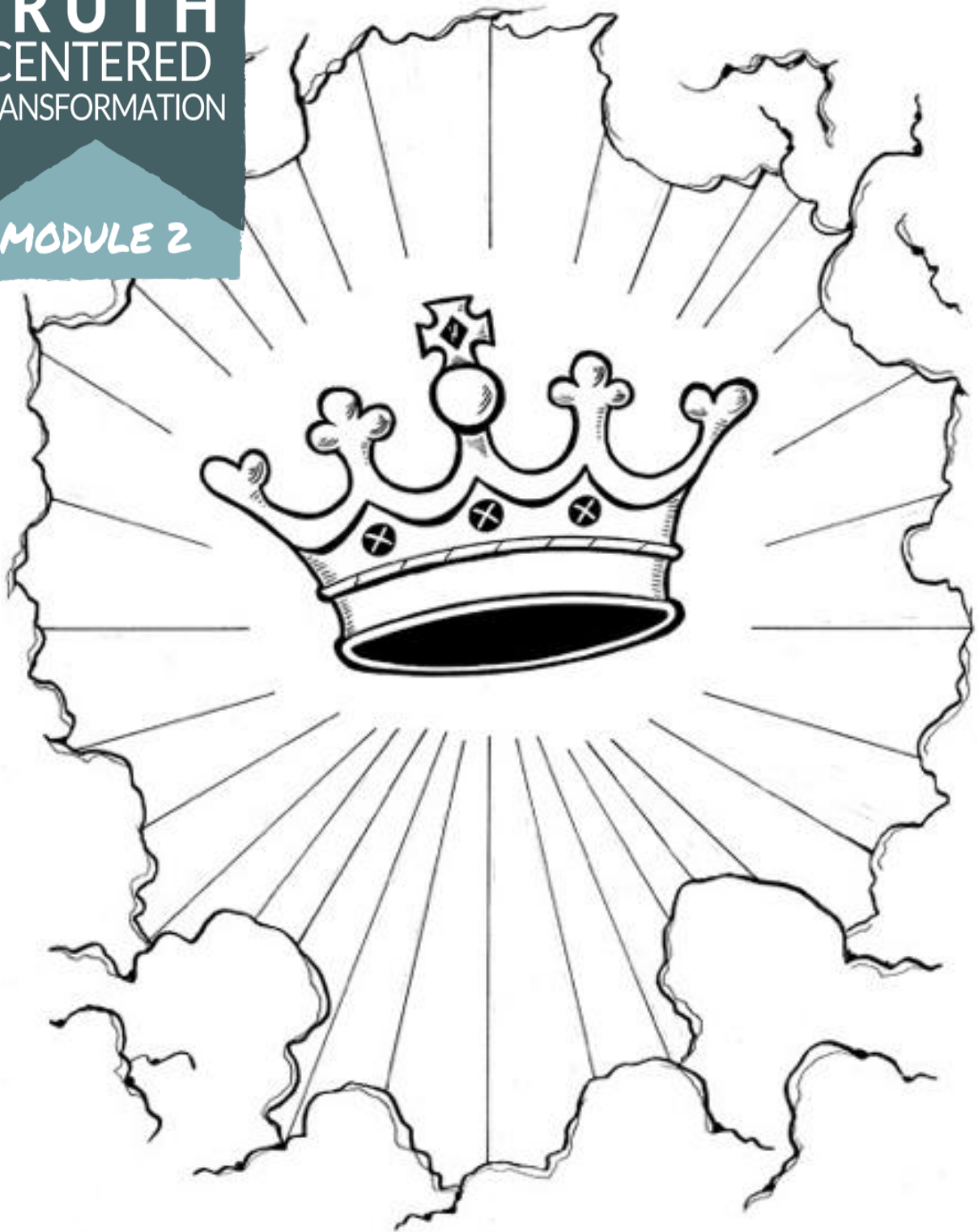


**TRUTH
CENTERED
TRANSFORMATION**

MODULE 2



KINGDOM OF GOD SERMON MATERIALS

How To Use The Simplified Lessons To Prepare Sermons

The simplified lessons are NOT intended to just be read out loud. In order to use them well as a sermon, you must prepare. To prepare well, we'll go through 3 steps:

1) **PRAY**

- Ask God to help you as you prepare this sermon. Ask Him to show you how this lesson applies to your church, and how to teach it well. Continue to pray and listen as you personalise the outline.

2) **PERSONALISE THE OUTLINE**

Main Idea: The main idea is what the lesson is all about. If there is only ONE thing people remember from your sermon, this should be it. All the other things you say should support this main idea.

- Read the main idea first to understand what the lesson is all about. You will want to remind the listeners of the main idea at the end of the sermon.
- As you personalise the outline make sure that you are strengthening the main idea, not distracting from it. While there is a lot that we could say about any topic, we want to make sure that our audience stays focused on the main idea.

Introduction: The introduction is to get people interested in the main idea; to help them want to learn about it.

- Think about how the introduction helps people to start thinking about the topic.
- Is there another story or introduction that will work better for your congregation?

Key Ideas: The key ideas are a breakdown of the main idea. They show why the main idea is true and important. The scriptures and subpoints under each key idea are to help people understand the key idea. When you are sharing stories, or reading scriptures and commenting on them, make sure that you have the key idea in mind and that what you say points back to the key idea. Make sure you understand each key idea.

- Look up the scriptures. Take time to make sure you understand them and the context as much as possible. Read the verses around each scripture, considering what the author was trying to communicate in the whole passage. We want to be careful to teach the word of God, not just our own ideas.

- Think about the subpoints - Besides the subpoints given, what else can you draw from those scriptures that might help the listeners understand the key idea better?
- Think back to when you learnt the lesson. Was there anything else in the lesson or that stood out to you that might be helpful to talk about? If you took notes, look back at them.
- If the stated key idea doesn't seem clear to you, feel free to rephrase it.
- Ask God to help you think of examples from your community, your own life or from your church that can help illustrate a point. Make sure these support the MAIN IDEA.

Conclusion and application: The conclusion and application section is very important as well - don't skip it!

- The conclusion helps summarise the key ideas and reminds the congregation what the main point of the sermon is.
- The application helps them put the sermon into action - decide what steps they should take to obey God. If people do not apply what they learn, they are not really obeying God. They will not mature, and their lives will not change.
- Ask God how you should invite people to apply the sermon. Think about how people should respond. Prepare to give some examples of how individuals or the whole congregation can apply the teaching.

3) **PRACTICE**

- Repeat the key ideas of the sermon several times out loud, until you can remember them.
- Think about which points are so important that you will want to slow down or repeat them.
- Read through the sermon outline out loud, including anything God has prompted you to add.
- Practice giving the sermon.
 - Look up as much as possible, don't just read the page.
 - Try to only read from the outline when you are reading a story or Bible verses.
 - Use the outline for memory cues.
- You may want to practise a few times.

Before you preach, pray again that God will give you the words He wants you to say, and that people's hearts will be ready to receive whatever God has for them.

Lesson 1: The Kingdom of God

Main Idea: The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are obeyed. We want to obey Jesus because He is a perfect King.

Introduction

When Jesus lived on earth, He shared His plan. This plan is mentioned 98 times in the New Testament.

Luke 4:43

He said, 'I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent'.

Acts 1:3

After His suffering, He presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.

- Jesus' plan is to build the Kingdom of God.
- What is the kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are obeyed.

Matthew 6:9-10

- *This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*
We know that in heaven, God is the King and His will is done completely. God's kingdom comes to earth as His will is done on earth.
- When we worship Jesus as the King and obey His commands, we are citizens of the Kingdom of God.
- This Kingdom will not be complete until Jesus comes again and everything is made new and without sin.

Key Ideas

Jesus is the perfect King.

- An earthly king might use his power only to benefit himself or his family. He might not care about the people in his kingdom.
- An earthly king might not be able to protect his people or give them what they need.
- Jesus is different from an earthly king.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.

Psalm 145:8-9

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.

2 Chronicles 20:6

Lord, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You.

- Jesus is the perfect King.
 - He is loving. He knows everything. He is all powerful. He created the world.
 - He is compassionate and gracious. His ways are perfect.
 - He is good. He wants what is best for the world and all of us in it. His rules are for our good.

We want to obey our King because we love Him.

Story Illustration: The King of Thailand

The previous king of Thailand, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, was a wonderful king. People still speak of him with great affection. He was born on a Monday, which in Thailand is associated with the color yellow. To honour him, the people all wore yellow shirts on Mondays. At one time during his reign, the military took over the government in Thailand. There was fighting on the streets. The supporters of the government fought the supporters of the army. Everyone was concerned it would become very serious. Then the king spoke. He told everyone to stop fighting. He told them to prepare to have elections. The fighting stopped immediately. Nobody questioned the king. They just did what he said. Even if they still felt angry, it didn't matter. Pleasing the king was more important than feelings.

- The people of Thailand obeyed their king because they loved him. They wanted to obey Him.

John 14:15

Jesus said, 'If you love me, keep my commands'.

- We show our King that we love Him by obeying His commands.
- Our King is more perfect and more wonderful than the King of Thailand. We want to please Him and to do whatever He says.
- Here are some specific things we can do to obey our King.
 - Love each other, as Jesus tells us to do in John 13:34.
 - Be patient with people, even those who are difficult or cause frustration.
 - Be humble. Don't think of yourself as more important than others.
 - Do not tell lies about people.
 - Stay faithful to your spouse.

(Pastor: add a testimony or story about someone who chose to live differently in order to obey.)

- Whenever we obey Jesus because we love Him and want to glorify Him, we reflect the Kingdom of God to people.

Conclusion and Application

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are obeyed.
- Jesus is our perfect King. He is loving, wise, and powerful.
- We show that we love Him when we obey His commands.
- Think of one way you could obey King Jesus more this week.

***Pastor:** Pray for the congregation, that God will help them love and obey King Jesus.*

Lesson 2: Seeking the Kingdom

Main Idea: Seeking the Kingdom means glorifying our King in all areas of life. It means doing everything in ways that make people realise how good, powerful, and wonderful our King is.

Review of Lesson 1

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- We want to obey Him because He is the perfect King.

Introduction

How much time do you spend each day thinking about getting enough food to eat? How much time do you spend thinking about how to get something that you need or want?

- In Matthew 6:31-33, Jesus was talking to people who were worried about life.
So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- Jesus says not to worry, but to seek the Kingdom of God above everything else. Then, we will also have everything we need.

Key Ideas

We can know how to 'seek first the Kingdom' by looking at Jesus' life.

- Jesus is our perfect example. He was always doing the will of His Father.
- We can know how to 'seek first the Kingdom of God' by looking at Jesus' life.

John 21:9,12 – Jesus cooked a meal.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread... Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

Mark 1:35 – Jesus prayed alone.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

John 2:1-2 – Jesus attended a wedding.

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and His disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

Matthew 14:14 – Jesus healed people.

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Mark 1:39 – Jesus travelled, taught, and drove out demons.

So He travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

- Even though Jesus wasn't always teaching or healing or praying, He was always seeking God's Kingdom.
- We don't have to be teaching, healing, singing, or praying to seek the Kingdom.

Seeking the Kingdom means doing everything in ways that glorify our King.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- Both verses repeat **WHATEVER YOU DO** to emphasise that **EVERYTHING** we do should bring glory to God - even everyday things like eating, drinking, or talking.
- We bring glory to God by acting in ways that make people think and talk about how good, powerful, and wonderful God is.
 - An obedient, hard-working, and honourable child makes people think his parents are good.
 - A rude, cruel, lazy, lying child makes people think poorly of his parents.
 - If Christians are lazy, or always fighting with each other, or spending money on alcohol instead of food or clothes for their children, people may think poorly of God. They may wonder if God is powerful enough to care for His people. They may believe that God is not loving. They may think He only cares about prayer but doesn't care about families.
- 'Seek first the Kingdom of God' means that we do everything in ways that bring glory to our King.

Story Illustration: A brother-in-law brings glory to God

A family was relocated to a tribal village because of a war. Before the war, the family had been very wealthy. Now the husband was in a prison camp. The rest of the family went from living in a fancy house to living in a mud hut. The wife missed the beautiful house. She could only think of what she didn't have. She didn't take care of the mud hut. It quickly became run down. Then, her oldest brother-in-law came to visit. He cheerfully swept and cleaned the area. He repaired the house. He picked some flowers to bring a little of God's beauty inside. He stayed for a few weeks doing simple tasks without using any money. He added plants and flowers outside. He made the house tidy, clean and uncluttered. The feeling in the home changed. The wife and the family had hope. Neighbours could see that the family was happy even though they were still poor and the house was tiny. People saw that God cared about the family. The brother used what the family had to bring glory to God.

- This brother-in-law kept a cheerful, hopeful heart. He served, cleaned, and reminded his family of God's goodness by bringing flowers inside.
- The brother-in-law encouraged the family and neighbors. His actions and attitude showed that even though the family was not rich, God was taking care of them.

We can bring glory to our King in everyday activities.

- We can bring glory to God in the way that we eat.
 - Talk about God: Thank God for what He has given you. Remember that everything good comes from God. Encourage one another as you eat.
 - Serve: Make sure that the food is distributed fairly amongst family members. Invite other people who may not have enough to eat with you.
 - Show God's character: Don't complain. Be happy to share. Be interested in others' lives as you talk during a meal.
- We can bring glory to God in the way that we wash clothes or weed a field.
 - Talk about God: Sing praise to God and thank Him that you can work for Him.
 - Serve: Do the best job you can. Get things very clean or pull all the weeds.
 - Show God's character: Do it cheerfully instead of complaining.
- We can bring glory to God in the way we treat others. Here are ideas:
 - Talk about God: Invite neighbours for coffee or tea. Offer to pray for them.
 - Serve: Help repair someone's house.
 - Show God's character: Be kind and patient, even when someone else is not.

Conclusion and Application

- Seeking the Kingdom does not mean we have to do 'spiritual' things.
- It means glorifying our King in all areas of life. It means doing everything in ways that make people realise how good, powerful, and wonderful our King is.
- Choose two daily activities. Think about how you can do these things in a way that brings God more glory. Commit to working on these areas over the next few months.

Lesson 3: How the Kingdom Grows

Main Idea: The Kingdom grows when more people come to obey God and when we obey Him more completely. We need to follow what the Bible says in every area of life, even if it is different from our culture.

Review of Lessons 1 and 2

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- Seeking the Kingdom means doing everyday things in ways that bring glory to God.

Introduction

What do you think Jesus would do if He were the leader in our community?

- What would He be happy about?
- What changes might Jesus want to make so that our community is more like heaven?

(Pastor: Choose several areas from the list below in which your community is living as God intends. Choose several which you think Jesus might want to change.)

- Caring for widows and orphans
- Strengthening families
- Having safe drinking water, adequate housing and food
- Having health services, garbage and sewer systems, and decent roads
- Education of children and adults
- Dealing with alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling, and other addictions
- Spousal and child abuse
- Relationships between people

God wants us to build a community that reflects the Kingdom of God.

- Jesus encouraged us to pray that 'His Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) and told us to 'seek first His Kingdom' (Matthew 6:33).
- There are two ways God's Kingdom can grow in our community.
 - More people become Christians and know the King.
 - Those who know the King are more and more obedient to Him - in all areas of life, and at all times.

Key Ideas

The Bible is our instruction manual for obeying.

- God designed the world. He knows how it works best.
- The Bible teaches us what God wants for our lives in different areas. It tells us what God's will is for us.
- We need to obey the Bible if we want His Kingdom to grow in our community.

We are to apply the Bible to every part of life.

- Sometimes what the Bible teaches will be the same as what our culture or traditions say. For example, many cultures believe that young people should respect their elders. This is what the Bible also says. But sometimes our culture is different from what the Bible says.

(Pastors: You did this activity in your training. Choose several examples from the list below that apply to your congregation. Describe what is usually done by people—including non-Christians—in your culture. (For example: ‘We treat our enemies poorly. We try to get revenge for the hurt they have caused’.) Then show from the verses how the Bible says we should act in the Kingdom of God. Choose some in which your culture and the Bible say the same thing. Then choose some in which your culture says something different from the Bible.

Here is what the Bible says about some different areas of life.

- How we should treat enemies - Luke 6:27-28
But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
- How husbands should act - Colossians 3:19
Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them
- How wives should act - Ephesians 5:22,33
Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
- How we should treat children - Ephesians 6:4
Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- How we should treat people - Matthew 22:36-39
*‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’
Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself”.*
- Our attitude toward work - Ephesians 6:7-8
Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.
- Our attitude toward the environment - Psalm 24:1
The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...
- Our attitude toward death and dying - John 11:25-26
Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’

- Our attitude toward suffering - James 1:2-3
Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
- How leaders should behave - Matthew 20:25-28
Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many'.

Conclusion and Application

- The Kingdom of God grows when we begin to obey God in all areas of life.
- The Bible tells us God's will and God's laws for different areas of life.
- Our culture also has some areas that are not aligned with the Bible. If we want to obey God, we need to look for places where the Bible is different from our culture. Then we must choose to follow the Bible.
- Try to think about how you can be more like what the Bible teaches and not just follow your culture. What are one or two areas that you can personally try to change?

Lesson 4: A Biblical Understanding of Work

Main Idea: Work is part of God's good creation. All types of work are important and can bring glory to God.

Review of Lessons 1-3

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- Seeking the Kingdom means bringing glory to God in everything we do.
- The Kingdom grows when more people come to obey God and when we obey Him more. The Bible teaches us how to obey God in all areas of life.

Introduction

Sometimes people don't want to get up and go to work. They think about how nice it would be to stay in bed and sleep as long as they wish. They think it would be nice to stay at home and do whatever they want.

We sometimes think that in a perfect world, we would not have to work. Is work the result of the Fall and sin? Let's see what the Bible has to say about work.

Key Ideas

God created work as a good thing.

Genesis 2:2

By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.

- God does work. He did work BEFORE sin entered the world.
- He created the whole world.
- He planted a garden.

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

- Adam was given a job as a gardener BEFORE sin entered the world.
- In a perfect world, people would still work. Work is part of God's good creation.

Work gives us dignity.

- God asked Adam to work the garden and name the animals (Genesis 2:15-20). He asked Noah to build a boat (Genesis 6:13-14). He asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery (Exodus 3:10).

- God did not NEED these people to work. He is powerful. He created the whole world. He could have done the work itself. Why does God give us work?

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground'.

- God created humans in His image so that they could do work, like He does.
- By giving us work to do, God is giving us a gift. He is allowing us to reflect His image - to show what He is like. Because of this we find dignity in working.

There are many reasons to work.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

*Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may **win the respect of outsiders** and so that you will **not be dependent on anybody**.*

- Hard work will win the respect of others and you won't be dependent.

1 Timothy 5:8

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- We are able to provide for our families.

Ephesians 4:28

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

- We can give to the poor and the church.

Work gives us dignity. It allows us to provide for ourselves and our families, and also to serve one another through our skills.

All types of work honour God.

- Sometimes we think some types of work are more important than others. This is not the story in the Bible.
 - God gave Adam, Noah, and Moses the jobs we talked about already.
 - God gave Gideon the job of leading a battle against the enemy (Judges 6:14).
 - God gave Mary the job of having a baby and caring for Him (Luke 1:26-33).
 - God gave Bezalel and Oholiab the job of being artists (Exodus 31:1-5).
- God considered these jobs just as important as leading a church or preaching a sermon.
- As long as what we are doing is not sinful, any work we do can be used to bring glory to God.

Every job God gives is important. Being a preacher or evangelist is an honourable job. So is gardening, farming, being a carpenter, or being a teacher. We need people to teach us spiritually. We also need people to grow food to eat, build shelter to live in, and teach our children.

Story Illustration: Brother Lawrence

Many years ago a man was born in France. He became a Christian at the age of eighteen and, in his twenties, he decided that he wanted to fully commit his life to God. He entered a monastery where he was called Brother Lawrence. Instead of spending all his time at the chapel praying and worshipping God, he was assigned to work in the monastery kitchen. For more than 10 years, he spent most of his time cooking, cleaning, and washing dishes. For a long time, Brother Lawrence was worried that he wasn't devoted to God. But after years of cooking and washing dishes, Brother Lawrence began to change. He had peace and joy. He remained in the kitchen, but now he felt he was as much in God's presence there—living in obedience to God and serving God washing those dishes—as if he were worshipping in the chapel. People began to come to him for advice and prayer. They asked him how he could be so happy when he was just working in the kitchen all day. He said, 'We should never get tired of doing small things for God. God isn't impressed with how big and important a job seems. He cares that we are doing it with love'.

- Brother Lawrence realized that he could serve God no matter what work he did.
- As a result he was joyful, and people began to seek his advice and prayer.

Conclusion and Application

Whatever work we do is important, and can bring glory to God.

- Work is a good thing, created by God. Work allows us to have dignity and give to others.
- Thank God for giving you good work to do. Ask Him to help you work hard so you can provide for your family and bless others as well.

Lesson 5: God Cares How We Work

Main Idea: God cares about how we do our work. We should work diligently and with integrity. We should work with a good attitude, doing our best. This brings glory to God.

Review of Lesson 4

- Work is a good thing, created by God. Work allows us to have dignity and give to others. All work is important and can bring glory to God.

Introduction

A Christian businessman bought coffee from farmers and sold it to a factory. He always used two different sets of scales. The scales he used to buy coffee from the farmers were not correct. They measured the weight of the coffee as less than its true weight. The scales he used to sell the beans to the factory were correct. The businessman thought, 'If I were honest, I wouldn't be able to stay in business, because this is what everyone does'.

- We have all experienced things like this before. It is not unusual to have two sets of scales. People might think it is OK because it is normal.
- We need to look at what the Bible says. The Bible has a lot to say about how we should do our jobs.

Key Ideas

God cares about how we do our work.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat'. We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

- God wants us to have a good attitude and work hard, not being lazy.

Proverbs 11:1

The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.

Deuteronomy 16:19

Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.

- God wants us to work with integrity and justice.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

- We should work with a good attitude, doing our best, as though God is our boss.

God cares about how we do our work. The Christian businessman who sold coffee should not have two sets of scales. He should be fair and honest. He should work hard, and with a good attitude. He may lose money, but he can trust God to provide all he needs.

What it looks like to work for the glory of God.

Mark 6:2-3a.

When the Sabbath came, [Jesus] began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.... They said, 'What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn't this the carpenter?'

- For most of Jesus' life, He was a carpenter. Imagine if you saw Him in His shop.
 - He would have worked just as hard when He was alone as with someone.
 - He would never have cheated anyone or charged more than a piece of furniture was worth.
 - He would have worked hard to make good quality furniture, as though He were making it for God.
 - He would never have complained, but worked cheerfully.

- Here are some things other people have done to work for the glory of God.
 - A seamstress began to work hard to keep her commitments and have clothes ready on time for all of her clients, not just the wealthy ones.
 - A businessman continued to pay his workers and did not send them away during the Covid epidemic, even though he did not have as much work to do.
 - A farmer began to give some of his produce to the church to give to people in the community who needed it.

Conclusion and Application

- God cares about how we do our work.
- He wants us to work diligently and with integrity and justice. He wants us to work with a good attitude, bringing glory to Him.
- Think about your work.
 - Do you have any attitudes that are not glorifying God?
 - Do you work diligently?
 - Do you treat some people better than others, or show value for everyone?
- Ask God to show you some things you could do better to honour Him in your work. Choose one thing to do this week.

Lesson 6: Kingdom Communities

Main Idea: When even one person obeys God in every area of life, encourages their family to obey, and loves our neighbours by serving them, our communities become more like the Kingdom of God.

Review of Lessons 1-5

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- The Bible teaches us how to obey in all areas so that the Kingdom will grow.
- Work is good. All types of work are important. We need to do our work in ways that bring glory to God.

Introduction

God wants our communities on earth to become more and more like the Kingdom of God in heaven! It would be wonderful if everyone obeyed God in everything. People would have all they needed. Everyone would be treated as valuable.

How can this change happen? We might think that we need an outside organisation, or the government to provide resources. But God is richer, stronger, more powerful, and wiser than any government or organization. He can use *us* to bring change to our community. God can use our small actions to make big changes. Remember Kingdom Math?

Our small actions x God's power = Transformation

Key Ideas

God uses our small actions to make a large impact.

- When a pebble is thrown into water, the ripples expand outwards from one small spot. In the same way, transformation starts in one place and expands.



Step 1 is to obey God in your own life.

- God cares about every area of life. We need to obey Him and try to glorify Him in everything. The Kingdom of God grows when Christians obey Him more.

Step 2 is to encourage your family to obey God in everything.

- Help your family practice doing everything for God's glory.
- Pray regularly with your family.
- Get your whole family to serve. We will plan an Act of Love at the end of this module. Try to get your family to participate as much as possible

Step 3 is to love and serve your community.

Matthew 22:36-40

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And

the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

- Remember that we show that we love our King by obeying Him. Loving our neighbour is a commandment. It is part of obeying God in everything.
- In Module 1 we talked about the Good Samaritan who took care of the hurt man. Loving our neighbour means that we meet their physical needs.
- Look for opportunities to serve. Ask God to show you how you can help those in need. Get involved in an Act of Love.

One Christian family can make a difference.

A village high in the Himalayan mountains was made up of about twenty-five tiny wood homes with tin roofs. Most people in the village worked at a nearby tea plantation. They struggled to survive. The village was very cold, but the children were barefoot. Cooking was done in a smoke-filled shack over an open fire. The women would balance a pot on three stones in the fire circle. Chickens ran in and out of the houses. The compounds were dirty. There were no latrines in the village. Children were often sick, and had swollen stomachs. Most of them did not attend school. It was a two kilometer walk up and down mountain paths. Many adults in the village could not read or write, either. When they went to buy and sell at other villages, more educated people took advantage of them.

There was usually enough rain in the mountains for one growing season. Each family could plant and harvest enough rice for the year. The nearest water source was a reservoir two kilometres away. The pipeline from this reservoir no longer worked. It was hard for people to carry enough water for drinking and washing. And even harder to carry water for growing vegetable gardens.

The people worshipped false gods and had no hope for their future.

A Christian man named Lepcha moved to the village with his family. They tried to glorify God in their everyday activities. They worked hard. They built a cooking house with a raised fireplace, which used less firewood. They kept a very clean compound. They built a small coop to keep their chickens. They made an outside latrine, so their children didn't have worms or diarrhoea often. They planted a small vegetable garden so their children had nutritious food. The people in the village began to notice that Lepcha's life was different. Lepcha showed them how to do these things. Lepcha installed gutters on the tin roof of his house. He placed rain collection barrels under them to collect water when rain fell. Others copied this idea.

Lepcha and his family wanted to serve their neighbours however they could. Lepcha encouraged people to work together to lay a new pipeline from the reservoir to the village. Now the villagers have plenty of water. They have enough to water vegetable gardens.

Many people have copied the chicken houses. They have built latrines that don't smell or have flies. They see that they can live healthy lives.

Lepcha's family began to teach people to read and write. They taught any adults and children who wanted to learn. Today, the village has its own school for children up through fourth grade. The people have a sense of accomplishment. There is also a small church building because twenty-three of the twenty-five families have a personal relationship with Christ. God used this one family to bring transformation to the whole area. The story of Lepcha's family was told time after time in villages in northern India and eastern Nepal. After several years the same thing happened in other villages in the area. God used Lepcha's obedience and service to bring transformation!

- Lepcha began to make changes in the community by starting with his own family.
- They did their best to glorify God in everyday activities like keeping their compound clean. They served their community. God used them to bring transformation.
- If the government or an outside organization had started a school or fixed the waterpipe, the results would not have been the same. People would not have the same sense of accomplishment and hope. They would not understand that God cares about them. God would not have received glory!
- We can be like Lepcha in our community. We can each obey in all areas, help our family to live as God wants us to, and serve our community.
- Imagine what would happen if everyone in our church lived like this!

We can identify needs in our community.

- In Module 1, we talked about 4 areas that people can grow: Spiritual, Social, Mental and Physical. Our community has needs in all of these areas.
***Pastor:** In your training, you identified needs in your community in these different areas. List some of them and invite people to think of more.
(In lesson 8 you will lead a time of prayer for transformation of the community. You will also spend time asking God for wisdom about how to begin to meet these needs.)*

Conclusion and Application

- God can use our small actions to transform our community.
- In groups, think of two things you can do this week to help bring God's Kingdom to our community. Make a plan to start and pray for each other.
- As you and your family obey our King and serve your community, people will begin to see how good and great our King is. They will begin to understand that His ways are the best. They will begin to obey Him more. God will use your small actions to bring change, and you will see the Kingdom of God growing in your community!

Lesson 7: Serving Our Community Well

Main Idea: We can serve people in a way that does not create dependency. One way to do this is by helping them find work.

Review of Lessons 4-6

- Work is a good thing. All types of work can bring glory to God. We need to do our work in ways that honour God.
- As we and our families obey God in all areas of life and serve, our communities will become more like the Kingdom of God.

Introduction

In one church, a family came to the church service for the first time. Afterwards they asked for money to buy food. The church leaders gave the family some money. The next week, the family did not come to church. The week after that, the family came again, and asked for more money. Some people thought that the church should give them more money. Some people argued that the family would keep coming back whenever they needed money. They would become dependent on the church and never change their lives.

- God commands us to serve others in our community - to help meet their needs. But sometimes it's hard to know the best way to do this!
- Sometimes it is good to give people money, food, or other things. Maybe they are very sick, old, or young. Maybe there was a natural disaster. But often, there are better ways to help.
- Today we are going to look at how we can help people in a way that brings long-term change. And we want to do it without creating dependency.

Key Ideas

We can help people by creating opportunities to work.

- In the book of Ruth, a young widow named Ruth lived with her mother-in-law. They were very poor. To get food, Ruth followed workers in the field of Boaz. She gathered the grain that the harvesters missed or dropped. Boaz took an interest in her. He learnt that Ruth was supporting and caring for her mother-in-law.

Ruth 2:8-9

So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

Ruth 2:15-16

As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, 'Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her'.

- Boaz didn't give Ruth food. Instead, he gave her the opportunity to work.
- Working gives independence and dignity. It does not create dependency.

We can learn to serve others effectively

- Mrs. Lee is a good example of serving in a way that does not create dependency.
- Here are three true stories of how she has been able to help families.

Story 1 - Mrs. Lee and the Flower Garden

In her area, there was a poor family with two children. Mrs. Lee noticed there was a small piece of land with soil in front of their home. 'Why don't you plant some flowers?' she asked. 'You can make your home more beautiful and also sell them in the market nearby.' The mother in this family did just that. She began taking the flowers she grew to the market where she sold them. Buyers began asking for other types of flowers as well, but she only had a small piece of land. This mother, however, began purchasing flowers from other growers. She sold them, alongside her own, for a profit. She thought, 'I could sell other things as well!' She now wakes up early every morning to buy bananas and coconuts to sell at the market at her flower stand.

Story 2 - Mrs. Lee and the Sweet Potatoes

Another poor family worked as labourers each day, but they often weren't able to find jobs. Mrs. Lee could see that this family was hard-working, but didn't have any special skills. She went to visit another family in the church that were sweet potato farmers. She explained to the family that God has called us to love our neighbours and look after the poor. She asked if they would be willing to teach the poor family how to be sweet potato farmers. They agreed. Mrs. Lee introduced the two families. The poor family was excited. They quickly rented a small piece of land, seeds, and tools. At the end of the year, they had a good harvest. They were able to pay for all they had rented and still have a good profit.

Story 3 - Mrs. Lee and Family Reconciliation

The third family Mrs. Lee wanted to help had been separated from their parents. The parents believed that their son and his family were useless and wouldn't amount to anything. Mrs. Lee met with the family to try and reconcile the two sides. Mrs. Lee promised to meet regularly with the son's family and help them to improve their lives. She asked the parents to accept him back and help a little. The parents decided to loan their son some money so he could start a scrap metal business. He now buys old, used metal items and sells them to a recycling shop. He is able to support his family and he has dignity.

- Mrs. Lee took time to get to know people and understand their situation. She tried to find the real reasons people had trouble (like broken relationships or lack of skills).
- She gave advice and encouragement. She helped people look for solutions.
- She gave people a practical way to help themselves. She helped them use the skills they had, or learn new skills.
- Because of this, people had work. They were able to provide for their family. They were able to do something to help themselves and were not dependent on others.
- If Mrs. Lee had just given money or food to each of these people, they wouldn't have changed. They would have gotten used to Mrs. Lee giving them money. They would have relied on that rather than working.

Conclusion and Application

- To help people, it is best to visit them, listen, try to understand their problems, and then help them look for solutions. This will give hope for real and lasting change.
- Think about your community.
 - Is there a family that you could serve?
 - What are some ways you could serve them without creating dependency?
 - Ask God for wisdom to know how to do this.

Lesson 8: Praying for Transformation

Main Idea: Only God can truly transform a community. If we want to see our community change, we need to pray for transformation, for God's wisdom, and for His help.

Review of Lessons 1-7

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- We want our community to become more like the Kingdom of God.
- God can use our small actions to transform our community.
- We start with ourselves and our family, obeying God in everything.
- We continue by serving our community well.

Introduction

- Imagine a government official came to us. He said, 'We have tried to help your community, but it is still the same. We want to give you the resources to change your community yourselves. What do you need?'
- We might ask for money, building experts, materials for new roads, or machines. These resources are good, but what we really need is beyond material things.
Psalm 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

- Only God can bring complete transformation.
- In order to see our communities truly changed, we need to pray!

Key Ideas

We should pray for transformation.

Matthew 6:9-10

This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

- These verses help us understand that the Kingdom of God is wherever God's will is done. But this passage does more than just tell us *about* the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus wants us to pray that our lives, our families, our communities, and the whole world will be transformed to be more like the Kingdom of God.

We should ask for wisdom and obey God's direction.

- In addition to praying for transformation, we should ask God what we should do to help bring change. He often chooses to bring transformation through our obedience.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

- James tells us to ask God for wisdom.
- God gives wisdom generously. He will help us know what to do.
- Naaman was the commander of the army of Syria. He had leprosy, a skin disease. He went to meet Elisha the prophet to ask to be healed.

2 Kings 5:9-14

So Naaman... stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed'. But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not... the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"!' So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

- Elisha told Naaman to bathe in the Jordan river seven times.
- The instructions didn't make sense to Naaman. He didn't want to obey.
- When Naaman finally obeyed, he was healed.
- When we ask God for wisdom, we need to obey His directions, even if they don't make sense to us. He is wise and good.

Story Illustration: God gives wisdom to a church

One church prayed each month asking God what they could do next to see their community become more like His Kingdom. They really wanted a tractor for their community to help people plant and harvest. It seemed impossible that they would ever have enough money to buy one. One time as they prayed, they felt like God spoke to them and said, 'If you widen the walking track to the crop area, then I will give you a tractor.' The church immediately responded. They widened the 3-kilometre track so that a cart could travel on it.

That year, everyone in the community realized that they wouldn't have to carry their harvest to the market on their backs. They all planted more crops. And with carts, they were able to transport the harvest more quickly. So they took more to the market to sell, and it was much fresher when it got there. They were able to get a better price. The villagers all earned more money than they expected. They were so grateful to the church that they brought them some of the extra profit. It was a large sum of money. The church prayed again. They asked God how they should use the money. He reminded them that He had promised them a tractor. The money was enough to buy that tractor.

- The people in the story asked God for wisdom and listened.

- God gave them the idea to widen the road. It was not clear why this would give them a tractor.
- The people obeyed God and widened the road.
- God caused the people in the village to be generous towards the church, so they were able to buy the tractor.

We should pray for God’s help when we face obstacles.

- When we face obstacles or problems, we should pray for God’s help.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Story Illustration: Building Materials

In one community, the church felt God challenging them to build stable homes for everyone in the community. They did a survey of the area. They found 35 houses that needed to be rebuilt or repaired. The church members collected resources. They volunteered their time to complete the work. After completing the 17th house, however, they had no resources left. Rather than becoming discouraged and giving up, the church members decided to pray and fast for one night. They asked God to help them finish the project. The next morning, large trucks filled with building materials pulled up outside the church. They started dumping their loads. The church members told the truck drivers that no one had ordered any building materials. They explained that no one was able to pay for all these supplies. The truck drivers said that the materials were surplus from a nearby warehouse. They were being thrown away to make space for new materials. The church leaders asked the truck drivers why they had dumped the materials in front of the church. The drivers replied, ‘We were tired of driving, so we dumped the materials so we could get back to the warehouse’. They also said that the materials were the church’s responsibility. If the church didn’t want the materials, they would have to move them. So the church received enough building materials to finish the other houses - for free.

- When this church came against an obstacle, they fasted and prayed. They asked God for help.
- God provided the missing materials! It was clear to everyone that He is powerful and answers the prayers of His people.

Conclusion and Application

We don't have to try to change our community through our own efforts. Only God can bring lasting change. But we can participate!

- We can try to glorify God in everything we do. We can encourage our family to obey, and serve our community.
- We can pray for transformation.
- We can ask God for wisdom - what to do to begin to bring transformation - and we obey what He shows us to do.
- We can ask Him for help when we encounter obstacles.

Pastor: *Lead a time of corporate prayer.*

1. *Remind people of the specific community needs that were mentioned in lesson 6.*
2. *Spend time corporately asking God to transform lives, families, and your community.*
3. *Tell people you are all going to ask God if there is any wisdom that He wants to give about how the church can begin to bring transformation in these areas. Let them know that sometimes God gives very clear directions. Other times we just need to do the thing that seems best. God will show us if we choose the wrong thing.*
4. *Give people 3-5 minutes to silently listen. Allow people to share any ideas they have. Write them down and keep the list for lesson 10. Let people know that they will soon use the list to choose an Act of Love to do in the next few weeks.*
5. *Thank God for giving wisdom and caring about the community.*

Lesson 9: Keep Praying and Keep Obeying

Main Idea: To see our community become more like God's Kingdom, we need to keep praying and keep obeying.

Review of lessons 1-8

- 'Seeking the Kingdom of God' means living in a way that brings Him glory - that makes people think and talk about how good and powerful our King is.
- We can learn to obey more and more by comparing our culture to what the Bible says about all areas of life.
- We can bring glory to God in our work, no matter what our job is.
- We show love to our neighbours by meeting their needs.

Introduction

Let me ask you a question.

- If you want to win a race, do you practice running just once? (*Of course not. You run regularly to make your body strong.*)
- If you want to learn to read, do you go to school just once or twice? (*Of course not.*)
- If you want to have a healthy crop, do you pull weeds just once? (*Of course not.*)
- And if we want God's Kingdom to grow in our communities, do we obey His commands just once? (*Of course not.*)

Key Ideas

Keep praying.

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray continually.

- We have to keep praying, and not to give up.
- Prayer should not only happen when we know of immediate needs. It should be a regular part of our lives.
- Only God can truly transform a community. If we want to see our community change, we need to regularly pray for transformation.

Pastor: *Invite people to join in a regular prayer time for transformation of their community. Tell them when this will be. Each time you meet, you will pray for transformation, wisdom, and help.*

Keep obeying.

- To see God's Kingdom grow in our community, we start by obeying God in every area of our own lives. We try to bring glory to God in all we do. We help our families obey more. And we serve our community by doing Acts of Love.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- We were created to do good works - not just one, but many.
- Serving our community through Acts of Love is how we love our neighbours. It is how we show them what God's love is like. It is how we show our King that we love Him!

Every member of the body should be serving.

Colossians 1:18a

He is the head of the body, the church.

- The church is the body of Jesus. He is the head.

I Corinthians 12:12, 14-20

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

- Think about your body.
 - Some parts are small, some large.
 - Some parts are beautiful, some are not.
 - Some parts are visible, some are hidden.
 - ALL the parts of your body have a purpose.
- Every Christian is a member of the body of Christ.
- We ALL have a job to do in the body. Everyone is important.
- A body works best if every part does its job.
 - If your body only had half of its parts working, it would be terrible!
 - (Give some examples - missing arm or stomach...)
- If there are people who are not serving in the church's ministries, then the church is not functioning as well as it should.

Ephesians 4:11-12

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

- Leaders are to equip people to serve.
- Every member of the body - every Christian - is supposed to serve.

Conclusion and Application

We are almost done with Module 2 of TCT. We are going to keep praying. We've decided when we can incorporate prayer into our church schedule. We are going to keep obeying. We've thought about different areas of our lives, and how we can obey God more. In our final lesson, we will plan our next Act of Love, so we can show God's love by serving our community. Let's get every person in our church involved.

Lesson 10: Plan an Act of Love

Main Idea: Congregations will plan their next Act of Love.

***Pastor:** This lesson is not a sermon. It is an activity. It can be done as a whole church, or it can be done with several smaller groups. It is VERY important to finish the module with this activity.*

Review of lessons 1-9

- The Kingdom of God is wherever Jesus is King and His laws are followed.
- 'Seeking the Kingdom of God' means living in a way that brings Him glory - that makes people think and talk about how good and powerful our King is.
- The Kingdom grows when more people come to obey God and when we obey Him more. The Bible teaches us how to obey God in all areas of life.
- Work is good. We can bring glory to God in our work, no matter what our job is.
- God can use our small actions to transform our community. We show love to our neighbours by meeting their needs.
- To see our community become more like God's Kingdom, we need to keep praying for transformation, wisdom, and help, and keep obeying.

Introduction

Let's start our final lesson with a story:

Farmer James 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 James 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, James went to his neighbour and asked to borrow tools from him. Since he was already visiting, James decided to take a few extra minutes to talk to his neighbour, who was a new Christian in the church and whom he heard was having a difficult time.

At 11:30, the neighbour's wife asked James if he would like to join them for lunch. Realising the time, James 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 his neighbour's tools, he should fix it as well. As the day finished, James had almost finished fixing the pump. Yet again, he hadn't made it to the field for planting. But tomorrow morning, surely, he would get to it. He would just need to finish fixing the pump and return the tools. Then he could get started on planting.

- The things Farmer James spent his day doing were not bad things. They were good. They needed to be done.
- But if Farmer James never gets the planting done, his farm will not produce anything. His family will be hungry.

Proverbs 24:27

Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

- This is not just talking about planting and building a house, but about making sure the most important things are done first.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

- We don't want to forget the most important things because we are rushing to do other good things.
- We need to make plans about how to use our time and then do what we planned.

Showing God's love to our neighbours is one of the most important things we can do. It is part of the Great Commandment! Today we are going to plan our next Act of Love.

Key Ideas

Review the characteristics of an Act of Love

Remember, an Act of Love has seven characteristics.

Pastor: Show the actions to help people remember the characteristics.

- **Done to show God's love (action - hands shape a heart)**



God commands us to love our neighbours. Our goal is not to convert people. It is only to show them love. We don't want them to feel manipulated through our Act of Love, like we are trying to make them attend church. When people ask why we are serving them, we tell them it is because God loves them.

- **Done in obedience to God (praying hands)**



This means we ask God for wisdom when we are deciding what to do. Sometimes this means the Acts of Love might not make sense. We don't automatically choose to do something for the poorest person in the community. Instead, we do what God shows us to do!

- **Small and Simple (fingers showing a small thing)**



We want to keep our Acts of Love small and simple so that they are easy to complete and many people can get involved.

- **Done using local resources (pretend to shovel)**



We want to use the resources in our community. Using our own resources—rather than looking for a donor to provide—is more of a demonstration of love to our community. Often, as we use what we have, God multiplies it.

- **Done through God's strength (show strong arms)**



We will run out of energy if we try to do Acts of Love in our own strength. Pray and ask God to give you the strength and help that you need.

- **Involve as many people as possible (stretch hands toward people)**



We want to involve as many people as possible in our Acts of Love. We want to see the whole body of Christ using their talents and energy to serve our community.

- **Done so God is praised (hands raised)**



We want the glory to go back to God at the end of the activity! We want people to recognize how wonderful our King is!

Planning our next Act of Love

During this module, we have shared with each other our ideas about changes we would like to see in our community. We spent time praying for transformation. We asked God for wisdom about Acts of Love we could do to begin to bring transformation. You shared your ideas with the church leadership.

Pastor:

- *Read or remind people of the list of ideas from lesson 8 about possible Acts of Love.*
- *Ask them to discuss together which idea they want to plan now.*
- *Remind people that you can plan more Acts of Love after this one.*
- *Discuss the following questions and write down the answers.*
 - *Who are you going to help?*
 - *What are you going to do?*
 - *What resources do you need? Where will you get those things? Who will get them?*
 - *Who is going to participate in helping? Who will invite everyone to help?*
 - *What date are you going to do it?*

Lead a time of prayer for transformation and help. Ask God to help you complete the project and to multiply the results. Pray that His name may be glorified.

Conclusion

Our King is loving and good. He wants to use us to help our communities become more like His Kingdom. Let us encourage each other to keep praying and obeying Him. Let's try to bring Him glory in everything, because we love Him so much.

Verbally review the decisions that you made in planning your Act of Love.

Pastor: The next page is a worksheet giving all the steps of **Planning an Act of Love**. Please read through it. You will want to do step 5 on the day you do your Act of Love, and step 6 after the Act of Love is done. When you finish your current Act of Love, use the worksheet to plan another one (step 7).

Planning an Act of Love

Step 1: Pray

Ask God to show you what needs or community change to focus on and what you should do for your next Act of Love. Take a few minutes of silence to listen to God.

Step 2: Select an activity

Did God give any inspiration? If anyone has any ideas of what would make a good Act of Love, ask them to share. Together, agree on what you feel God is leading you to do.

Make sure you have considered these things:

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

Step 3: Make your plan

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

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

Step 4: Pray again

Pray together for transformation and help. 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, keep praying that God will help you with the project.

Step 5: Do the project

Start the day with prayer to dedicate your efforts to God. 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

After doing the Act of Love, we will evaluate what happened and tell the whole congregation about it. Evaluating is important because it helps us to learn. You can think about what you did well and what you 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?
- Did people respond as you expected? If not, why not?
- Was God glorified? Do people see more clearly that He is loving and powerful?
- What improvements could you make to the plan?

Step 7: Go back to Step 1