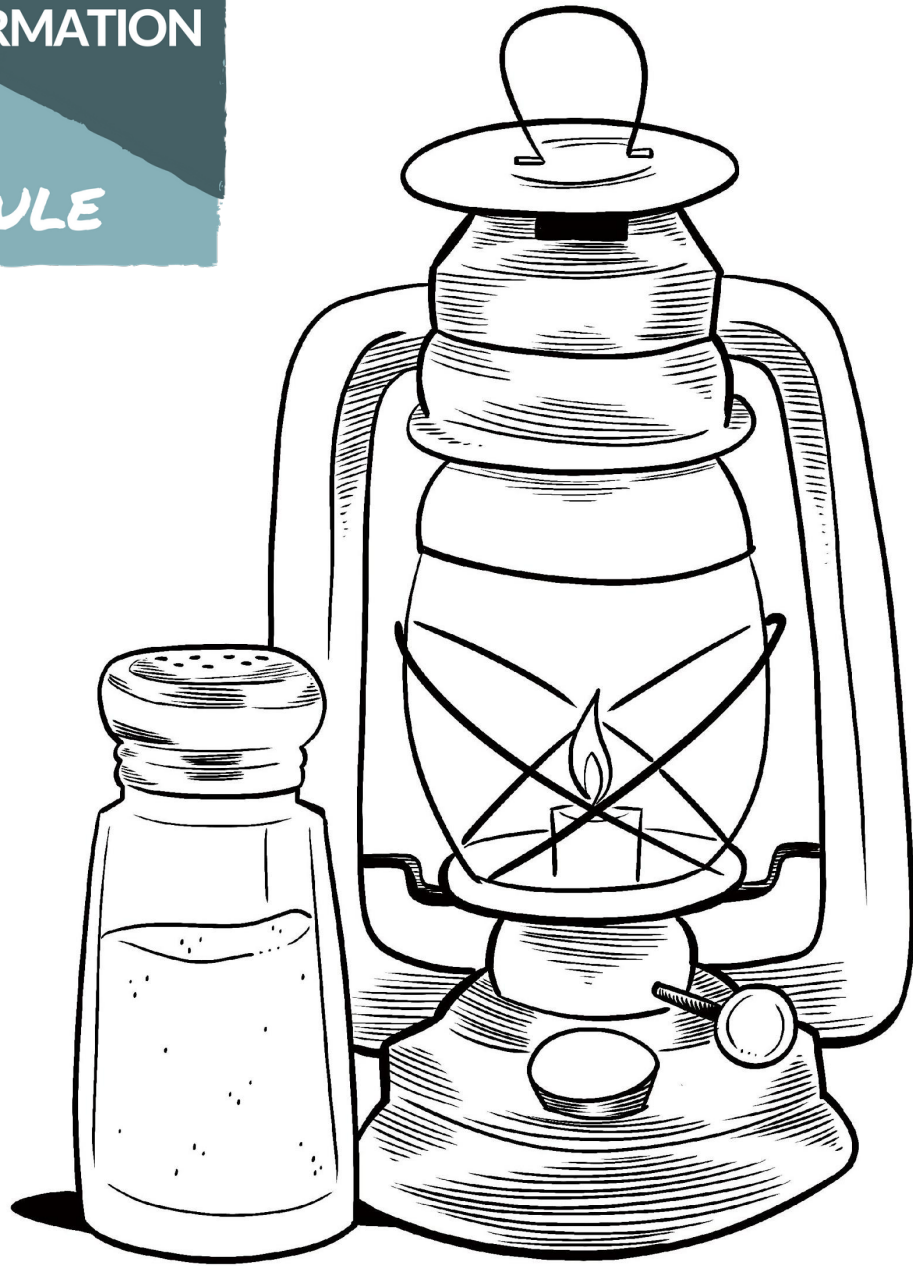


**TRUTH
CENTERED
TRANSFORMATION**

MODULE



SALT AND LIGHT STUDENT GUIDE

Lesson 1: Three Short Stories


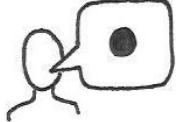



Community 1 In our village, whenever someone got sick the witch doctor would come and require them to sacrifice an animal in order to receive advice and medicines. When the Christians at the church learned about health through the TCT program, they started to use the lessons to treat common illnesses for themselves and their neighbours. All of us in the village could see that the people who were following their advice would get better without having to sacrifice animals. Now our whole village tries to prevent and treat illness rather than making sacrifices. This saves us money and keeps us healthy! It seems that serving their God makes their lives better. It makes our lives better, too!

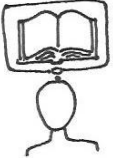
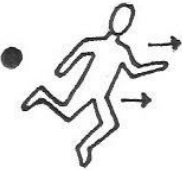

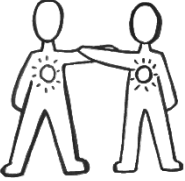
Community 2 In our village, when the people came to harvest a field, the owner of the field would be required to provide a large meal and sodas or alcohol. Sometimes the cost of this was more than the profit I would make on the field! After studying about doing Acts of Love, the Christians in our community decided that they would help in the fields of the poor without requiring any payment. Soon, other people in the village saw what they were doing and stopped requiring food and drinks, too! They even helped in my field! Nowadays everyone in the village is willing to work in each other's fields for free. We all bring our own meals and we work together. As a result, I'm able to make a profit and so are my neighbours! Now harvesting is a time we look forward to instead of a time we worry about, and we can provide for our families with our profits! I wonder why the church decided to help even the people who aren't Christians? Maybe I'll ask them...

Community 3 Our village has made Acts of Love a part of our everyday lives. We do Acts of Love every week. In fact, this has become such a normal way of life that now, whenever someone sees a need, they will just stop and try and solve the problem. If there are rocks or trash on the road, they stop to remove them. As a result, our whole village has changed from being one of the dirtiest, most underdeveloped in the area to being reasonably developed and tidy! We have recently been able to build a beautiful church with the income that we now have from working hard and helping one another! We can see the change, but we also *feel* the change in the ways we treat each other. We are much happier and thankful that the people of the church loved us enough to show us a better way to live.


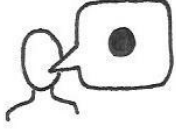
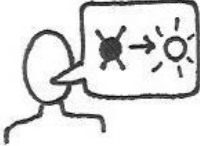



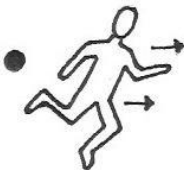

- What did the church do in each case?
- How did the churches see God's blessings?
- What changes took place in the community?
- How did the people in the villages react?
- How can we become more like these churches?

Lesson 4: Steps to Overcoming Sin

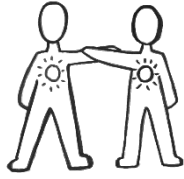
STEPS	IMAGE	SCRIPTURE
REMOVE SIN		
1. Identify the Sin		Psalm 139: 23–24 <i>“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”</i>
2. Confess & Be Forgiven		I John 1:9 <i>“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.”</i>
3. Repent & Commit		Job 31:1 <i>“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.”</i>
RENEW OUR MINDS		
4. Pray Daily		Romans 7:19–20 <i>“For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”</i> Matthew 26:41 <i>“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”</i>
5. Control Our Thinking		Romans 12:2 <i>“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.”</i> Colossians 3:2 <i>“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things”</i> 2 Corinthians 10:5 <i>“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”</i>

		Philippians 4:8 <i>"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things..."</i>
6. Memorize Scripture		Psalms 119:11 <i>"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you,"</i>
REPLACE BAD WITH GOOD		
7. Flee Temptation		James 4:7 <i>"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."</i> Corinthians 10:13 <i>"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."</i>
8. Develop New Habits		Colossians 3:1–16 <i>"...since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."</i>
9. Accountability		Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 <i>"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."</i>

Lesson 5: Overcoming Sin


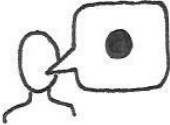



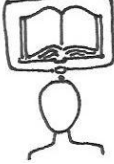


STEPS	IMAGE	SIN
REMOVE SIN		
1. Identify the Sin		Complaining
2. Confess & Be Forgiven		I confess that I complain about having to work so hard. Please forgive me for complaining.
3. Repent & Commit		I do not want a heart that complains. Instead of complaining, I want to speak positively and be thankful for what I have.
RENEW OUR MINDS		
4. Pray Daily		I need help today to not complain. Please help me to be thankful and to work joyfully.
5. Control Our Thinking		When I complain, I am thinking only of myself. Instead, I want to think of how the task before me can be used to glorify God. I want to think about Him instead of myself.
6. Memorise Scripture		Philippians 2:14 <i>“Do everything without grumbling or arguing.”</i>
REPLACE BAD WITH GOOD		
7. Flee Temptation		I always complain when I'm with _____. I need to either not spend time with him/her or tell him/her that I don't want to complain anymore.
8. Develop New Habits		When I'm tempted to complain, I will think of 3 things that I am thankful for. I will thank God that He can use the situation to bring Him glory.

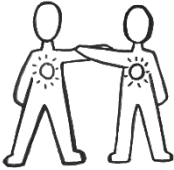
9. Accountability



I will tell ____ about my desire to overcome complaining. I will ask him/her to hold me accountable, and when he/she asks about this, I will not try to hide my sins or make myself seem better. I will also seek to help _____ overcome sins if he/she will allow me to hold him/her accountable.

Common Sin: _____

STEPS	IMAGE	SIN
REMOVE SIN		
1. Identify the Sin		
2. Confess & Be Forgiven		
3. Repent & Commit		
RENEW OUR MINDS		
4. Pray Daily		
5. Control Our Thinking		
6. Memorise Scripture		
REPLACE BAD WITH GOOD		
7. Flee Temptation		
8. Develop New Habits		

9. Accountability		
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Lesson 7 & 8: Acts of Love Planning Steps

1. **Meet Regularly** – As the church, you need to be meeting regularly. It is easy for the busyness of life to take over and to forget what you should be doing. Try to meet a minimum of once a month to pray, discuss Acts of Love and make plans.
2. **Pray together** – It is only through God’s strength and wisdom that we can really transform our communities. It is an impossible task without Him, but with Him we can truly make a difference. Never forget the importance of prayer; don’t be deceived into thinking that our actions are enough without it!
3. **Assess needs and pray** – Each person should come to the meeting ready to discuss the needs that you see around you. As you go through your day you should be looking for things that need to be done or people that need helping. At the meeting discuss together what needs to be done. Pray together that God will show you what you should do and help you to make a plan for making an impact.
4. **Make a plan and pray** – (review Module 1 plans if needed)
5. **Pray and then Implement** – Set a date, time, materials and tools, people needed, etc.
6. **Evaluate and Pray to Thank God** – See what impact there has been and give praise to God for helping you complete the work.

Lesson 9: Seven Ways of Encouraging Serving

1. Teach on the importance of serving
2. Create opportunities
3. Invite people to be involved
4. Recognise and thank people
5. Emphasise importance
6. Work together
7. Make it enjoyable

- Have you tried any of these methods? What has worked? What didn't work?

- What are some passages that we can use to teach on the importance of service?

- What are some of the ways that you have used to recognise and thank people? What are some other ideas that you could try?

- How can you create more enjoyment? What are ways to make serving more fun?

Lesson 9: The Church that Serves

Pastor James was feeling a little defeated. He knew that he wanted to get people serving in his church, but he didn't know how. A friend had given him the phone number of Pastor Moses and suggested that he call him for advice. He called Pastor Moses and after a short conversation was told that he needed to build a serving atmosphere at his church. Pastor James had to confess that he had no idea what a serving atmosphere was. *'Don't worry,'* Pastor Moses replied, *'neither did I until a few years ago. Come to one of our services, and I will show you what I mean.'*

Pastor James was met by Pastor Moses at the church entrance. He was relieved and pleased to see that Pastor Moses seemed to genuinely want to help him rather than just to show off his large church.

As they walked into the church, Pastor James noticed a large poster. It was titled 'Be Involved in a Serving Day.' Under the title was the verse '*...and as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. – 2 Thessalonians 3:13.*' Below this, each month was listed with 3 lines next to it. The first line was for the number of Acts of Love that had been done that month, the second line for the number of people that were helped, and the third line for the number of people who had been involved in helping.

'What is this?' asked Pastor James.

'We have a serving day each month,' Pastor Moses explained. *'On those days we try to get as many people in the church serving in some way as possible. I regularly invite people to sign up when I preach, and people in the congregation invite others in their daily interactions. Some serve in the church by helping with gardens or repainting a room. Others serve in the community by repairing a house or running a fun day for the children. We have a number of posters around the church reminding people about these days and helping them to see how many people are serving and that we still need them to get involved. Each month we record how many Acts of Love that we were able to do, how many people were helped, and how many people were involved. Each month, we try to increase the number of people involved.'*

As Pastor James looked around the church, he noticed that it was true—there were a number of posters with various verses on the walls. On the back wall there were several photos of numerous serving events that had happened in the past. There were lots of photos of people involved in different things: building houses, fixing roads, cleaning the church, and teaching children. Above the photos was a large sign which read, *'Let's build God's Kingdom together.'*

Pastor James found a seat as Pastor Moses prepared to start the service. Pastor James noticed friendly people greeting everyone at the door and a woman helping the blind and

old to find seats and serving them with cups of tea. He felt very welcomed in this church and wondered if he could do something like that at his church.

When the service started, the youth performed a dance and the congregation sang songs. After the worship time, Pastor Moses invited people to share a testimony. An older woman came forward and shared, ' I lost my husband and am now looking after my grandson by myself. My house was in poor repair and leaked badly and my grandson was doing badly in school.' Suddenly, she smiled broadly, 'Now the church has come and helped me by repairing the roof. And some teenagers invited my grandson to be part of a tutoring programme so he won't fail school. I'm so grateful for the way the church has cared for me. Thank you all!' Everyone was moved by the testimony. Pastor Moses returned to the front of the church and asked the team that had rebuilt the house and the tutoring team to stand. As they did, the whole church cheered loudly for them. They looked delighted and sat down quickly. Pastor Moses said a quick prayer for the woman and the serving teams— thanking God for their willingness to help, thanking God for using them, and asking God to continue to help the church to bring Him glory by their acts of service. Then Pastor Moses reminded the church that serving day was coming up in just 2 more weeks. He told them that they needed the whole body working together if they were to build God's Kingdom. He reminded them that there were no useless parts of the body and that, like the human body, if there are parts that are not working, then the whole body is not operating as well as it could. He then asked those who had already signed up to make sure that they all asked someone to join them on serving day.

As the service continued, Pastor James considered all that he had seen and heard so far. Was it any surprise that so many people from this church were involved in Acts of Love regularly? He finally understood what Pastor Moses meant when he said that you have to build a serving atmosphere.

- How are the seven ways to encourage represented in this story?

- What other ideas can you learn that might work well in your church?