

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
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“The Never Alone Church”

Lesson 6: Great Commandment Love Reflects the Heart of God

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 explain the experience and demonstration of God’s Love as we minister to people who are struggling in states of fallenness and/or aloneness.

Do we recognize the similarities and differences in peoples’ behavior to identify their need? Do we understand what people are feeling and what to say in our conversation with them? Fallenness relates to sin that is demonstrated in the commission and omission of acts of disobedience to God. The period after Adam and Eve’s disobedience is often referred to as “the fallen state” or “after the fall.” Aloneness is isolation or loneliness people feel in the absence of support for their *relational needs*. Unmet *relational needs* can prompt aloneness and can lead to a state of fallenness.

Many people need the church family to support and strengthen them during states of “fallenness and aloneness.” We as a body of believers must willingly share our knowledge and experiences through the healing power of the Word of God.

Daniel Ferguson, author of *The Never Alone Church*, points out that, “*Jesus was deeply concerned about the spiritual needs and the relational needs of those He taught and served.*”¹

The aloneness can be supported through heartfelt compassion for relational needs. The person’s state of fallenness or the sin nature and any Spiritual need can be addressed through a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Word of God which followers of Christ can share with them. Paul in his epistle to the Galatians wrote:

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

(2) Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

(Galatians 6:1-2)

As we model lessons taught by Jesus, we must be prepared to share His love which is revealed in His Word to bring a new revelation, encouragement, and strength to those in need. When we allow God to speak to our heart, he gives us a “*Tongue of*

¹ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, 80

the Learned” so that we will have something to share with those who are in need. In other words, the Holy Spirit is able to instruct us on what to say. It is essential for us to focus on the Word, mind, and heart of Jesus as we relate to others His never-ending love.

“The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary, He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as he learned.”² (Isaiah 50:4)

Discussion Point #1:

- What did Jesus do to demonstrate His love and support for the fallen state of the Samaritan woman He encountered at the well?
- *In John 4, Jesus demonstrated love and acceptance for the Samaritan woman before He challenged her to change her behavior. As a woman, she was viewed by most of that day as “inferior” to men. As an adulteress, she was an outcast even among women. Moreover, she was a Samaritan. Jesus broke the social custom by initiating a conversation with her. By lovingly meeting her at the point of her need for attention and acceptance, Jesus gained the opportunity to minister to her spiritual need, leading her to repentance.³*

Discussion Point #2:

- What did Jesus do to demonstrate His love and support for the fallen state of the man at the pool of Bethesda?
- *In John 5:6, Jesus invited the man to admit his helplessness by asking him, “Do you want to get well? The man humbly admitted his aloneness with the words “I have no one to help me into the pool (v.7). The man obeyed the command of Jesus to pick up his bedroll and walk. Instantly, he was healed. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, ‘See you are well again. Stop sinning.’”⁴*

What did Jesus model for us to do as we encounter people in their fallen state?

Discussion Point #3:

- What did Jesus teach to help us understand about the power of the Great Commandment of love for those experiencing aloneness?
- *May they [His followers] be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17:23)*

² *Daily Bread*, April 19, 2010

³ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, 82

⁴ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, 83

“And those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which seem to be less honorable, on these bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lack it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. (1Corinthians 12:23-25 NKJV)

Biblical Exercise One: Present how someone ministered to your need in the way Jesus taught us, when you were in a state of fallenness or aloneness.

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*