping? Who will invite everyone?
- What date are you going to do it?

Facilitator Instructions: *If the class is working in small groups, have each of the groups present their plan. Ask the group for any suggestions that they may have to strengthen the plans.*

Step 4: Pray

Once you have finished writing the plan, take time to pray again. Ask God to help you complete the project and to multiply the results. Pray that His name may be glorified. During

the next week or two, while you are preparing for your project, you should be praying that God will help you with the project.

Facilitator Instructions: *Explain to the group that there are two more steps that we are not going to do today. Then read the description of the two remaining steps.*

Step 5: Do the project

The next step is to do the project that you planned. Start the day with prayer and dedicate your efforts to God. Remember that you are doing this project to demonstrate God's love to your community. Try to maintain an attitude that matches this goal.

Step 6: Evaluate and report

The final step is to report and evaluate. Why do we need to evaluate? Because it helps us to learn. We can think about what we did well and what we can do to improve next time. It doesn't need to be a long process; you can just take a few minutes to discuss these questions:

- What went well?
- What didn't go well?
- What improvements could you make to the plan?
- Was the response as you intended? If not, why not?
- Was God glorified?