

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
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Detroit, Michigan 48208
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“The Never Alone Church”¹

Lesson 15: “Experiencing Biblical Truth in Ministry”

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 God’s plan for empowering us with Biblical Truths for Ministry.**

Introduction:

Does your teaching ministry to others reflect your application of Biblical Truths in your life? How would you grade your knowledge and use of Biblical Truths when ministering to others? Which areas of your life are you prayerfully asking the Lord to help you develop or overcome, so that you will become more effective or fruit bearing through your ministry with others for His purpose?

“In order to restore biblical relevance to the twenty-first-century church, we must fully embrace the proposition that God intends his truth to be lived out in our relationships with him and one another. *Only the Spirit-led experience of biblical truth can touch people at the point of their deepest need and replace aloneness with the intimacy of relationships. ...Relationships with God and others deepen as we experience God’s Word together.*”²

This lesson will employ group discussions for the purposes of developing four principles, which David Ferguson outlined for Experiencing Biblical Truth in Ministry.

Discussion Point #1: *Great Commandment Love Thrives When the Living Word Becomes a “Living Epistle”*

We grow in our relationship with the Lord by our obeying His Word, experiencing and sharing the relevance God’s biblical truths has on our lives with others. “Only God-ordained relationships can remove aloneness, and God has left us clear direction for enjoying such relationships: *Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.*”³ (Matthew 4:4 NASB) As true believers we are called to “*walk in the newness of life.*” We were bought with a precious price and our lives ought to reflect the principles of God’s Word. We are living epistles; it has been said that we may be the only bible that some may read. **We should be compelled to allow the Living Word to transform us into a Living**

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

² Ibid 241

³ Ibid 241

Epistle as we live out and share the relevance of biblical truths with others. “Only when we become personally vulnerable to God’s Word are we prepared to lead others in relevant encounters with God.”⁴

“Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:16 - 17 NLT)

Discussion Point #2: *Great Commandment Ministry Thrives When Teaching and Preaching are Experiential*

“Relevant teaching of God’s Word not only challenges hearers to obedience but brings them to the point of experiencing a deeper relationship with God and others.”⁵ God provided His living Word for conversion and to empower His people to feel the assurance of His presence as we draw others to Him. God’s Word secures us to experience His truth for personal growth in righteous behavior as it transforms our character to become His ambassadors for others. Experiential teaching is a powerful way for believers to first apply Biblical truths to their own lives and to bring others to Christ.

“Times of meditation that touch the heart of God stir the human heart to great joy and overwhelming gratitude. They help produce a constraining love that empowers right living.”⁶

“All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that every man of God may be equipped for good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Discussion Point #3: *Great Commandment Ministry Thrives When People are Emotionally Free to Live in the Present*

Many people are victimized by the burden of past experiences and need God’s biblical truths for comfort to experience the hope that lies ahead as they strive to develop a genuine faith in God. Christ died to set us free from the penalty and power of sin. Through our embracement of God’s Word, and our joy and appreciation for the gift of salvation, we can live boldly in the present with confidence in our future with His blessed assurance. *“Hurt is healed through the blessing of comfort. Matthew 5:4 says “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* When ministry is relevant, others are taught to offer words of comfort when someone mourns a relational hurt.⁷

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.” (John 10:10 NLT)

“So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t

⁴ Ibid, 245

⁵ Ibid, 247

⁶ Ibid, 250

⁷ Ibid, 253

get tied up again in slavery to the law.” (Galatians 5:1 NLT)

Discussion Point #4: *Great Commandment Ministry Thrives When Ministry Provides an Intergenerational Focus*

In today’s family structure many grandparents have primary responsibility for raising grandchildren. We have experienced a significant change from traditional household relationships with three generations of family members. There is an obvious breakdown in many families today. This may be attributed to the loss of the extended family. Most parents are not spending enough time with their children. Instead, they are replacing quality time with material goods and compromising Godly values.⁸ Our families must return to our first love, Jesus Christ, who should be the center of our lives. You are challenged to begin by bringing the family together for Bible Study to deepen their understanding of His Word and to strengthen their relationship with Christ and with one another.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right, “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesian 6:1-4)

Biblical Exercise:

Which of the four principles from this lesson will you consider to become more effective in ministering to the aloneness and needs of others?

⁸ Ibid 257

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

Month	Year	Monthly Biblical Exercise
December	2010	Forgiveness
January	2010	Relevance for ‘The Never Alone Church
February	2010	People Need God and One Another
March	2010	Responding to Vital Relational Needs
April	2010	Meeting Needs of Others with Scripture
May	2010	Ministering to Fallenness and Aloneness
June	2010	Ministering by Knowing God Intimately
		Summer Break
October	2010	Ministering by Knowing God Intimately #2
November	2010	Where Great Commandment Love Begins
December	2010	God’s Priority for Ministry
January	2011	Great Commandment Love/Your Jerusalem
February	2011	Great Commandment Love w/Family of Origin
March	2011	Great Commandment Love w/Cherished Children
April	2011	Restoring Great Commandment Ministry/Church
May	2011	Experiencing Biblical Truth in Ministry
June	2011	Upon This Rock I will Build My Church