



Iron Sharpens Iron

David Froese



Disciple Making

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Introduction

These steps of discipleship are based on a correlation of teachings that Jesus used to train the twelve, the seventy, and the 120 that were all sent out in pairs to make disciples. Jesus trained as their leader, but the work was done by the people of his church. Similarly, we are taking a stand that each and every person needs to be committed to make disciples in order to be obedient to God's command. If the Church Leaders are expected to make disciples all by themselves, we have clearly missed the way that Jesus prescribed to the early church. If we claim to be God's followers and are not able to make disciples, we had better learn, or stop claiming to be God's. We must be willing to do what God has commanded us, and that is to "Go and make disciples."

This study is intended for small groups, accountability partners or individuals simply seeking to grow in Christ. There are seven chapters containing seven steps of making disciples. The entire purpose of learning the steps and becoming a disciple of God is to glorify Him by teaching them to in turn teach someone else. If you learn the seven steps and do not teach others and make disciples, you have clearly wasted time puffing yourself up, as was the habit of the Pharisees.

The steps are based on Carl Wilson's book, *With Christ in the School of Disciple Building: A Study of Christ's Method of Building Disciples* (Fayetteville: Worldwide Discipleship Assc. Books, 1976). If you would like further study on the topic, the book is available in the FFC library.

In addition to the steps of discipleship, you will find a worksheet for the Biblical process of change, and an illustration depicting the responsibility of the man in protecting his home.

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1. Repentance & Faith

Repentance in the Greek is metanoia, comprised of meta which means beyond (metaphysical=beyond the physical) and noia which has as it's meaning knowledge. Thus repentance defined is beyond knowledge, a new way of thinking. This entails that an individual who has been granted repentance is in a state of mind in which they have a change of mind regarding their own personal past life of sin, and have turned to trust God for a new life and forgiveness. Repentance prepares people to become disciples.

At this conversion, people stop seeking their own will and begin seeking Christ's will. Read Matthew 12:46-50 right now. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a person will deny themselves, and daily take up their cross to follow Christ. As long as a person has confidence in self, they will continue to trust in themselves and will not yield their will to God. As long as a person's affections are set upon selfish idols, they are not teachable.

When we admit that there is nothing we can do but trust God to grant us forgiveness, we have yielded to God. God desires a personal relationship with us. It is up to us to desire a personal relationship with God above all else. If we have a checklist of things that we need to do, we are like the Pharisees and God is not pleased. When we have a love relationship with God, desiring to spend time with Him studying the Bible and praying, above serving ourselves; when we are obedient with our actions and not just intentions, God will be glorified.

Bottom Line

In order to turn from our sinful ways and become a new creation, we must deny ourselves daily, take up our cross, and follow God.

Personal Inventory

What does repentance look like in your life?

In what ways are you actively denying yourself?

What are the areas you need to surrender?

Weekly Reading

Monday: Read Matthew 3:1-12.
What was John the Baptist's message? (vs 2)

Tuesday: Read Matthew 4:12-17,
What was Jesus message that He came preaching?

Wednesday: Read Matthew 8:23-27, 17:14-21
What was Jesus' response to doubt?

Thursday: Read Romans 2:1-5, 16
What was the main problem of the Jews? When God's favor is mistaken for favoritism, what is the result?

Friday: Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-11.

Can you define the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? What does God demand?

Saturday: Read Galatians 5:16-25.

What is your daily battle? What does the fruit of the Spirit look like when it is evidenced in your life?

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any personal things you can do to gain worthiness and enter heaven? Where is your dependence?
2. In what way(s) does an individual manifest their desire to put a relationship with God above any personal gain?
3. If our personal actions do not merit salvation, why should we submit our actions to God's word?

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2. Enlightenment & Guidance

To become disciples of Christ, we need to first understand Who our Leader is and follow Him. It is very important to understand at this point that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, without whom we have to pay with our own death for our sins.

As believers, we must dig into God's Word while being fervent in prayer, seeking a personal relationship with God. Without God's Word as our base, we stand on shaky ground. Through the teaching of God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will learn to be gentle, which refers to not ramming our opinions down others throats, but instead using the Word of God as our basis for what we believe.

As a Church, we stand on the Word of God alone, and not on any person's opinion. Opinions will always divide the Church, and Doctrine ("Thus saith the Lord") is what unites us as a Church.

We must learn to love others because Christ first loved us. People will know we are followers of Christ because of the love of God which flows through us to others. We must learn to show this love by being firm about what God says, in stirring each other up towards loving one another, to be obedient as opposed to letting sin go on without standing up for what is righteous.

We must realize that God could not even look at His very own Son Jesus when He carried the sin of the world. God cannot look at, touch or deal with sin. When God looks at us, the only way we can be saved is if Christ steps in between and says He has paid our penalty. We must love every day, realizing that Christ not only died for our sins, but He also rose again from the dead, and thus we must bow our every desire to our Living Lord.

If we serve ourselves, we have not become a new creation. If we truly trust Christ as our Savior, we will become a new creation and view the world in a different manner, desiring to do God's will, instead of being forced to.

Bottom Line

Our old nature involves duty void of devotion. (A checklist mentality). Our new attitude is one of pleasing God, not seeing how far we can go to edge without sinning.

Personal Inventory

What is becoming a new creation in your life?

What is the difference between duty and devotion?

What regulations/rules do you adhere to that are not biblically based?

Weekly Reading

Monday: Read Luke 24:13-27.

What was the reason that Christ suffered?

Tuesday: Read Luke 24:36-49.

Does Jesus reveal Himself to His disciples? How?

Wednesday: Read Matthew 3:13-17.

What was the reason Jesus gave John the Baptist for His needing to be baptized?

Thursday: Read John 1:29-34.

What was the testimony of John the Baptist regarding Who Christ was?

Friday: Read 2 Corinthians 5:12-21 What is the ministry that disciples have been given? What is a disciples driving force?

Saturday: Read Romans 15:4-7. What is the source of unity for believers?

Discussion Questions

1. How can we manifest a personal love relationship with God?
2. At what point in your life did you become a new creation?
3. What is the difference between the old and new man?

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3. Ministry Training

The continuing growth of Jesus' disciples involves ministry training. Just as our own body needs to eat, drink, and exercise, disciples of Jesus must not only ingest the lessons in discipleship, but must also exercise what has been learned. A disciple must be a good steward of the Gospel by sharing with others.

If we are faithful in a little, we will receive a greater reward and greater responsibility. Read Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, Jesus Christ calls us to invest the knowledge we have learned from Him by doing and sharing the gospel with others. If no one in a church other than the Pastor can evangelize and teach others to become disciples, the Church cannot grow.

Jesus taught others how to share the Gospel, and sent them out two by two. He did not have others send their unbelieving friends to Him; He trained them to share the Good News. This step is crucial as it follows Jesus' final command to "Go and make disciples of all nations." We must proclaim the Gospel with our voices, as well as live such a life that others will be convicted by their own words if they talk negatively about us (1 Peter 3:16).

We must also be diligent to teach others the narrow road of being a disciple of God. If we tell others to be converted by simply saying a prayer and we do not train them over a long period of time, we will make them sons of Hell, and we ourselves will be sons of Hell (Matthew 23:13-15).

Bottom Line

We must train and equip new believers, with the goal that they will be better followers of Christ than we are.

Personal Inventory

Who will you share the Gospel with?

What is the plan that you are following to disciple? In what way is follow up & intense teaching from God's truths involved?

How would you respond to the statement: Fear has to do more with laziness, and a lack of faith in the power of the Lord?

Weekly Reading

Monday: Read John 4:46-54.

What did the man's belief lead him to do?

Tuesday: Read Matthew 4:18-22.

What does following entail? (think of playing follow the leader as a child, does it mean wanting to or doing?)

Wednesday: Read Matthew 25:14-30.

In this parable, what was the excuse that the unfaithful man gave for not doing anything?

Thursday: Read Luke 12:35-48.

How can you ready yourself today for the Lord's return?

Friday: Read Luke 19:1-10
Who is it that Jesus has come to save?

Saturday: Read Matthew 23:1-12. What is the main tenet of Jesus' teaching regarding self-exaltation?

Discussion Questions

1) What would hold someone back from sharing the truth of the Gospel?

2) Who will you encourage to be faithful to teach others & make disciples?

3) In whose strength can these things be accomplished?

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4. Leadership Development & Government under God

Perhaps the greatest failure of the Church in North America is that Christian men have not been spiritual leaders of their families. Men have the responsibility to be leading their families in times of Bible study, prayer, and service in the church.

Leadership begins within families and once that responsibility is assumed, Church leadership will flow from this family leadership structure. The Bible is clear, that men are to be servant-leaders within the Church and also carry the privilege to teach younger men to be serious about serious things. Women are to teach and lead the younger women. This is something that we often take for granted, yet is sorely needed among the young people of our churches.

The Church is to have organized leadership with Elders and Deacons who are men who live in accordance to the biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 & Titus 1:5-9. These men must take the responsibility to solemnly lead and teach using Scripture as their basis or the Church will surely falter. Isaiah speaks of the result when leadership is in disarray and the results being that children will be the oppressors, (manipulate the parents) and the women will be the ones ruling (Isaiah 3:12). The firm foundation that these men stand on must be the Word of God. This bedrock of belief is vital to the health of the Church.

Bottom Line

We commonly are confronted within Christianity regarding the differences of various denominations, but the bottom line is, if the strength of each individual Church is not firm male leadership grounded in the Word of God, the Church will be overtaken by vain philosophies and people with “good intentions”. We cannot allow this, but we must be obedient to the Word of God and His commandments (John 14:15).

Personal Inventory

When it comes to Church Leadership, where do you go to form your convictions?

How much of family leadership are you involved in?

What does your leadership within your own family consist of?

Daily Reading

Monday: Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

What is the one ability, (not character quality) that an Elder must possess?

Tuesday: Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

What do vs 13 say regarding the reward that a Deacon receives for faithful service?

Wednesday: Read Ephesians 5:25-33.

What are the responsibilities a husband has regarding his wife?

Thursday: Read Joshua 8:30-35.

What is important to be the basis, the foundation of the teaching of a leader?

Friday: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

What are the distinct roles of the father and mother?

Saturday: Read Acts 6:1-7.

What are the specific responsibilities of the Elders and the Deacons as taught in this passage?

Discussion Questions

1) How can we as individuals support the Leadership of the Church?

2) Who is to be the leader of the home? What does that entail?

3) What is the role of the wife? Where do you go in Scripture?

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5. Reevaluation & Separation

The Kingdom of God is eternal and heavenly, but disciples of Jesus Christ must live this life for God's Kingdom now. Disciples of Christ must live every second of the day, in eager expectation, anticipating that time rather than living for what we can obtain in the pursuit of satiating our selfish desires on earth.

This Kingdom of God cannot be shaken, for it is not of this world. As subjects of God's kingdom we have the Hope which is everlasting. Without this hope we adhere to simply temporal values that really have no meaning and will quickly fade away. Our Hope is in eternal life, serving our Lord Jesus. This Hope is where our focus must be.

The step of reevaluation is crucial to us as believers, as we must judge ourselves in order that we will not be judged. If we constantly compare our lives to the life that Christ lived and not compare to other individuals, we will have the proper perspective. In doing so, we will be able to serve Christ with a heart that is both joyous and content.

Our hope is firmly established in that Day , the rapture in which Christ will return and take all of those Home who truly believe in Him. (1 Peter 1:13).

Bottom Line

As long as we focus our thoughts and lives on our love relationship with Christ through confession of our sin and forgiveness that His atonement provides we will continue to look forward to actually seeing Him in Heaven. This worldview is fueled by an attitude of service, we will dutifully with devotion serve our Savior, Lord and King, Jesus Christ. When we get our eyes off of Him and focus on ourselves, quite confessing our own personal sin, we get selfish which ultimately ends up in feelings of discouragement, despair and depression.

Personal Inventory

What is your worldview regarding life here on earth?

How does the fact that you are a new creation in Christ affect your decisions?

What decisions did you make yesterday that revealed that you are anxiously waiting for Christ's return?

Daily Reading

Monday: Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

What is the Gospel as explained in verses 3 & 4?

Tuesday: Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28.

What is the hope of every believer?

Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 15:29-49.

How will your hope sustain you amid persecution?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.

Describe your final victory?

Friday: Read 2 Corinthians 13:1-6.
Is self-examination worthwhile? Why?

Saturday: Read Matthew 14:22-33.
How have you, like Peter, gotten out of the boat?

Discussion Questions

- 1) Why do we become so easily self-righteous?

- 2) How can we avoid being self-righteous?

- 3) Who will you encourage today to keep their thoughts focused on Christ?

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6. Participation & Delegation

God corrects, empowers and gives wisdom. If we ask God to help us, we are coming from somewhat of a wrong perspective. God is all about His glory, His holiness. If we come with the vantage point of Him helping us, it would be with the mindset of God being subservient to us. Basically, we would be wasting our words since the fact is that yes indeed, God is ready, willing and able to help us, but we must first commit to submit to His power, His authority, and His desires.

Through participation in God's will, we will do His work, but if we ask Him to help us, we mock Him, implying that we are the ones doing the work while He is (not) helping.

In reality, God's power is always at hand, the throne of Grace is available through Christ where we find mercy and grace available. But we do not submit to it in our rebelliousness. If we truly submit to God's power, the impact upon our lives is beyond measure. Our focus must not be on applying God's will or Word to our lives, but our focus must be on what God's will is, and what God's Word says, and then applying our lives to His Word and will. Period. Our lives must be molded to fit into God's glorious will.

Therefore, we need to stop scripting plans for our lives and adding 'God's will be done' as a tag on the end, and rather start seeking to recognize where God is at work and join Him.

Bottom Line

If we are being selfish and faking it like we are walking under God's will, God will curse us as He did the Pharisees. We must realize that even our good deeds are filthy rags to the Lord, understanding He is the only Good and Righteous Thing in our lives. In our weakness, He is made strong.

Personal Inventory

Explain the difference between applying our lives to God's Word, and applying God's Word to our lives.

Why is it the wrong perspective to ask God to help me?

In what way do I supercede God in making plans?

Daily Reading

Monday: Read Colossians 1:9-18.

How can the truth expressed in this passage affect your prayers?

Tuesday: Read John 17:20-26.

How important is Church unity to God? How does this affect evangelism? (vs 21)

Wednesday: Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33.

What are the important elements of a disciples life which lead to effective evangelism.

Thursday: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12.

What are the three elements that the Apostle Paul cites that are the responsibility of a father and a Christian teacher?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Friday: Read 2 Peter 1:2-11.

What is the role of discipleship in the Christians life?

Saturday: Read 2 Peter 1:16-21.

What is the Authority in your life? How do you deal with authority in general? Is the Word of God a light for your life?

Discussion Questions

1) Have you ever used the word's "God told me..." and added something selfish on the end?

2) Do you seek wisdom from God's Word, or do you use your opinions?

3) How will you personally seek God's will?

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7. The Exchanged Life and Worldwide Challenge

In Christ's Spirit all things are possible. In and of ourselves, we can do nothing good, but through Christ we can not only be a cohesive, unified body, but also enjoy new lives. It is at this point in the maturity process of those Jesus worked with that He sent them out. Jesus sent out His disciples into the world to preach and teach the Gospel, the Good News regarding Himself and the glory of His Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We often choose not to share with someone because we are unsure what to share with an unbeliever. The place that we should start is by opening up Scripture and allowing the power of God's Word to do its work. Charles Haddon Spurgeon was quoted as saying; 'You defend the Bible in the same way you would defend a lion, just let it out of its cage and it defends itself.' Begin with someone by studying Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These are the Four Gospels which are centered around the life and message of Jesus Christ Himself. If you do not have a clear understanding of these books, you do not have a clear understanding of the Gospel and you will have an awful tough time sharing the Gospel. So it is best that we study to show ourselves approved workmen.

We must go out and make disciples, not simply teaching others what God's Word says but more importantly teaching them to obey God's Word.

Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. Jesus' last command to us was to go out and make disciples of all nations. If we neglect this command we neglect the final will of God. We must be obedient and make disciples, not just:

- 1) Talking to other strong believers about God's truths.
- 2) Telling others about Christ without teaching them to be disciples.

Bottom Line

We must be actively involved by telling others about the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Gospel who do not believe, and we must also teach them upon profession of faith in Christ to be disciples. This is a continual process that results in the disciple being able to share with others the Gospel. Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel.

Personal Inventory

What is the process of going out and making disciples? (Matthew 28:19-20)

Who do I need to be proactive with in regards to the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

How have I been studying to show myself an approved workman who does not need to be ashamed?

Daily Reading

Monday: Read Mark 1:1-8.

Describe the role of John the Baptist?

Tuesday: Read Mark 1:9-11.

Why would Jesus Christ be baptized? Look to Matthew 3:13-17 for more details.

Wednesday: Read Hebrews 5:1-11.

Jesus Christ is presented as a better High Priest than Aaron for what specific reason?

Thursday: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

What is the reason Paul rejoiced in the manner that the Thessalonians received the Word of God? What effect does the Word of God have?

Friday: Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

What changes in a person who receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives? What compels a disciple to live for Christ?

Saturday: Read Titus 2:11-14.

What does the Apostle Paul describe as the greatest motivation for Christian living?

Discussion Questions

1) Is the responsibility of making disciples optional for a Christian?

2) What would prevent us from making disciples?

3) What are the benefits of making disciples?



Change Process

Proverbs 27:17—*"As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his
friend."*

CONCEPTION James 1:12-15

Sin is conceived in our minds. What sin have you conceived in your mind? _____

CONVICTION John 16:8-11

How has the Holy Spirit convicted you regarding your sin, what Jesus would do (righteousness) and that there is coming judgment? _____

CONFESSION 1 John 1:5-10

Confession of sin means to agree with God regarding my own personal sin. What personal sin have you committed that upon conviction you see it how God does? _____

CHANGE Ephesians 4:21-24, Romans 12:1-2, Col. 3:5-17

What in your life do you need to Put Off? _____

In what way do you need to Renew your mind through Bible Study? _____

What new in your life do you need to Put On? _____

CONVINCING 2 Corinthians 7:11

Using this verse, explain how these elements are being manifested in your own life.

Earnestness to change

Eagerness to clear self: (let others know you have changed)

Indignation toward sin: In what manner do you hate your sin?

Fear (Do you now have a healthy Phobia regarding your sin?)

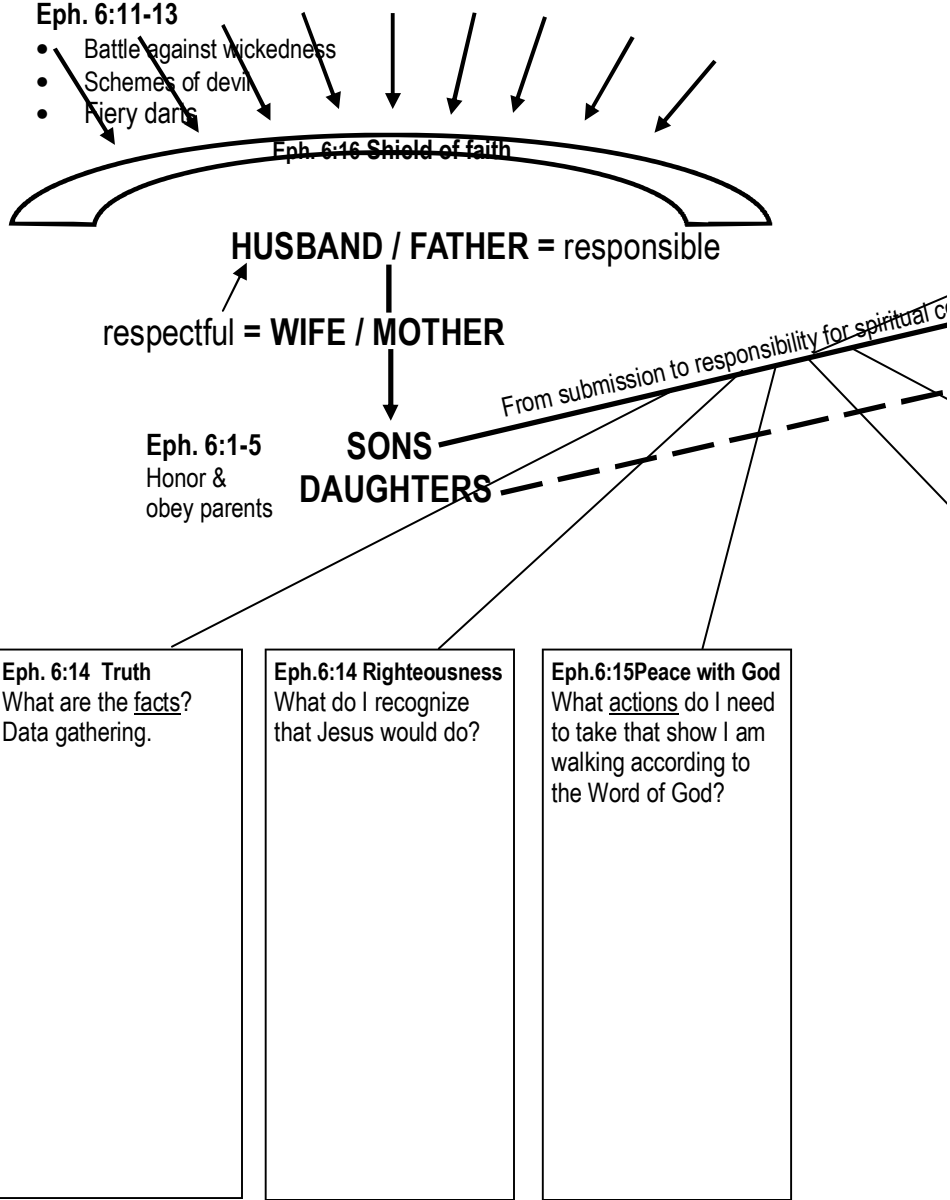
Longing: Do you ache to change?

Zeal: Are you genuine, no hypocrisy?

Readiness to see justice done:

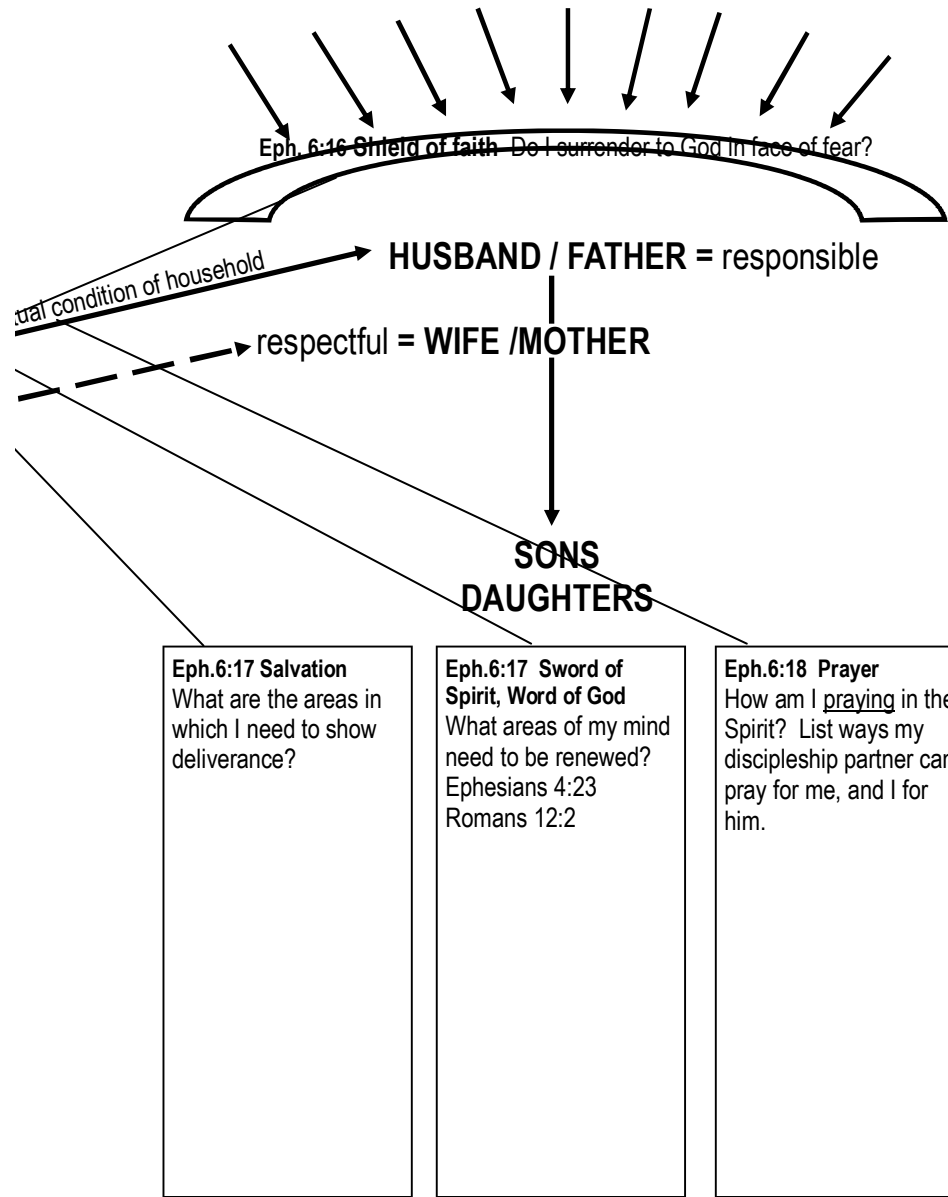
Prove self clear in matter: Are you willing to make restitution no matter what the cost? How does this look?

**What specific aims do you have in regards to your desire
 In what way is this desire important to you? _____
 What initiatives have you personally taken? _____**



What concrete steps will you take? (that you need to be

sire? _____



› be held accountable for) _____



11478 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031

Church: 716-759-6632
Biblical Counseling Center: 716-759-0591
Website: www.faithfellowship.us