

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

**Lesson 5: Great Commandment Love Meets Needs As People
Experience Scripture**

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

Objective: **To understand how the Holy Scripture can be applied to become more relevant to the church body when it is heard, received, and experienced.**

Healthy relationships, within the church help the church to grow, mature, and flourish. Unhealthy relationships hinder the growth of the church. Hurt, pain, and lack breeds unworthiness, envying, jealousies, manipulations, dissensions, and strife. Whereas when the Great Commandment of Love that Jesus gave to the church is practiced, the needs for comfort, encouragement, attention, appreciation, and respect will be met and will breed security, confidence, self-worth, and peace.

Often people behave in unseemly ways because of unmet relational needs in their lives. Helping them to experience the Biblical truth through application of the Scripture can have positive outcomes. According to David Ferguson, teaching and explaining Scripture helps people to be more **informed**. Illustrating how Scripture applies to our lives helps us to **understand** the practical aspects. But, it is when we are invited to **actively experience** the applications of **God’s Word** in a real and tangible way, the vital needs of people are met and lives are impacted.¹ **Through experiencing Scripture, the Great Commandment Love meets the real needs of people.**

We are able to love one another only because we have grown to cherish and share how much we are loved by God!

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” —John 3:6

Our ability to share the Great Commandment of Love with Biblical truths in our relationship with others flows from our love relationship with God. **Since we know that the Word of God will not return void, are we willing to rely on His faithfulness to His Word to fulfill His purpose for our lives?**

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

— Isaiah 55:11

¹ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, 58

We need to assess where we are with Five Vital Relational Needs. **This month take these needs into consideration and intentionally plan how to reach out to others within the church.** We encourage group discussions on how these needs can be met through study and application of the Holy Scriptures.

Discussion Point #1:

- Are we actively **experiencing** the applications of **God's Word** in meeting other's need for comfort, encouragement, acceptance, attention and respect?

“And the King shall answer and say unto them. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of thee my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” –Matt. 25:40

Discussion Point #2:

- Regardless of any unmet needs in our own personal lives, can we evaluate where we are in the practice of meeting the needs of others with the Word of God.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” —John 1:12, 13

Once we begin using the Word of God to help others in need, God is faithful to provide for our own unmet needs. All too often, our focus gets stuck on ourselves and our limited ability until we rob ourselves of the blessings and healings, both emotional and spiritual, that flow from God as a result of the power of applied Scripture in helping someone else.

Whether we are meeting the need as they arise in others or not, we need to pray that God will help us become more spiritually sensitive, discerning, and supportive so that we may help our brothers and sisters through the Word of God in their areas of need.

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. —John 6:63

On the chart that comes with this lesson are five relational needs with a space for an exercise under each one. Discuss with your group, ways that you can reach out to others to help them in need areas for comfort, encouragement, acceptance, appreciation, and respect. Below are two ideas to consider.

Biblical Exercise One: Experience the Lord's blessings by sharing how your reference to the Word of God enabled you to express God's commandment of Love to help someone with a *vital relational need*.

Biblical Exercise Two: "Share a scripture from Matthew 22: 37- 40 with a family member, church member, ministry member, colleague, co-worker, etc. and extend to him/her an act of love (an invite to an activity, small token (monetary or tangible), offer assistance with a specific need, or give a complimentary statement. Adjust this activity to your group's vital relational need or create a new one. Vital Relational Needs applied through this activity: encouragement, appreciation, respect"

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*

Five Vital Relational Needs¹

Five Vital Relational Needs	Scripture	Result of Needs Unmet	Examples of Meeting Needs
Comfort: Giving strength and hope; easing the grief or pain; hurting with; consoling	The God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)	Failure to receive comfort for emotional hurts can hinders inner healing and spiritual growth.	Call them, listen to them, and pray with them.
Exercise: Brainstorm ideas with your group for ways to practically apply the Word of God to meet this need in others.			
Encouragement: urging forward and positively persuading toward a goal; Inspiring with Courage, Spirit or Hope; Stimulating	Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)	When people are not encouraged, they may grow weary and give up.	Sending an encouraging letter or card to someone who is discouraged or deprived of hope.
Exercise: Brainstorm ideas with your group for ways to practically apply the Word of God to meet this need in others.			
Acceptance: deliberate and ready reception with a favorable response; receiving willingly; regarding as good and proper	Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)	Failure to receive acceptance causes an inability to understand ones worth in the Father's eyes.	Take time to acknowledge the person.
Exercise: Brainstorm ideas with your group for ways to practically apply the Word of God to meet this need in others.			
Appreciation: recognizing with gratitude; communicating with words and gestures personal gratefulness for another person; praising	I praise you for remembering me in all things. (1 Corinthians 11:2)	When people are not properly appreciated, they may struggle with feelings of insignificance.	Freely express your gratitude for both small and great things.
Exercise: Brainstorm ideas with your group for ways to practically apply the Word of God to meet this need in others.			
Respect: Valuing and regarding highly; conveying great worth; esteeming; honoring	Show proper respect to everyone. (1 Peter 2:17)	When people do not receive our respect, they may feel ignored and unimportant.	Willingness to show consideration by accepting another's beliefs and behavior when it differs from ours.
Exercise: Brainstorm ideas with your group for ways to practically apply the Word of God to meet this need in others.			

¹ Ferguson, David, The Never Alone Church, Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House, 1998,45-52