



FULLY DEVOTED
THE SIX MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

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SERMON SCHEDULE & SYNOPSIS

The last instructions from Jesus before He ascended to heaven were – as you live your everyday ordinary lives, make disciples. If you have put your trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have a mandate from Jesus. What are the distinguishing marks of a disciple of Jesus at Charter Oak Church? In this series we will take a deep dive into how to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

January 18/19

Devoted Worshippers

Acts 2:42-47

We want to be people who are committed to worshipping God, people who can't get enough of Him, people who long to gather corporately, and alone daily in prayer and Bible study.

January 25/26

Generous Stewards

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

We want to be people who hold loosely to the things of this world by giving away a significant portion of our wealth to the work of God.

February 1/2 (Communion Weekend)

Deployed Missionaries

Romans 10:14-15

We want to be people who go locally, regionally, and globally to heal spiritual, material, and relational poverty wherever God may send us.

INTRODUCTION

This study is designed to help you grow in Bible literacy and Bible application. In doing so, it has three goals: First, it seeks to deepen your understanding of a sermon series in an all church study in a way that will enable you to retain what you learn. Second, it seeks to train you to ask better questions of any biblical text on your own. Third, it seeks to help equip you and challenge you to do what the Bible teaches.

Many of us come to our study of the Bible eager to pull from its wisdom that which will help us to live differently. And we should. But before we can move from awareness of what we don't know of the text to awareness of what we should do in response to the text, we must move through the learning process. This study is designed to help you learn and employ that process.

It is a simple formula of approaching the text for comprehension, next for interpretation and finally for application. Each stage of this learning process asks a critical question:

- **Comprehension** asks, "What does it say?"
- **Interpretation** asks, "What does it mean?"
- **Application** asks, "How should it change me?"

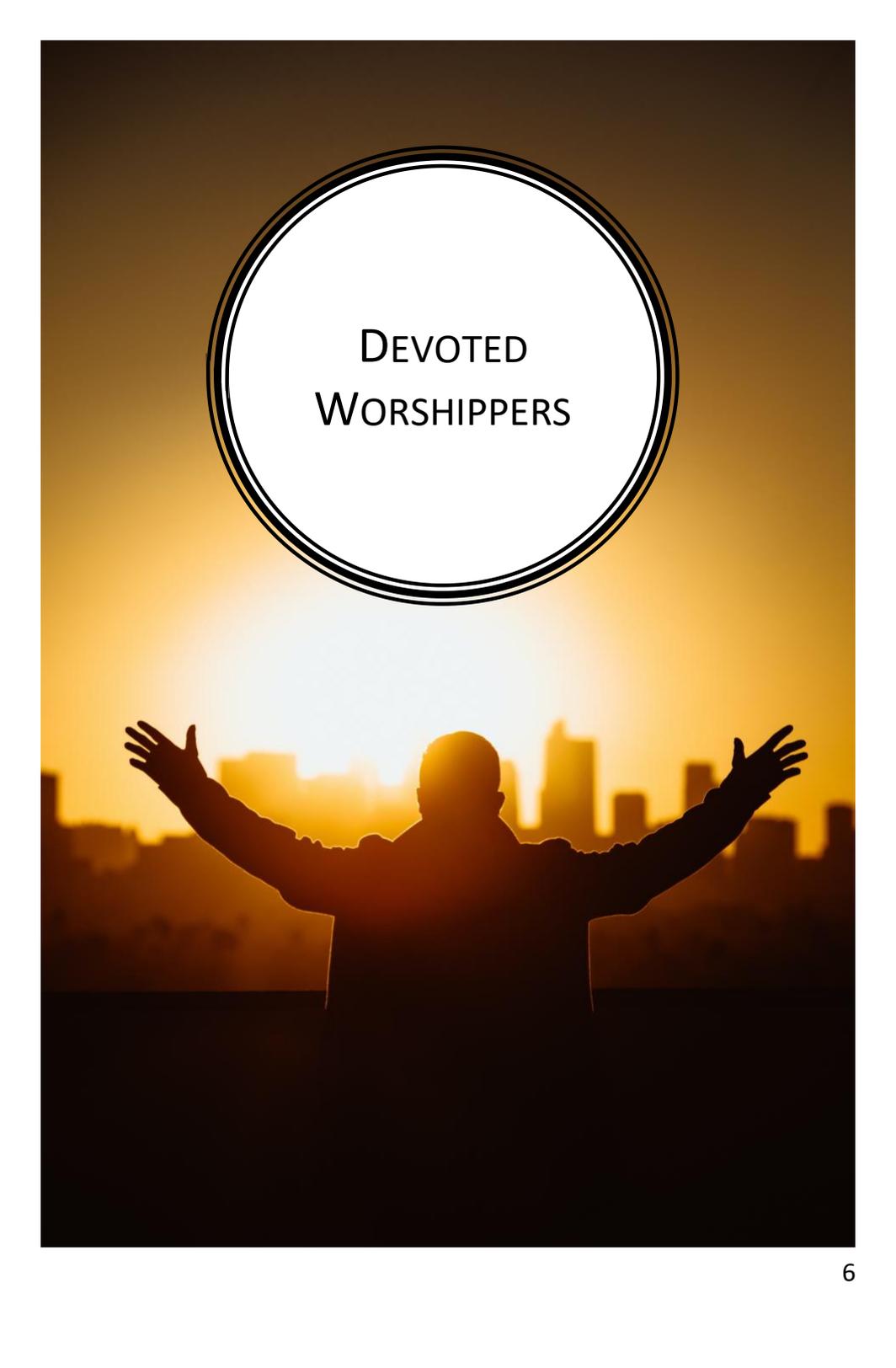
If we rush too quickly to application, we short-circuit the learning process and limit our ability to retain what we have learned. Not only that, but application that is not built on careful comprehension and interpretation is unlikely to be faithful to the text. All three steps matter. But they require patience on our part.

Reading the Bible can be confusing. Because nobody likes to feel lost or confused, most of us rush to a commentary or the internet as quickly as possible to resolve our discomfort. That is actually the first sign that learning is about to occur, the first step in gaining and holding on to understanding. We need to learn to welcome the discomfort as a sign that our minds are being prepared for receiving instruction.

Because of this, for the purpose of our study here, please do not reference commentaries or the internet until comprehension, interpretation and application have been earnestly attempted on your own. In other words, wait to read commentaries or search the internet until after you have completed the homework, attended small group time and listened to the teaching. And then consult outside sources that you can trust.

One of the most important skills we can develop as students of the Scriptures is learning to look for what is true about God as we read. At the end of each week meditate on what you have learned about God in that week's portion of the text.

Finally, as you will see there is a daily reading plan. There are six days to give you a make up day each week just in case you miss a day or two. The point of this part is to get into the Bible each day. If you aren't reading a specific Bible plan, this will be a great way to get into the habit of reading your Bible.

A person in silhouette stands with arms raised against a sunset city skyline. A large white circle with a double black border is overlaid on the image, containing the text "DEVOTED WORSHIPPERS".

DEVOTED
WORSHIPPERS

BIBLE READING PLAN

DAY 1

- Psalm 71:7-8
- Psalm 100

DAY 2

- Psalm 98
- Romans 11:36
- Revelation 4:8-11

DAY 3

- Psalm 149:3
- Psalm 150
- John 4:23-24

DAY 4

- 1 Chronicles 16:23-31
- Psalm 145
- Matthew 19:26

DAY 5

- Psalm 103
- Matthew 23:11-12
- Colossians 3:23-24

DAY 6

- Psalm 121
- Habakkuk 3:17-18
- Hebrews 11:6

DEVOTED WORSHIPPERS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week 1! The goal for this week is not to necessarily cover all of the questions and discussion points below. Instead, it is about becoming more like Jesus, surrendering your life more fully to Him, learning to listen to His voice, and then to put into action in your everyday, ordinary life.

As the previous pages described – it’s about comprehension, interpretation, and application. And as you will see – it’s also about multiplication.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

This week we are talking about worshipping our heavenly Father. Make a list of all of the ways you can worship God by yourself...

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Make a list of all of the ways you can worship God with others...

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-
-

What is your first memory of worshipping in a church building? What do you remember?

Who has had the greatest influence on you as worshipper?

COMPREHENSION – What does it say?

Read **Acts 2:42-47**, aloud.

- Underline all of the verbs.
- What stands out to you about the action that is occurring in the early church?
- What's differences do you see between those first worship gatherings and how most churches worship?

Now, take turns reading each verse out loud, then put each verse into your own words to describe what is being written.

- **Acts 2:42**
- **Acts 2:43**
- **Acts 2:44**
- **Acts 2:45**
- **Acts 2:46**
- **Acts 2:47**

Put yourself into the context of what is being written here. If you were there...

- What would you feel?
- What would you think?
- How would your life be different because of these gatherings?

INTERPRETATION – What does it mean?

I hope that you have come to the conclusion that these words in **Acts 2** are more of a lifestyle than they are a one hour gathering once a week. These are new believers in Jesus. Their lives have been dramatically transformed because of the eyewitness accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus at Charter Oak Church, we want to be devoted worshippers who...

- Are **committed** to worshipping God.
 - **Acts 2:42**
 - What do you think it meant to be committed to worshipping God in the early church?
 - Why do you think it says they “devoted” themselves?
 - What does it mean for you to be committed to worshipping God?
 - What does it mean for you to be devoted to gathering with other followers of Jesus?

- Can’t get **enough** of Jesus.
 - **Acts 2:43**
 - What does it mean to be filled with awe?
 - Describe a time you have been filled with awe.
 - What does it mean to treasure Jesus above all else?
 - How would you rate your passion for Jesus?

- Gather together **corporately** every week.
 - **Acts 2:46**
 - Why do you think the average attendance in most churches is once every three to four weeks?
 - What do you think it would take for people to choose to be in worship every week?
 - Do you think the primary reason we gather in worship each week is for the people or for God? Why?

- **Pray** and **read** our Bibles daily.
 - **Acts 2:42**
 - What would it take for you to spend time talking with God every day, that is beyond praying for a meal or an emergency situation?
 - What would it take for you to spend 5-15 minutes a day reading the Bible?

APPLICATION – What should I do?

We want to be people who are devoted worshippers. We want to be people who are committed to worshipping God, people who can't get enough of Jesus, people who long to gather corporately and alone daily in prayer and Bible study.

Devoted worshippers don't see worship as something you experience once a week when you have time in your schedule. It's a lifestyle. Worshipping God permeates every aspect of your life as a follower of Jesus.

Gather together corporately every week...

- How will you protect your schedule so that you can be in weekend worship every week, unless you are sick or out of town?

Daily read you Bible and pray...

- How will you protect your schedule so that you can spend dedicated time with God in prayer?
- What Bible reading plan will you start?
 - Download the Bible app for ideas

Take ownership of your faith...

Your small group can provide a great environment to learn and grow together. You are the only one who can actually be a disciple of Jesus in your everyday, ordinary life.

- What does it mean for you to take ownership of being a devoted worshipper?
- How can your small group help you?

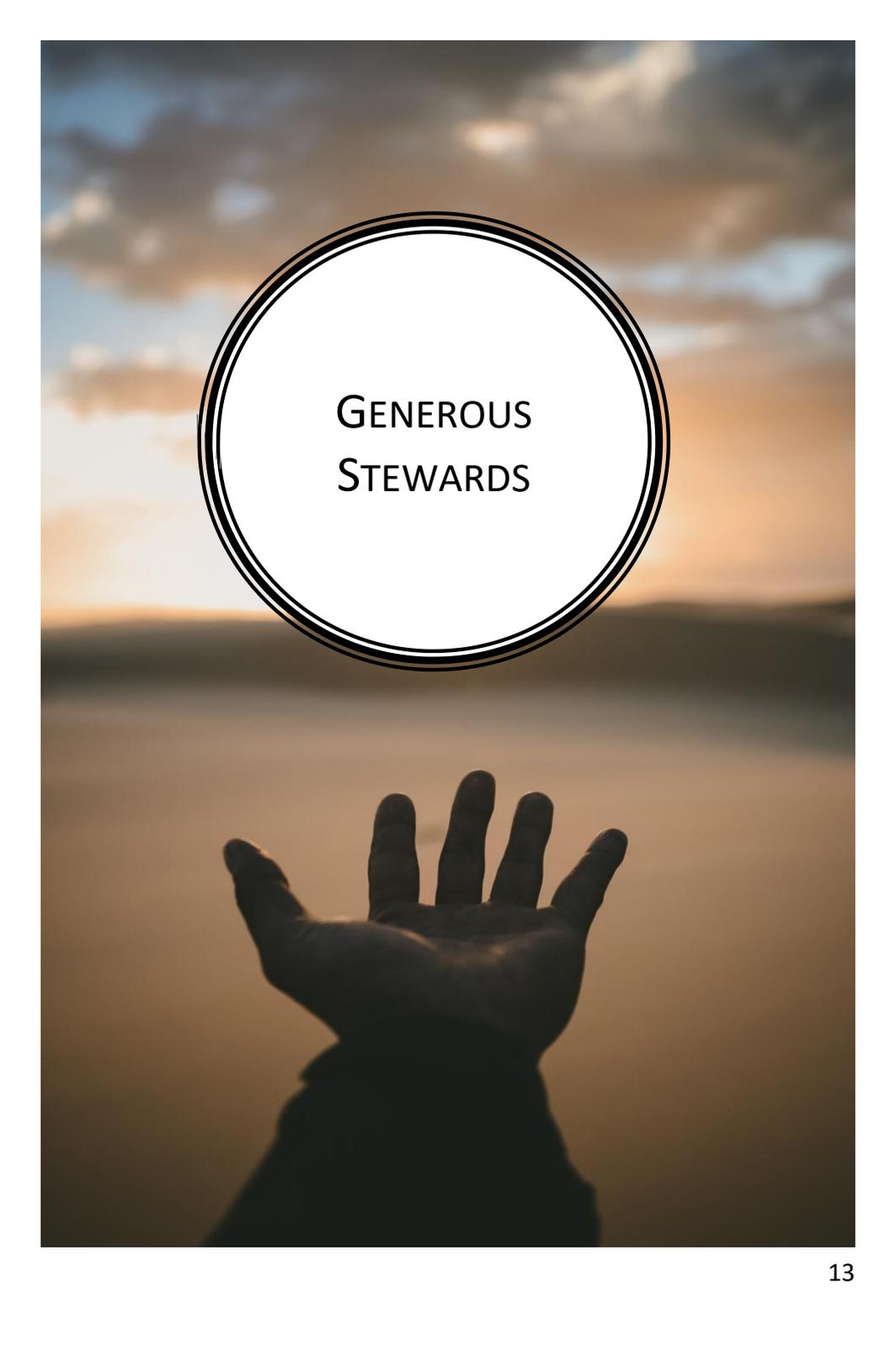
MULTIPLICATION – Who will I tell?

It's very important that you tell at least one person what you have learned from **Acts 2:42-47** in the next day or two.

- Who will you tell?
- What will you tell them?

PRAYER

Close by praying for each person in your group by name – each person taking a turn. Don't worry about having all the right words. Simply talk to your heavenly Father about the person to your right, each person taking a turn praying for the person beside them.

A hand is shown in silhouette, reaching upwards from the bottom of the frame. Above the hand is a large, glowing white circle with a double black border. Inside the circle, the words "GENEROUS STEWARDS" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked on two lines. The background is a soft-focus sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with warm orange and yellow tones in the sky and a darker horizon line.

GENEROUS
STEWARDS

BIBLE READING PLAN

DAY 8

- Isaiah 32:1-8
- Luke 4:18-19

DAY 9

- Matthew 4:12-17
- Mark 1:9-15

DAY 10

- Psalm 50:7-15
- Deuteronomy 12:1-7

DAY 11

- Matthew 18:21-35
- Luke 4:18-19

DAY 12

- Exodus 20:8-11
- Deuteronomy 15:1-11

DAY 13

- Leviticus 25:23-34
- Romans 6:1-6

GENEROUS STEWARDS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week 2! The goal for this week is not to necessarily cover all of the questions and discussion points below. Instead, it is about becoming more like Jesus, surrendering your life more fully to Him, learning to listen to His voice, and then to put into action in your everyday, ordinary life.

As the introduction described – it's about comprehension, interpretation, and application. And as you will see – it's also about multiplication.

Last week we asked you to share something you learned from **Acts 2:42-47** with someone else. What did you share? What did you do with what you learned? How did you apply it to your life?

DISCUSSION STARTERS

This week we are talking about being generous stewards. When was a time that someone was extravagantly generous to you? How did you feel? What did you want to do in response?

When was a time that you were extravagantly generous to someone else? Why did you choose to be generous in that way? How did the person react? How did you feel afterwards?

List 5 instances from the Bible when God was generous...

Example: When God provided water from a rock in the desert.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What do you think prevents people from being generous? What prevents you from being generous?

COMPREHENSION – What does it say?

Read **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**, aloud.

- Underline all of the verbs.
- What stands out to you about the people who are being generous?
- What do you think Paul is feeling as he is writing these words?

Now, take turns reading each verse out loud, then put each verse into your own words to describe what is being written.

- **2 Corinthians 9:6**
- **2 Corinthians 9:7**
- **2 Corinthians 9:8**
- **2 Corinthians 9:9**
- **2 Corinthians 9:10**
- **2 Corinthians 9:11**
- **2 Corinthians 9:12**
- **2 Corinthians 9:13**
- **2 Corinthians 9:14**
- **2 Corinthians 9:15**

Put yourself into the context of what is being written here. If you were Paul and on the receiving end of this generosity...

- What would you feel?
- What would you think?
- How would your life be different because of this generosity?

INTERPRETATION – What does it mean?

I hope you are getting the sense that there was the overwhelming feeling of joy and gratefulness from Paul because of the generosity of the people who gave to the work of God that Paul was leading. They made an investment that demonstrated the depth of their relationship with God.

Paul teaches there are two kinds of giving...

1. How not to give...

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

- When you hear the words “sparingly”, “reluctantly”, and “under compulsion”, what comes to mind?
- What do think Paul is trying to communicate by using these three words?
- When was a time when you would describe the way you gave as being sparingly, reluctantly, or under compulsion?
- Why did you give that way?

2. How to give...

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

- When you hear the words “generously”, “decidedly”, and “cheerfully” what comes to mind?
- What do you think Paul is trying to communicate by using these three words?
- When was a time when you would describe the way you gave as being generous or cheerful?
- When was a time you decided in your heart to give when it didn’t really make sense to give in that way?

Make a list of reasons why you think people have for not giving at all, not giving generously, or not giving cheerfully.

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What are the heart issues related to the list created above?

What do you know about God or faith in God that addresses the discipleship (heart) issues that are listed about?

Read **2 Corinthians 9:10-11**.

- What do you think the perspective of a farmer is toward seed?
- Is the seed an investment or a loss?
- The farmer who sows seed doesn't think about losing the seed, the farmer thinks about gaining a crop.
- How does this line of thinking influence the way you think about being generous in your giving?

APPLICATION – What should I do?

As disciples of Jesus at Charter Oak Church, we want to be people who hold loosely to the things of this world by giving away a significant portion of our wealth to the work of God.

Generous stewards don't see all that God has given to us to be hoarded, but to be invested to equip Christians to be fully devoted followers of Jesus and to reach out to those who are searching with the Gospel.

10-10-80 Principle

- Give 10% to the work of God at Charter Oak Church
- Save 10%
- Live off of 80%

This is a model of how to order our finances as disciples of Jesus. It gives us a biblical framework for investing in the work of God in a generous way, protecting our family from life's emergency situations, and protects our hearts from the temptation toward greed.

- Which one of these do you think is the most difficult for you to live within? Why?
- Which one do you think will add the greatest value to your life and your relationship with God? Why?
- When you stand before God one day, will you be extraordinarily grateful for the investment you made in the work of God at Charter Oak Church? Why? What changes will you make to be sure that you can answer "yes" to this question?

Take ownership of your faith...

Your small group can provide a great environment to learn and grow together. You are the only one who can actually be a disciple of Jesus in your everyday, ordinary life.

- What does it mean for you to take ownership of being a generous steward?
- How can your small group help you?

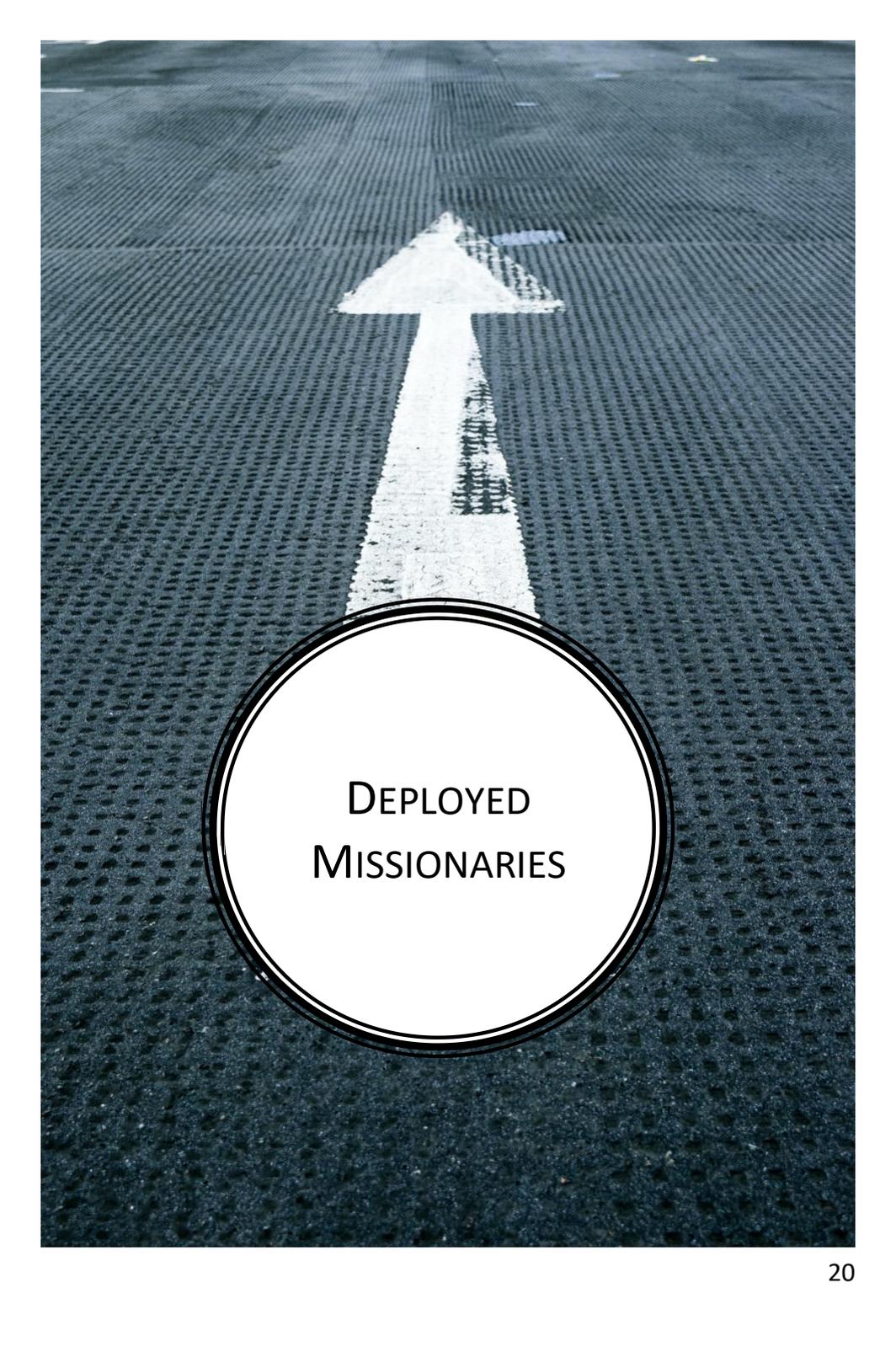
MULTIPLICATION – Who will I tell?

It's very important that you tell at least one person what you have learned from **2 Corinthians 9:6-15** in the next day or two.

- Who will you tell?
- What will you tell them?

PRAYER

Close by praying for each person in your group by name – each person taking a turn. Don't worry about having all the right words. Simply talk to your heavenly Father about the person to your right, each person taking a turn praying for the person beside them.

An aerial photograph of a dark asphalt road with a white arrow painted on it, pointing towards the horizon. The road is flanked by a grid of small, dark, rectangular markers. In the foreground, a white circular graphic with a black border is centered over the road. Inside the circle, the words "DEPLOYED" and "MISSIONARIES" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

DEPLOYED
MISSIONARIES

BIBLE READING PLAN

DAY 15

- Proverbs 2:3-10
- James 1:5-7

DAY 16

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Revelation 7:9-10

DAY 17

- John 3:36
- Romans 10:13-15

DAY 18

- Matthew 19:27-30
- Luke 9:23-25

DAY 19

- Psalm 27:1
- 2 Corinthians 9:8

DAY 20

- Romans 8:18
- Romans 8:28

DEPLOYED MISSIONARIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to week 3! The goal for this week is not to necessarily cover all of the questions and discussion points below. Instead, it is about becoming more like Jesus, surrendering your life more fully to Him, learning to listen to His voice, and then to put into action in your everyday, ordinary life.

As the introduction described – it’s about comprehension, interpretation, and application. And as you will see – it’s also about multiplication.

Last week we asked you to share something you learned from **2 Corinthians 9:6-15** with someone else. What did you share? What did you do with what you learned? How did you apply it to your life?

DISCUSSION STARTERS

This week we are talking about being deployed missionaries. When you think about a missionary, what comes to mind?

What do you think qualifies someone to be a missionary?

- Do you know anyone who has served full time in another country?
- Do you know someone who has gone on a short-term mission trip?
- Do you know someone who has served in our country for disaster relief?
- Do you know someone who has served in our community to care for someone in need?

After considering these difference scenarios, what's your definition of a missionary? Now, what do you think qualifies someone to be a missionary?

Have you ever served on a short-term mission trip? If so, share your experience with your small group.

Have you ever gone somewhere in the US to do disaster relief? If so, share your experience with your small group.

Have you ever served locally to meet the needs of someone else? If so, share your experience with your small group.

COMPREHENSION – What does it say?

Read **Acts 1:8**, aloud.

- Underline all of the places.
- What stands out to you about these places?
- Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to be witnesses? Why are firsthand witness accounts important?
- What do you think would have happened if the disciples had chosen not to be witnesses for Jesus?

Read **Romans 10:14-15**, aloud.

- Underline all of the verbs.
- What stands out to you about this call to action?
- What do you think Paul is feeling as he is writing these words?

Now, take turns reading each verse out loud, then put each verse into your own words to describe what is being written.

- **Romans 10:14**
- **Romans 10:15**

INTERPRETATION – What does it mean?

I hope you are getting the sense that this call to spread the good news about Jesus isn't just for professional missionaries. We are all called to be missionaries wherever we are. Our mission field starts at our front door.

In these words in **Romans 10**, we have a pretty clear picture of how the gospel spreads to all the peoples of the world. Jesus sends people who proclaim the gospel. People hear the gospel proclaimed. People believe that gospel when they hear it. They call on the name of the Lord. They are saved.

At the root of this need to go proclaim the gospel is the alleviation of poverty. Most people think of poverty being a lack of money or material possessions. Biblically, poverty began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit.

Types of Poverty

- Spiritual – how would you describe the brokenness in our relationship with God?
- Relational – How would you describe the brokenness in our relationship with others?
- Material – How would you describe the brokenness in our need to have more stuff?

Before people are open to hearing the gospel, they need to be healed of the poverty of their brokenness.

Where have you seen and/or experienced spiritual poverty?
(Fear of God)

Where have you seen and/or experienced relational poverty?
(Feelings of shame or conflict with others)

Where have you seen and or experienced material poverty?
(Not having enough to live on)

As disciples of Jesus at Charter Oak Church, we want to be deployed missionaries who go...

- Locally
- Regionally
- Globally

...to heal...

- Spiritual
- Material
- Relational

APPLICATION – What should I do?

As disciples of Jesus at Charter Oak Church, we want to be people who go locally, regionally, and globally to heal spiritual, material, and relational poverty wherever God may send us.

Deployed missionaries realize healing the brokenness and poverty around them is the clearest way to have the opportunity to bring the gospel into people's lives who desperately need to hear it.

Locally...

- Where would God send YOU to heal spiritual, material, or relational poverty close to your home?

Regionally...

- Where would God send YOU to heal spiritual, material, or relational poverty in Westmoreland County?

Globally...

- Where would God send YOU to heal spiritual, material, or relational poverty on a short-term mission trip?

Take ownership of your faith...

Your small group can provide a great environment to learn and grow together. You are the only one who can actually be a disciple of Jesus in your everyday, ordinary life.

- What can you do this week close to home to bring healing into someone's life?
- How can your small group help you?

MULTIPLICATION – Who will I tell?

It's very important that you tell at least one person what you have learned from **Romans 10:14-15** in the next day or two.

- Who will you tell?
- What will you tell them?

PRAYER

Close by praying for each person in your group by name – each person taking a turn. Don't worry about having all the right words. Simply talk to your heavenly Father about the person to your right, each person taking a turn praying for the person beside them.