

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48208
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“The Never Alone Church”¹

**Lesson 11: Experiencing Great Commandment Love in Your
“Jerusalem”**

Goal: *To become the “The Never Alone Church” by practicing the Great Commandment of Love with our community of believers. This will enable us to fulfill the mandate given in the Great Commission.*

Objective: **To understand and truly experience the Great Commandment love with family and friends in our immediate surroundings.**

Introduction:

Do you long for a deeper and more meaningful relationship with those God has placed in your life? Have you discovered that personal issues with aloneness may have caused you to be insensitive or less effective in relating to the needs of those in your immediate surrounding or to what can be called your “Jerusalem”? There is good news; God has a perfect plan for you and wants you to understand His perspective for discovering Great Commandment Love in your Jerusalem. He has designed us not only to need him but to need one another.

Where does your Jerusalem begin? Our Jerusalem should begin with those closest to us and move outward towards others. We should share God’s Love first in our own Jerusalem in order for our ministry to be relevant. Relevant ministry has to begin with your nearest relationships.”² We who may consider ourselves mature Christians must be careful in applying God’s Word so that it is not only directed to the rational mind, but also captures the human heart.³ God’s desire is to channel His compassionate love through us to draw those nearest to us to Him. When we show loving kindness and are attentive to those who are in need we are demonstrating God’s Great Commandment of love.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth”. [Acts 1:8]

¹ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998

² Ibid, 146

³ Ibid

Discussion Point #1:

How does my relationship with my spouse have a direct impact on my relationship with God? ⁴

God's desire is to express His love through us to our spouse. He urges us to pursue an intimate relationship with Him and our spouse. Therefore, we must cultivate both and nurture the relationship with our spouse because it reinforces our relationship with Him. If we fail to consider and respect our spouses, our prayers could go unanswered. As indicated in the following Scriptures.

“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husband, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives”
[1 Peter 3:1]

“Husband, likewise dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.” [1 Peter 3:7]

“There is a tremendous potential for blessings and intimacy when God meets the relational needs of your spouse, children, and dearest friends through you.”

Discussion Point #2:

How can our repentance be hindered if we do not grasp the magnitude of the pain we caused others? ⁵

We can sometimes cause pain to our love ones because of our own self-centeredness and misplaced priorities. When we deny that we have caused others to suffer, then we are not likely to confess it as wrong or as a sin. The moment we agree with God, or confess, that this behavior is wrong or sinful, we can begin to move in a positive direction. When the Holy Spirit convicts us of this, proper Christian responses are to be deeply grieved, confess our sins and repent. To repent means to do a one hundred eighty degree turn from our wrong or sin towards God. It involves a change of mind, a change of heart, and commitment to God.

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.”
[2 Corinthians 7:10]

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” [1 John 1:9]

⁴ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, pg. 147

⁵ Ibid, 152

Discussion Point #3:

How does a loving pattern of behavior prompt a positive chain reaction in others?⁶

As we strive to put others first by attending to their needs, God through the power of the Holy Spirit will enable us to create new patterns of behavior that would reflect the true expression of His love. When one person reaches out to the other in respectful love and care, we begin to meet their needs for acceptance, approval, attention, affection, comfort, appreciation, and more. Exhibiting loving patterns of behavior promotes a positive and healthy response in others that could become contagious. Productive behaviors produce positive outcomes such as functional families, open communication, and intimate relationships⁷, all of which are pleasing to God.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” [2 Corinthians 5:17]

Biblical Exercise: Pray that God will enable you to experience the love relationship He wants you to enjoy with everyone in your Jerusalem. As God answers your prayers prepare to share your testimony to encourage and strengthen others through your praise report.

⁶ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, pg. 154

⁷ Ibid, 156

The Great Commandment of Love:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” [Matthew 22:37-40]

The Great Commission:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age. [Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV]

Monthly Biblical Exercises

December, 09 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Forgiveness*

January, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Relevance for ‘The Never Alone Church*

February, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *People Need God and One Another*

March, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Responding to Vital Relational Needs*

April, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Meeting Needs of Others with Scripture*

May, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Ministering to Fallenness and Aloneness*

June, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Ministering by Knowing God Intimately*

October, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Ministering by Knowing God Intimately #2*

November, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Where Great Commandment Love Begins*

December, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *God’s Priority for Ministry*

January, 2011 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Great Commandment Love/Your Jerusalem*