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Journaling through Scripture: S.O.W.I.N.G.

In one of the many parables Jesus taught, Jesus applied principles his context understood relating to agriculture. In Mark 4, Jesus states in this parable that the farmer sows the word...like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown (Mark 4: 14 &20). Sowing the Word in our lives is integral to living The Gospel Disciple Life. In the parable Jesus sought to challenge his listeners to become active, discerning listeners who grow in understanding so that when we sow the Word in good soil, it produces a crop that multiplies and multiplies. We must sow the Word in our lives and in the lives of others and as we collaborate consistently, lean into each life moment with curiosity, we will discover the creative transformational work of God in our lives.

Gospel Disciple Journal

Date: _____ Week: _____ Day: _____ Scripture: _____

Scripture: *What Scripture is the Holy Spirit using to teach you something about Jesus?*

Observation: *What am I learning about Jesus?*

Walk: *What is Jesus saying to me?*

Invite: *What am I going to do about it?*

Need: *What need(s) am I going to meet or relationships will I nurture this week?*

Gospel: *With whom am I going to share my story and God's story this week?*

Additional Prayers and Thoughts:

Gospel Disciple Journal- Is a journal designed to help keep you organized, journal your thoughts, and stay on track as you read through Scripture with your micro-group.

Daily Rhythm

The Gospel Disciple Life builds on a daily rhythm where you will read one chapter each week from the assigned weekly reading using the S.O.W.I.N.G. method by:

Scripture- We read Scripture daily. Each week we read one chapter as we systematically make our way through assigned readings with our micro-group of three. Since the Holy Spirit is our teacher, we are prayerfully asking God to speak to us through at least one specific verse. Once we have identified this verse, we write it down in our journals.

Observation- We make observations about that verse. Now that you have a verse, go back through the chapter making observations that bring light to your focused verse. Once again, in your journal, make a list of observations related to your one Scripture. The goal of our observation is to answer the question, "What is Jesus saying to me through the Scripture?"

Walk-We follow Jesus by walking in Truth. The focus of our reading is on following Jesus. When we see Him at work, hear His voice, discern His ways, and obey Him, we are following Him. Identifying our one verse is about seeing, hearing, and understanding Him through His Word so that we might follow Him. This leads us to the question, "What is Jesus saying to me through His Word?"

Journaling through Scripture: S.O.W.I.N.G.

Invite- Invite Jesus into your day. Our goal isn't to be hearers only of the Word but to be doers of the Word. Once we know what Jesus is saying to us, we are now ready to invite Him into our day. Our goal is to follow Jesus. This leads us to the question, "What are we going to do about it?"

Nurture- Nurture relationships. The Gospel Disciple Life is about doing life-on- life and life-in-community. Who is God calling you to nurture relationships with today?

Good News-Share Good News. We live in a world full of bad news. Our mission is to share the Good News of Jesus. We do this by listening to the stories of others, sharing our story, and sharing God's story. Who is Jesus inviting you to share the Good News? What are some practical ways you can share that Good News?

Gospel Disciple Life Weekly Micro-Group Time

Consistency is essential in facilitating your meeting if you are going to reproduce it. I would recommend using these six Cs, which are a simple approach to leading micro-groups:

CONNECT is simply about doing a little life together before you jump into any kind of agenda. It's about taking a few minutes for connection.

CELEBRATE is about taking a moment to celebrate The Gospel Disciple Life. Just completing your assignment is something to celebrate. For many, they have never had a consistent rhythm of reading Scripture or journaling.

CHECK-IN is about holding each other accountable. You may be discussing something that came up in last week's micro-group, or you may use one or two accountability questions like: How did your time go with God last week?

COACH is not the sole responsibility of the facilitator, but the responsibility of the micro-group. The focus is on peer-to-peer learning. The role of the facilitator is to keep things on track. Our primary tool for coaching is asking three strategic questions:

What did Jesus say to you last week?

What did you do about it? - How can we pray for you?

CARE by spending time in specific prayer for one another. Make sure everyone has time to share anything they may need prayer for and encourage everyone to pray out loud.

COMMUNICATE relevant information about your micro-group. Make sure you schedule your next micro-group time. This is also an excellent time to review the principles of micro-groups. (They are simple enough to reproduce, the Scripture is our only curriculum, the Holy Spirit is our teacher, and following Jesus is our ultimate objective.)

Reading Schedule

Week 1: 1 Samuel 15	Week 2: 1 Samuel 16
Week 3: 1 Samuel 17	Week 4: 1 Samuel 18
Week 5: 1 Samuel 19	Week 6: 1 Samuel 20
Week 7: 1 Samuel 22	Week 8: 1 Samuel 23
Week 9: 1 Samuel 24	Week 10: 1 Samuel 25
Week 11: 1 Samuel 26	Week 12: 1 Samuel 27
Week 13: 1 Samuel 28	Week 14: 1 Samuel 29
Week 15: 1 Samuel 30	

Reverend Frederick L. Smith, Senior Pastor

Where We're Going

Kind of Disciples Douglas Seeks to Create

Our marks for faithfulness to our mission are people living...

- **Kingdom-Conscious.** A Kingdom-Conscious life is surrendered to the reign and rule of God's intentions and will in our lives on earth as God reigns, rules, intends, and wills in Heaven. God wants the reality of His actions to be real and tangible in and through our lives on earth.
- **Family-Centered.** God ordained the family to develop and teach us to love God, ourselves, and others. Family dynamics differ for each home: married, single, parents, grandparents, foster-parenting, and blended families. Family-centered means nurturing people to develop a kindred bond inside and outside the biological family because, as Jesus states in the gospels, our true kindred are those "who do the will of our Father in heaven."
- **Community Oriented.** God desires to collaborate with humanity to change the trajectory of our communities and society. As the church immerses itself in the community, seeing, hearing, and addressing forces that keep people oppressed and vulnerable, the Holy Spirit draws together the unique gifts of Jesus' disciples to engage in real, relevant, and redemptive ministry.