

The Witnessing Disciple

Seeing God at Work through Spiritual Conversations



The **SECOND** in a Series of **6** Small Group Studies



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church





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- 1 Welcome everyone and open with prayer.**
- 2 Introduce every group member** (10-15 minutes).

Go around the group and have every member answer the following questions aloud:

- What is your name?
- What is your connection to MDPC or to another Christian fellowship?
- What in the past seven days has been really good news for you?

(Please note each member's time should be brief. If 10 members speak for five minutes, you will have taken 50 minutes to introduce yourselves!)

- 3 Read aloud about The Equipped Disciple Series, The Witnessing Disciple Course, and Group Expectations** (10 minutes).

The Equipped Disciple is a multi-course small group curriculum developed at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Each course lasts six sessions, with each session approximately 60-70 minutes. (To take up to 90 minutes, simply extend the group's participation in one or more areas of the session's lesson plan as desired.)

There are six 6-session courses designed for *The Equipped Disciple*, including this course you are starting now. The courses are, in order of when they'll be available:

- *The Growing Disciple* (February 2020)
- *The Witnessing Disciple* (April 2020)
- *The Studying Disciple* (August 2020)
- *The Giving Disciple* (October 2020)
- *The Praying Disciple* (February 2021)
- *The Serving Disciple* (April 2021)

Another multi-course series of small group curriculum, *The Maturing Disciple*, is scheduled to launch in 2022.

This course, *The Witnessing Disciple*, has the sub-title *Seeing God at Work through Spiritual Conversations*. Each session will focus on one specific aspect of Christian witness that will enable you, with the power of the Holy Spirit, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ through spiritual conversations with your family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Most sessions will include study and discussion on a biblical passage relevant to being a faithful witness. Also, each session will include opportunities to grow in your spiritual practices, such as devotional reading, Scripture memory, and prayer. In addition, you will develop skills for enjoying spiritual conversations with others, including working through a personal faith inventory, developing your personal faith story, and practicing how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a caring, respectful, and understandable way. Directions for those leading a group are found in the session materials themselves, not in a separate leader's guide.

So your group will be a fruitful and joyful experience, each member will strive to embrace the following:

- Commit to attending consistently.
- Contribute to a group climate of mutual trust, respect, honesty, and vulnerability.
- Discuss willingly. This is not a lecture. Your input is vital!
- Prepare in advance for the upcoming group session, barring unexpected events. (If such events occur, come to the session anyway.)

- Write in this guide. (But remember, this is not a writing class. Brief notes may suffice.)
- Bring your Bible every time. Ordinarily, biblical passages won't be printed in the guide.
- Anticipate that the Holy Spirit will do something in you during this time of focus.

4 Read, study, and discuss as a group Matthew 28:16-20 (25 minutes).

Read Matthew 28:16-20 in a Bible translation of your choice, then reflect upon your responses to the following questions and statements. Feel free to write down comments, thoughts, and notes in the spaces below. When you meet as a group, read Matthew 28:16-20 aloud. Then take one question at a time as a group, share your responses, and discuss your answers with one another.

What stands out to you from Matthew 28:16-20 as you read it this time? Something new and fresh? Something you've known before but never thought of in quite this way? Or yet something else? Express briefly to the group what it is and why it appeals to you.

If Matthew 28:16-20 was left out of the Bible, what would be lacking when it comes to following Jesus? What problems would this absence cause the Christian faith? What other passages in the Bible help us with Matthew 28:16-20?

What from Matthew 28:16-20 raises questions in your mind? Share your concerns with the group and discuss some possible responses.

Write Matthew 28:16-20 in your own words. Share it with the group.

Many call this passage the "Great Commission." What does this nickname claim or imply about what is emphasized here?

What is God saying to you about your discipleship through Matthew 28:16-20? How do you need to act upon the Holy Spirit's direction this week?



5 Read aloud about devotional Bible reading and responding (5 minutes).

We just finished a Bible study. Another encounter with Scripture growing disciples need to practice often is the devotional reading of the Bible. The consistent devotional reading of Scripture is an important way to experience the continuing presence and guidance of Christ.

For our 6-session course, we will read Acts 1-20 together as our group's devotional reading. (Note: if you are already a consistent reader of the Bible, well done! For the group's time together, though, please either add Acts to your present reading or substitute Acts for your reading plan.)

We will divide this marvelous, compelling story of the early Christian church in this way:

- Before Session 2, read chapters 1-4 of Acts.
- Before Session 3, read chapters 5-8 of Acts.
- Before Session 4, read chapters 9-12 of Acts.
- Before Session 5, read chapters 13-16 of Acts.
- Before Session 6, read chapters 17-20 of Acts.

You have great flexibility in how you schedule the passages from Acts. For example, you may:

- Read a portion each day.
- Read a chapter a day for four days, giving you three days off.
- Read the first half of the passage one day and the second half another day.
- Read the entire assignment.

Please do not read mechanically. Reflect upon what you read as you read, and prayerfully discern God's guidance for you. In your study guide's appendix, you will find Reading Response Forms to help you answer two questions of each weekly reading from Acts:

- "Of all I have read from chapters _____ in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?"
- "What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?"

Please write your responses in the space allotted. In the remaining group sessions, you'll have the opportunity to share how God has been working through your devotional reading time.

6 Read aloud this introduction to Scripture memorization (5 minutes).

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11, ESV)

Memorizing anything, especially Bible verses, gets little respect in our day. With the availability of search engines and smart phones, why bother? All you have to do is Google what you want, and there it is! However, Psalm 119:11 insists that storing God's word within our hearts (in other words, memorizing Scripture!) can be an effective means of enabling and strengthening faithful Christian living. It's true Scripture memory will take some effort and determination. But it is well worth it.

Our memory verses for this course are Matthew 28:18-20. These three verses neatly and effectively sum up Jesus Christ's commission for developing growing disciples. We'll memorize them from the NIV so we can help one another more easily:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20, NIV)

Some helpful hints for memorizing are:

- Write out the verses in longhand. Something about writing imprints the words on your memory. For some, repeated writing in longhand is quite helpful.
- Write the verses on a 3" x 5" card. Carry it with you and refer to the verses often.
- Say the verses aloud as you practice.
- Break up the verses into their smaller phrase units. Start with the first phrase and work on it until you are comfortable. Then add the second phrase. Continue to add phrases as you learn the verses bit by bit.
- Reflect on the verses' meaning. Connect the verses with their significance for your life.
- Don't forget to include the Scriptural reference and translation at the end, such as "Matthew 28:18-20, NIV." (Studies have shown it's helpful to know where to find in the Bible the verses you memorize.)
- Practice often and review regularly. "Overlearning" is often what's needed to break through.

Starting at our next gathering, you will divide into pairs for a brief time of practicing your verses. One will say the verses and receive the helpful correction (if needed) of the other. Then the roles will reverse. You will continue this rhythm through the group sessions. You will want to work on your verses in advance in order to take advantage of this opportunity.

7 Talk about what's needed for next time (5 minutes).

Review the homework:

- Please prepare the Bible study on 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 for "Session 2: Core," and be ready to share.
- Read Acts, chapters 1-4, and complete the Reading Response Form in the Appendix.
- Start memorizing Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) and be prepared to practice with a partner at the next session.

Solicit prayer requests from group members, including prayer for the group.

8 Close the gathering in prayer.

- 1 Welcome everyone and open with prayer.
- 2 Greet and “check in” with group members (5 minutes).
- 3 Share from your Reading Response Form for Acts, chapters 1-4, and discuss (10 minutes).
- 4 Read, study, and discuss as a group 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 (35 minutes).

Christianity is not believing whatever you want to believe about Jesus as long as you're sincere. Instead there is a core content to the gospel upon which your life must be grounded. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 in a Bible translation of your choice, then reflect upon your responses to the following questions and statements as you explore the gospel's core. Feel free to write down comments, thoughts, and notes in the spaces below. When you meet as a group, read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Then take one question at a time as a group, share your responses, and discuss your answers with one another.

As you read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9, what jumps out at you from both passages—either affirmations or questions? Why?

What is the Apostle Paul summarizing in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, according to 1 Corinthians 15:1-2? Write this summary in your own words. Why is this summary particularly significant for the Christian faith in general? For you personally?

What other biblical passages elaborate upon the gospel summary given in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8? How do they expand upon this summary? (Hint: Two important passages to read are Romans 5:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. There are many others.)

How does Ephesians 2:8-9 communicate the only effective means of responding to Jesus Christ? What two words are front and center in the text? What are their significance?

According to Ephesians 2:8-9, what is clearly not an effective means of responding to Jesus Christ? Why do you think this is so?

How does the effective response to Jesus Christ mentioned in Ephesians 2:8-9 differ from the response our popular culture holds a person should give? Why is this difference important to grasp? To share?

When you combine the teaching of 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9, how is Jesus revealed? Where do you see Jesus at work today?

Describe how the gospel of Jesus Christ, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9, is a reality in your life. What difference has the gospel made to you?

Name a truth from 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 that a friend, loved one, neighbor, or colleague needs to hear from you. How might you share it with them this week?

5 Divide into pairs and practice saying the memory verse without notes (10 minutes).

(NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) You probably have made progress on memorizing Matthew 28:18-20. If so, wonderful! If you are struggling, remember God is with you as you memorize these verses. Go as far as you’re able. You will have an opportunity next time to continue your work.

6 Talk about what’s needed for next time (5 minutes).

Review the homework:

- Please prepare the Bible study for “Session 3: Conversation” on Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6, and be ready to share.
- Read Acts, chapters 5-8, and complete the Reading Response Form in the Appendix.
- Work on memorizing Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) and be prepared to practice with a partner at the next session.

Solicit prayer requests from group members, including prayer for the group..

7 Close the gathering in prayer.



- 1 Welcome everyone and open with prayer.
- 2 Greet and “check in” with group members (5 minutes).
- 3 Share from your Reading Response Form for Acts, chapters 5-8, and discuss (10 minutes).
- 4 Read, study, and discuss as a group Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6 (35 minutes).

Read Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6 in a Bible translation of your choice, then reflect upon your responses to the following questions and statements. Feel free to write down comments, thoughts, and notes in the spaces below. When you meet as a group, read aloud Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6. Then take one question at a time as a group, share your responses, and discuss your answers with one another.

What is the “who-what-when-where-how” of both Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6?

Focus on Acts 16:11-15. The setting is Paul and Silas’ journey to Philippi. What method of witness do they employ with the Philippians once they arrive? Why do you think they choose it?

In Acts 16:14-15, who responds to Paul and Silas? What is noteworthy or interesting about this person? How does this person interact with Paul and Silas? What happens in this conversation?

In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul is requesting prayer from the Christians in the city of Colossae. For what? How does this request connect with what comes next in Colossians 4:5-6?

Concentrate on Colossians 4:5-6 for a moment. Describe your impressions of the tone as well as the content of the conversations Paul wishes the Colossians to enjoy. How might we replicate this in our world today?

Some equate talking with people about Jesus and His gospel to making a high-pressure pitch that pushes for an immediate decision. In light of Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6, how do such comparisons stand up?

As you think back over your experiences, what kinds of conversations have you most enjoyed? What conversations have you found helpful? Life-giving? Life-changing?

Both Acts 16:11-15 and Colossians 4:2-6 note the reality of God-empowered conversations. Have you ever experienced a conversation with someone that God seemed to be present in and enabling? What did it look like? Sound like? Feel like?

What is God saying to you about your conversations? How do you need to act on His guidance this week?

5 Divide into pairs and practice saying the memory verse without notes (10 minutes).

(NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) If you haven’t yet memorized Matthew 28:18-20, you no doubt have made great progress. Go as far as you’re able. You will have an opportunity next time to continue your work.

6 Talk about what’s needed for next time (5 minutes).

Review the homework:

- Please prepare the short Bible study for “Session 4: Confidence” on Philippians 1:3-6, and be ready to share.
- *NEW: Complete the Personal Faith Inventory and be ready to share. You will find the inventory on p. 12 in this guide. To experience the greatest benefit, please complete your inventory before the group meets again.*
- Read Acts, chapters 9-12, and complete the Reading Response Form in the Appendix.
- Work on memorizing Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) and be prepared to practice with a partner at the next session.

Solicit prayer requests from group members, including prayer for the group.

7 Close the gathering in prayer.



- 1 Welcome everyone and open with prayer.**
- 2 Greet and “check in” with group members (5 minutes).**
- 3 Share from your Reading Response Form for Acts, chapters 9-12, and discuss (10 minutes).**
- 4 Read, study, and discuss as a group Philippians 1:3-6 (20 minutes).**

Read Philippians 1:3-6 in a Bible translation of your choice, then reflect upon your responses to the following questions and statements. Feel free to write down comments, thoughts, and notes in the spaces below. When you meet as a group, read aloud Philippians 1:3-6. Then take one question at a time as a group, share your responses, and discuss your answers with one another.

What speaks to you from Philippians 1:3-6 as you read it this time? Express briefly to the group what it is and why it appeals to you.

Look at Philippians 1:6. What has been started? What will be carried to its completion? What is being emphasized here in the life of the Christ-follower?

How is it meaningful to you that God continues to work in and through you? Looking back on your life, identify and share one event or circumstance in which you experienced (or experience now) this reality.

How may God be encouraging you in your Christian witness? What signs of His presence and power have you noticed in your relationships? Your conversations? Your opportunities?

What is God saying to you about your spiritual growth through Philippians 1:3-6? How do you need to act upon the Holy Spirit's direction this week?

5 Read aloud the directions below. Then share and discuss your responses to the Personal Faith Inventory (20 minutes).

One way you grow in being faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ is to converse about your own faith journey in a safe, supportive environment. The Personal Faith Inventory, adapted from an inventory developed and used by MDPC senior pastor Alf Halvorson, provides a means to develop your skills in spiritual conversations. Please respond to the statements below in the space provided.

Divide into pairs or triads (2-3 people) to share and discuss your responses to the Personal Faith Inventory below. (NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) Taking one statement at a time, please be open and responsive with each other. Remember, you do not have to share anything that makes you uncomfortable.

My first recollection of being in church is when...

Complete the following sentence: I was baptized in the _____ church by _____ when I was _____ years old.

The closest I've ever felt to God in my life was... (Please share the occasion, date, and time if possible.)

The time I felt the greatest distance from God was... (Please share the occasion, date, and time if possible.)

If I could name a turning point in my life for my relationship with God, it would be...

If I had to tell someone why I am a Christian, I would say...

In the last two months, God has impacted my life by...

6 Divide into pairs and practice saying the memory verse without notes (10 minutes).

(NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) If you have not memorized these verses yet, don't worry! Say what you can. Continue to work on Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV). You will have an opportunity next time to show how far you have come.

7 Talk about what's needed for next time (5 minutes).

Review the homework:

- Please prepare the short Bible study for “Session 5: Call” on Matthew 9:35-38, and be ready to share.
- **NEW: Complete the Faith Story outline and be ready to share. You will find the instructions and outline on pp. 13-14 in this guide. Please write out your story before the group meets.**
- Read Acts, chapters 13-16, and complete the Reading Response Form in the Appendix.
- Continue your work on Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) and be prepared to practice with a partner at the next session.

Solicit prayer requests from group members, including prayer for the group

8 Close the gathering in prayer.



- 1 **Welcome everyone and open with prayer.**
- 2 **Greet and “check in” with group members** (5 minutes).
- 3 **Share from your Reading Response Form for Acts, chapters 13-16, and discuss** (10 minutes).
- 4 **Read, study, and discuss as a group Matthew 9:35-38** (20 minutes).

Read Matthew 9:35-38 in a Bible translation of your choice, then reflect upon your responses to the following questions and statements. Feel free to write down comments, thoughts, and notes in the spaces below. When you meet as a group, read aloud Matthew 9:35-38. Then take one question at a time as a group, share your responses, and discuss your answers with one another.

How does Matthew 9:35-36 set the scene? What context does it provide?

Jesus states in Matthew 9:37 that “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (NIV). What do you think He means by this statement? What does Jesus ask the disciples to pray about in Matthew 9:38?

What is encouraging about seeing humanity as a field ready for harvest? Challenging? Liberating?

How does Matthew 9:35-38 reveal the strong, abiding love of Jesus for people today? How can we join in the work Jesus is doing right now?

- 5 **Divide into pairs and share your Faith Story** (25 minutes).

Your experience with the Personal Faith Inventory has set you up well for an important way to serve as a faithful witness for Jesus Christ: preparing, practicing, and sharing your Faith Story.

What is your Faith Story? It’s not a monologue, but a conversational way you can share what God has done and is doing in your life when He presents you with opportunities to talk with others. It is a 3-5-minute story that flows around three vital points:

- ***Your life before Christ.*** What did your life revolve around before Him? What did you lean on for hope, security, or purpose? If you grew up in a Christian home and cannot recollect a time before Christ, please discuss how your faith became yours and not simply that of your parents.
- ***When Christ brought you to Himself.*** It doesn’t need to be an electrifying experience like the Apostle Paul’s. You simply describe how a living faith in Jesus

Christ became real to you. You may share struggles you experienced, or how you moved from “knowing about” Jesus to “knowing” Jesus, or when you gave Jesus control of your life as your Lord.

- **Your life since Christ.** Your life is by no means perfect, so you shouldn't feel compelled to imply otherwise. You are not the hero of this story. But how has Jesus made a difference in you? What motivates you now? How have you grown? What personal challenges remind you of your ongoing need for grace?

Prepare your Faith Story (outline, notes, or manuscript) on a separate piece of paper. Remember to write as you speak, not for an English essay. Be honest and short (3-5 minutes!). Pray as you work on it.

Bring your Faith Story with you to the group meeting. In the group, you will divide into pairs and share your stories with one another. (NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) You may read it or speak extemporaneously. As time permits, you will get into a different pair and share your story again. If you keep to the 3-5 minute time recommendation, you may have two opportunities to practice your story and to listen to someone else's story. Please give each other helpful feedback and encouragement.

After you finish sharing your Faith Story and listening to others' stories, spend a few minutes as a group and debrief your experience. What made you nervous? What encouraged you? What will you do differently next time? What has this experience revealed to you about yourself and God?

6 Divide into pairs and practice saying the memory verse without notes (5 minutes).

(NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) We are coming down the home stretch for memorizing Matthew 28:18-20. Chances are you are well prepared by now to say the entire passage without referring to your notes or needing any prompts from your practice partner. If not, continue to work on Matthew 28:18-20 for the last session. You can do it!

7 Talk about what's needed for next time (5 minutes).

Review the homework:

- **NEW: Develop and practice your Gospel Presentation and be ready to share.** On pp. 15-16 of this guide, you will find instructions and options for your review. Please choose one option to prepare for the next group meeting. There is no Bible study for “Session 6: Communication.” This is designed to give you more time to work on your Gospel Presentation.
- Read Acts, chapters 17-20, and complete the Reading Response Form in the Appendix.
- Review Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) and be prepared to say it with a partner at the last session.

Solicit prayer requests from group members, including prayer for the group.

8 Close the gathering in prayer.



- 1 **Welcome everyone and open with prayer.**
- 2 **Greet and “check in” with group members** (5 minutes).
- 3 **Share from your Reading Response Form for Acts, chapters 17-20, and discuss** (10-15 minutes).
- 4 **Prepare and practice your Gospel Presentation** (40 minutes).

As you start to prepare your Gospel Presentation, please consider the following:

What is the gospel of Jesus Christ? How do you communicate it lovingly and clearly to another person? Some Christians believe only ordained ministers can do this. Those people would be wrong. All followers of Jesus Christ are encouraged to tell the good news to others.

God wants you to take 1 Peter 3:15 seriously when it states, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (NIV). Being prepared when God brings an opportunity to you is yet another way you are a faithful witness of Jesus Christ through your conversations.

Therefore you want to have a Gospel Presentation ready as occasions present themselves in God’s providential timing. You also want to communicate the gospel with “gentleness and respect.” When this sort of communication happens in real life, it’s not a monologue. Often there are questions and responses as the listener ponders the message. In other words, the result is a dialogue between friends.

The most helpful presentations have a visual component to them. Not a video file, but a central illustrative drawing that doesn’t require any artistic talent and can be drawn on a random piece of paper or a napkin. The drawing, together with the speaker’s description, helps the listener understand and apply the presentation.

It’s helpful to see someone deliver a presentation of the gospel as you seek to prepare one yourself. Thanks to YouTube, you may watch the presentation of your choice repeatedly as you take notes and practice it on your own.

Perhaps the most influential Gospel Presentation today is titled “The Big Story.” Its developer is James Choung, vice president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA. You may watch Choung himself deliver “The Big Story” in a conversational manner with a two-part presentation on YouTube at the links below. The total presentation lasts just over 6 minutes. (Please click on the links below, search for James Choung or “The Big Story” on YouTube, or type the link into your web browser.)

- “The Big Story Part 1” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCVcSiUUMhY&feature=youtu.be>)
- “The Big Story Part 2” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4V60n6KiB8>)

Another influential Gospel Presentation is from the Anglican Church of New South Wales, Australia, and their media ministry, Matthias Media. The title is “Two Ways to Live.” The Australians have been witnessing in a secular and pluralistic society for decades, and they have devised many innovative ministries as a result. Tony Payne of Matthias Media delivers “Two Ways to Live” with a central illustration on a single sheet of paper. (Please click on the link below, search for “Two Ways to Live” or Tony Payne on YouTube, or type the link into your web browser.)

- “Two Ways to Live” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbcvuu8lCFg>)

You are free to select “The Big Story,” “Two Ways to Live,” or another Gospel Presentation of your choice. As you investigate these and other presentations, you will see that most presentations move through at least four phases or stages:

1. How God intended everything to be for humans and for creation as a whole.
2. Why things aren’t presently as God intended and why.
3. The steps God has taken to reconcile and restore things to the way He intended them to be.
4. The human response to God’s initiative that He desires.

Before the next group meeting, please choose the Gospel Presentation that best suits you. Watch and study this presentation several times. Take notes. Practice the drawing and the speaking, seeking not to memorize but to convey in your language the presentation’s message. Keep your presentation no more than 6-7 minutes in length. Remember, there is no Bible study this session, giving you more time to work on your presentation.

Then bring your notes with you to the group meeting. In the group, you will divide into pairs and practice your Gospel Presentation with one another. (NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) As time permits, you will get into a different pair and practice again. If you keep to the 6-7 minute recommendation, you should have at least two opportunities to practice your presentation and to listen to someone else’s presentation. Please give your friends helpful feedback and encouragement.

After you finish sharing your Gospel Presentation and listening to others’ presentations, spend a few minutes as a group and debrief your experience. What made you nervous? What encouraged you? What will you do differently next time? What has this experience revealed to you about yourself and God?

5 Divide into pairs and practice saying the memory verse without notes (5 minutes).

(NOTE: If you are meeting via Zoom, your host will need to set up the “breakout room” feature.) It is likely you can say Matthew 28:18-20 without referring to notes or needing any help from your practice partner. If not, please keep working on it. Your effort in retaining God’s word will bear fruit in your life in its appropriate season.

6 As you close in prayer, share at least one benefit you have experienced from participating in *The Witnessing Disciple*. Share your prayer praises and requests as you continue your Christian growth. Give thanks to God for His grace and encouragement (5 minutes).

Reading Response Forms for Acts

For Session 2 • Chapters 1-4

Of all I have read from chapters 1-4 in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?

What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?

For Session 3 • Chapters 5-8

Of all I have read from chapters 5-8 in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?

What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?

For Session 4 • Chapters 9-12

Of all I have read from chapters 9-12 in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?

What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?

For Session 5 • Chapters 13-16

Of all I have read from chapters 13-16 in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?

What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?

For Session 6 • Chapters 17-20

Of all I have read from chapters 17-20 in Acts, what has made the deepest impression upon me and why?

What may God be communicating to me as a result? How might I respond to God's leading?

