



**THE CHURCH OF
PENTECOST**

2024 BIBLE STUDY AND HOME CELL MANUAL

(VOL. 1) ENGLISH

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(Volume 1)

ENGLISH

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National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee (NDLDC)*

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The Church of Pentecost

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Introduction and Acknowledgements	7
2024 Week by Week Tabular Bible Study Guide	10

FOREWORD

The Five-Year Vision of The Church of Pentecost for the period 2023-2028 has the overarching theme, 'Possessing the Nations (Phase II): Unleashing the Whole Church to Transform Their World with the Values and Principles of the Kingdom of God'. This comes as a sequel to the first phase of the five-year vision which was very successful. As a curtain raiser to the Vision 2028, it has pleased the Lord and us to carve for this year, 2024, the sub-theme, 'A People of God Unleashed to Transform Their World' (1 Pet. 2:9, Acts 1:8).

By unleashing, we aim at causing the tremendous power of God in our members locked up in the fortress of the church to be released to transform people and society in all spheres. Thus, there is the need for us to intentionally empower the church to be more effective in its mission of spreading the gospel and transforming society with Kingdom values and principles. "A people unleashed", therefore, is a call to every member of The Church of Pentecost to get involved in some form of ministry outside the four walls of the church, in addition to their ministry in the church. The sole aim is to project values and principles of God's Kingdom in every sphere where they find themselves. This is attainable when we delve into Scripture, allow our hearts to be circumcised and become Christ-like to the world around us. Our forebears knew this so well; they did not remain in the four walls of the Church but went everywhere with the influence of the gospel which they spread through their lifestyle and preaching. It was testified of them that 'the people who have turned the world upside down have come here too' (Acts 17:6). In like manner, the contemporary Church needs to engage the world around us forcefully to transform the cultures of our time that turn people away from Christ. This is the focus of Vision 2028 and the 2024 sub-theme.

The National Discipleship and Leadership Development Committee is highly commended for the painstaking and meticulous efforts expended in producing this study manual. This study manual will help deepen our understanding, fuel our passion and train our hands for the unleashing mandate. The healthy exchange of ideas will coalesce into a significant mass to unleash a repositioned glorious church to possess the nations. This goal will be achieved as members make conscious and relentless efforts to influence every sphere of life with Kingdom values and principles. It is essential that no one sit on the fence. Get involved and get counted; share your thoughts guided by Scripture.

It is my prayer that the perfect blend of the word of God and practical issues discussed will prompt us into appropriate action. Let it be said of us that we are a church that is committed to transforming our world with Kingdom values as we apply the Scriptures to our daily lives. I trust that the Lord Jesus Christ will shine his light through us to transform our respective spheres of influence.

God bless you.

Eric Kwabena Nyamekye (Apostle)
(Chairman, The Church of Pentecost)

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The theme for the Vision 2028 of The Church of Pentecost, which is the second phase of the Possessing the Nations agenda is 'Unleashing the whole church to transform their world with the values and principles of the Kingdom of God'. The vision direction encapsulates strategic steps towards releasing members of the church for ministry beyond the four walls of the church. The overarching intent is to enable them shine forth their light in order to dispel the manifestations of darkness in all spheres of society. Specifically, the theme for the year 2024 is 'A People of God Unleashed to Transform their World'. This theme serves as a foundation to mobilise and unleash the vast army of God for impact. As done every year, the NDLDC provides outlines for systematic study and in-depth discussion using the inductive Bible study method. In this manual, you shall find, brief outlines prepared from the various presentations on the thematic areas of the Vision 2028 direction and the theme for the year 2024.

One significant direction of the Vision 2028 is that, Home Cell Meetings are now to be held on the Mondays of the Communion Week. This provides a consistent meeting day as well as provide opportunity for our Officers and Home Cell Leaders to mobilise and unleash our members to impact their communities.

In view of this, preparatory classes should always be organized to get all study leaders abreast of the spirit of the content before they facilitate discussions. More so, the discussion must be carried out with the overarching aim of the Vision 2028 in mind. This will help participants relate lessons to practical life situations in their spheres of influence.

The script writers, Pastors Joseph Owusu-Boateng, Samuel Acheampong and George Osei-Asiedu are acknowledged for their inputs. Also, the translation team led by Ps Alex Anum Kieninger is appreciated. Pastor Henry Sowah Ako-Nai (Rtd.) is duly acknowledged for his editorial inputs.

As a committee, we are appreciative of the immense support we continue to receive from the Chairman, Apostle Eric Nyamekye, General Secretary, Apostle Samuel Gyau Obuobi, the International Missions Director, Apostle Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe and members of the Executive Council. Also, members of the National Discipleship and Leadership Development Committee are duly commended for their contributions to the publication of this study manual.

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2024 WEEK BY WEEK TABULAR BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Week	Date	Bible Study/Home Cell/Activity	Page
		JANUARY	
1	7 th	Lord's Supper Sunday	11
2	14 th	The Church Unleashed	12
3	21 st	The People of God	15
4	28 th	Gospel Sunday	18
	MON 29 th	Home Cell – The Church Unleashed: All Things to all People	19
		FEBRUARY	
5	4 th	Lord's Supper Sunday	22
6	11 th	Flourishing Through Personal Devotions	23
7	18 th	Growing through Spiritual Disciplines	26
8	25 th	Gospel Sunday	28
	MON 26 th	Home Cell – Environmental Care Campaign Study: Unleashed to Protect God's Creation	29
		MARCH	
9	3 rd	Lord's Supper Sunday	32
10	10 th	McKeown Missions Week – Possessing the Nations Through the Power of the Gospel	33
11	17 th	Understanding Christ-likeness and Its Impact	36
12	24 th	Possessing the Workplace Through Pentecost Workers Guild	39
13	31 st	Gospel Sunday	42
		Extra Scripts	43
		Characteristics of a Christ-like Believer	43
		Transforming Spheres with Christ-Like Character	47

WEEK 1
LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY

WEEK 2
THE CHURCH UNLEASHED

Main Text: Ephesians 2: 4 - 10

Memory Verse: *For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do-* Ephesians 2:10.

Introduction

The word unleash can be defined in many ways. However, in the context of Vision 2028 of The Church of Pentecost, to unleash is to cause the tremendous power locked up in the fortress of the church to be released for the transformation of people and society. Simply put, it is to propel an energised church to minister in the world with urgency and intentionality to bring everyone and every sphere of society under the influence of the values and principles of the Kingdom of God. It is empowering the church to be more effective in its mission of spreading the gospel and transforming society with values, principles and lifestyle of the Kingdom. Unleashing the Church is, therefore, a call to every member of the local church to get involved in some form of ministry outside the four walls of the church with the sole aim of projecting the values and principles of the Kingdom of God in their spheres of influence. We shall therefore discuss what it means to unleash the church as well as its intended effects on society.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did God raise us up with Christ? Verse 6-7
2. What kind of person is a Christian according to the passage? Verse 10
3. What are some of the good works believers have been equipped to do?
4. Why should the church be interested in ministry beyond its confines?
5. How would the church affect society if unleashed?

Conclusion

According to the passage, the Christian is God's handiwork fashioned for good works. To be called God's handiwork means we have been blessed with all that we need to do God's bidding on earth. These good works are not restricted to ministry within the four walls of the church though very important. Engaging in good works is to also show forth light in the various spheres of society inundated by darkness. Some good works include witnessing, standing for the truth in our various workplaces, engaging in social action and advocacy, among others. Ironically, some Christians trim up their lamps when we meet as church but trim it down when they are confronted with darkness in various spheres of society. This is sad because light is most needed where there is darkness. Significantly, everyone must be committed to ministry outside our church premises because it is God's will for the earth to be ruled by the principles and values of His kingdom. The church unleashed will 'overthrow' darkness in every sphere with the force of light and bring to pass God's will for the nations of the earth. We are the army that will make this happen.

WEEK 3
THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Main Text: 1 Peter 2: 4 -10

Memory Verse: *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy* - 1 Peter 2:10

Introduction

In the quest to unleash the church for impact as enshrined in the Vision 2028 direction, it is important to emphasize the church's unique character and identity as 'A People of God'. This will enable every member of the church to clearly know who they are, their place in ministry and what they are expected to do to reassure other citizens about their God and what He does for people who serve Him. In this way, they can invite them to be part of God's family. Against this backdrop, this study seeks to explain who the people of God are and what it means to be people of God. In addition, we shall discuss the responsibilities of the people of God in the context of God's ultimate agenda of reclaiming the Kingdoms of the world unto Himself.

Questions for Discussion

1. How are Christians described in the passage? Verse 9 – 10
2. What has made us 'God's people'? Verse 10, Eph. 1:7-8
3. What are the attendant blessings of being 'a people of God'?
4. What responsibility does this place on us?
5. How would this understanding affect the unleashing agenda?

Conclusion

In the passage, the church is described as a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for his own possession and God's own people. This is due to the redemption of its members through the blood of Jesus. The church is therefore loved by God with indescribable but jealous love (1 Jn. 3:1). He divinely caters for the church, forgives, protects, supports and fights for them. He has in His sovereignty given us His Spirit by whom we cry out, 'Abba Father' (Roms.8:15-16). Further, we are enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit to serve as witnesses of Christ. As a unique privilege, the people of God are set apart and used by God for His purposes. This implies that we have become His instruments for demonstrating His wisdom, love and power to the world (Eph. 3:10). With this understanding, we know that, our lives are no longer ours; God owns them, and uses our lives for His own ultimate agenda of reclaiming the world unto Himself.

WEEK 4
GOSPEL SUNDAY
HOME CELL
THE CHURCH UNLEASHED: ALL
THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 9: 19 -23

Memory Verse: *To the weak, I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means, I might save some.* - 1 Corinthians 9:22

Introduction

A church unleashed is unique in its characteristics. Because it is driven by the commission to influence all spheres of society with kingdom principles, they adopt a certain kind of approach to ministry that builds bridges between the church and all spheres of society where the 'light and salt' in her members is needed. In view of this members are trained, well oriented and unleashed to be channels through which God's grace will flow to bless all of humanity – weak, strong, slave, free, coloured, young, old, etc. Today, we shall discuss how the church can use all of her human resource available to provide ministry to the different kinds of people and situations in the nations.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Paul decide to become a slave to everyone? Verse 19
2. What are the various categories of people mentioned? Verse 20-22
3. Why was it necessary for Paul to use different approaches?
4. How can the church 'become all things to all people'?
5. How will this approach to ministry affect society?

Conclusion

It is very clear from the passage that Paul's desire to minister to all manner of people birthed a unique approach to ministry. Likewise, the church unleashed, is neither rigid nor stuck in her traditional approaches to ministry. Accordingly, it devises means to undertake numerous and new ministries not typically found in the local church. This unique outreach by the church is an attempt to be channels of the grace and love of God to all of humanity. In practice, the unleashed church is dynamic - its ministries grow broader as it grows bigger. Specifically, ministries in the unleashed church match the changing demographics and situations in their catchment areas of operation. In pursuing this agenda, the church unleashed looks for groupings in the community within which it operates and designs ministries with their lifestyles in mind. These may include ministry to ex-convicts, diverse ethnic groups, migrants, drug addicts, prostitutes, etc. The church unleashed, becomes all things to all men so that by every possible means it will save some and, in effect, share in the glory of the gospel (1 Cor. 9:22-23). Due to the existence of diverse ministries driven by a unique approach to ministry, the church unleashed has majority of its population involved in ministry outside the fortress of the church.

WEEK 5
LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY

WEEK 6
FLOURISHING THROUGH PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Main Text: Psalm 1:1-3

Memory Verse: *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and you will have good success (Joshua 1:8)*

Introduction

The English word 'flourish' comes from the Latin word 'florere' which means 'to bloom, to blossom, to flower'. Flourishing, therefore indicates growing, thriving or making progress towards a goal in spite of challenging circumstances.

As new converts and growing disciples, our primary goal is attaining spiritual maturity and measuring up to the stature of Christ where we begin to reflect His character at all times. To realize this goal, an essential step is to maintain a strong personal devotional life. This means setting aside a period each day, when we put away all the cares, worries and distractions of life, just to be with God. It is the habit of keeping a special time for private prayer and personal meditation of God's word. In our study today, we shall discover the benefits of this activity.

Questions for Discussion

1. Identify the things we are to stay away from as people of God. (verse 1)
2. What should be our attitude towards the word (or law) of the Lord? (verse 2)
3. How does our delight in and meditation on God's word impact our lives?(verse 3)
4. In which practical ways can a Christian with a strong personal devotional life become fruitful?
5. Discuss factors that make it difficult to consistently observe personal devotions?

Conclusion

Although many Christians acknowledge the importance of personal devotions, it is difficult for some to maintain this habit. Clearly, we see from today's main text that without the conscious effort to meditate on God's word daily, we shall not be able to flourish in our Christian journey, and our walk with the Lord shall yield no fruit. Observing personal devotions give us the opportunity to meditate on God's word. By so doing, we grow in our knowledge of Christ and obtain deeper understanding of His will for our lives. Maintaining a strong personal devotional life makes it easier for us to ignore the counsel of the wicked, avoid the way of sinners and shun the seat of scoffers. The demands of life, lack of intentionality, addiction to social media handles, and laziness are but a few hindrances to observing consistent devotions. However, it is possible to make sufficient time for personal devotions through self-discipline, sacrifice of leisure, and prioritizing our time with the Lord.

GROWING THROUGH SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27

Memory Verse: *I discipline my body as an athlete, training it to do what it should (NLT) - 1 Cor. 9:27a.*

Introduction

Every athlete goes through specific disciplines of training to keep them always fit for battle. Some of these exercises are done daily while others are done periodically on schedule. This is to enable them meet the standards required of a modern-day athlete. Likewise, one of the means to developing roots, growing and staying rooted in Christ is through spiritual disciplines. Thus athletes and Christians who do not subject themselves to the rudiments of their respective training render themselves unfit for battle and ministry respectively. In our discussion, we shall discover together, some key spiritual disciplines and how they promote spiritual growth.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the goal of strict discipline as expressed in the passage?
2. How do you understand, 'I beat my body' in verse 27?
3. Mention three spiritual disciplines that enhance your spiritual growth.
4. How do these disciplines enhance spiritual growth?
5. How can we be consistent in spiritual disciplines?

Conclusion

Spiritual Disciplines are practices that transform the heart and mind in conforming to the image of Christ. They help us deepen our relationship with God thereby promoting spiritual growth. Every Christian who desires to be transformed must of necessity engage in these disciplines under guidance of mature believers. The goal of disciplining the body and engaging in spiritual disciplines is Spiritual Formation - the process of having the inner man transformed so that the life of Christ flows naturally through the believer. To be consistent, we must have a plan and discipline ourselves to follow the plan of observing the spiritual disciplines. Spiritual Disciplines include Prayer, Worship, Bible Study, Solitude, (Being alone with God, and Fellowship with the Holy Spirit and fellow saints. Others are Simple Living (modesty and self-denial), Servanthood, and Submission.

WEEK 8
GOSPEL SUNDAY
HOME CELL
(ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CAMPAIGN)
UNLEASHED TO PROTECT GOD'S CREATION

Main Text: Ezekiel 34:17-19.

Memory Verse: *Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet?* –Ezekiel 34:18

Introduction

Some Christians think that issues of environmental care should not be championed by the church. However, the story of creation indicate that when GOD (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth, He made humankind stewards of all he had created. Thus, for us as Christians, who acknowledge God as our heavenly Father, the responsibility is even greater. In view of this, we must take better care of the earth and do more robust advocacy for environmental care, because it is our Father's property. In this study, we shall discuss how we can contribute to environmental cleanliness and sustainable use of our natural resources in our various communities.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was the illustration used to address the behaviour of the shepherds? Verse 18
2. How does this illustration relate to activities that destroy land and water bodies?
3. Why is it important for the church to be concerned about environmental issues?
4. What preparation is your Home Cell making towards the upcoming Environmental Care Campaign?
5. Discuss practical ways the local church can advocate for better care of the environment in their communities.

Conclusion

Issues relating to environmental care must be our concern as people entrusted with the stewardship of the earth's resources. This is because the repercussions of environmental degradation leaves God's children poorer, susceptible to vector-borne diseases, vulnerable and decreases life expectancy in subtle ways. It is God's will for us to enjoy clean water, unpolluted air and be in good health. Thus, we must use the earth's resources in a way that conserves and renew it rather than deplete or destroy it. In addition, we must avoid activities such as improper disposal of refuse, indiscriminate use of plastics, open defecation, and illegal mining which pollute the environment. The 2024 Environmental Care Campaign is scheduled for March 12 -17, 2024. All home cells should mobilise other churches and members of the community for clean-up exercises and advocacy programs during the week.

WEEK 9
LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY

WEEK 10

MCKEOWN MISSIONS WEEK **POSSESSING THE NATIONS THROUGH** **THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL**

Main Text: Acts 8: 8-17

Memory Verse: *How then shall they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?* Romans 10:15

Introduction

Prior to Jesus' ascension, He foretold that the gospel would leave the frontiers of Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth. In the passage, Philip's evangelistic outreach to Samaria led to the liberation of a people held in bondage by the deception of Simon the Sorcerer. Similarly, over the years, many nations, people groups and persons have been liberated by the power of the gospel through the missions enterprise of the church. Commendably, The Church of Pentecost which started in Ghana is now found in over 153 nations all over the world. We shall discuss how to keep the flames of missions ablaze through various means of support and involvement in the proclamation of the gospel.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was happening in Samaria prior to the proclamation of the gospel? Verse 9-10
2. How did the people receive the gospel? Verse 4-8
3. What effect did the gospel have on the people?
4. Can you share any experience of the power of the gospel?
5. How can we support the spread of the gospel in the nations?

Conclusion

The liberating power of the gospel is real. This was demonstrated in how Philip's evangelistic outreach saved a whole city in Samaria from satanic deception fronted by Simon the Sorcerer. The Samaritans wrongly addressed him as the great power of 'God' because they had not been exposed to the light of the gospel. However, on hearing the gospel and the signs that accompanied it, they were liberated and gave themselves to the Lord Jesus. Similarly, the reports from the missions field of the church – conversion of thousands, raising of the dead, healing of the sick, liberation of people from demonic oppression and the opening of churches are worth noting. While thanking God for this feat, we cannot rest on our oars because many nations, people groups, and persons are still groping in darkness. We must, therefore, be more committed to the missions enterprise of the church by praying for missionaries, giving to support missions and spreading the gospel everywhere.

WEEK 11

UNDERSTANDING CHRIST-LIKENESS AND ITS IMPACT

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 3:9–18

Memory Verse: *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God* – Ephesians 5:1-2

Introduction

God has desired that humanity will have His likeness right from creation. Thus, He created humanity in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26–27). Unfortunately, at the fall, humanity fell short of the glory of God and lost His likeness in them. Through the vicarious work of Christ, God is at work restoring all who come to faith by accepting the redemptive work of Christ to become like Christ who is the explicit image of God (Col. 2:9–10). In today's study, we will focus on understanding what it means to be like Christ (Christ-likeness) and its impact on our Christian walk.

Questions for Discussions

1. What does the more glorious ministry bring to the believer? Verse 9
2. How is the veil of the fading radiance removed? Verse 14b
3. What is your understanding of Verse 18 in the light of being Christ-like?
4. How can you become more like Christ in your daily life?
5. What marks the impact of your Christ-likeness in your community?

Conclusion

To be Christ-like is to resemble Christ; having His nature (fruit of the Spirit) and living by His standards. It is the result of a transformation of a person into the image of Christ and the complete formation of Christ within them. It commences with the more glorious ministry of Christ that imputes righteousness to the believer. The Christian then must open up for any form of worldliness and self-righteousness, which become a fading radiance to be removed. In accepting the higher standards of Christ to dictate one's life, the first step is to turn to Christ and avail ourselves for His nature to reflect in us. This is cultivated through intentional and consistent fellowship with Christ in His word, and prayer through personal devotions as if beholding our faces in a mirror. Thus, the more we fellowship with Christ, the more our hearts are revealed to us. We are purged of worldliness and are transformed to be like Christ.

WEEK 12
POSSESSING THE WORKPLACE THROUGH
PENTECOST WORKERS GUILD

Main Text: Daniel 2:14–19, 45–49

Memory Verse: *Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah – Daniel 2:17,*

Introduction

The Christian faith is live in community of faith (Matt. 18:20, Heb. 10:25, Ps. 133:1). This is not to be only within the four walls of the church. The Church should be gathered (at the church house) and scattered (at the workplace). Believers spend more time in the workplace than any other place and need to make their influence visible and felt there. This is the place of workers' guild in the church. They are equipped and unleashed to transform all their spheres of influence. Today we will discuss the relevance, strategic placement, structure and functions of workers' guild, and the need for transformation of the workplace.

Questions for Discussions

1. What did Daniel do after leaving the presence of the king? Verse 14–17
2. What was Daniel's request to his colleagues? Verse 18
3. How did the collaboration of Daniel and his colleagues transform the workplace? Verse 45–49
4. Mention at least five reasons for collaborating as believers with similar work orientation.
5. How would you initiate establishing a workers' guild in your local Assembly?

Conclusion

A workers' guild is a group of workers with similar work interest who come together for their mutual interests. The Church of Pentecost Workers' Guilds are networks of professionals and non-professionals of the church who are striving to be salt of the world and light of the world at their places of work and other spheres. The main aim is to serve as role models at their places of work, create an atmosphere for starting and growing business and opportunities, share expertise and provide mutual encouragement and comfort. Daniel and his colleagues ensured that they kept fellowship even outside the workplace. When Daniel heard about the decree of the king, he went to his fellow workers who were believers and informed them about the situation and the need for prayer. Daniel and his colleagues (workers' guild) prayed and God answered them favourably. As a result they averted the decree of death that lay on the head of both believers and the unbelieving Babylonians. The result of this exemplary conduct of collaboration of Daniel and his colleagues was that God was revealed at the workplace and the king praise God, and promoted Daniel. Daniel also recommended his fellow believers whose expertise he could vouch for because they had a relationship at their place of worship. The four (4) had exhibited their faith and remained resolute in the face of what could have corrupted them. (Dan.1:8, 3:16–18).

WEEK 13

GOSPEL SUNDAY

EXTRA SCRIPT

CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRIST-LIKE BELIEVER

Main Text: Colossians 3:7–17

Memory Verse: *For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the first-born among many brothers and sisters* – Romans 8:29 (NLT)

Introduction

Believers must have as their goal an unwavering pursuit to be like Christ Jesus. This conforms with God's will for us (Rom. 8:29). The Christian goal is to be Christ-like rather than to be hailed by worldly standards. For Christians to be Christ-like in this perverse world, we must appreciate how Jesus lived during His time on earth because this is the kind of life we are supposed to demonstrate on earth. In this study, we will explore the characteristics that mark out the life of a Christ-like believer with the view to reflecting that in our Christian walk.

Questions for Discussions

1. According to Paul what must Christians rid themselves of to reflect Christ? Verses 8 and 9
2. What is the new self being transformed and renewed into? Verse 10
3. State what the Christian is advised to put on. Verse 12–14
4. How can you practically demonstrate the characteristics of a Christ-like believer as listed in Verse 12–15?
5. How can your life impact others with Christ-like attitude?

Conclusion

Exhibiting Christ-likeness calls for proper self-examination to rid ourselves of all malice, corruption and filthy language. Our lives must be seasoned with salt and lived as a people being transformed into the image of Jesus Christ (John 1:1–3, 14). This is practically demonstrated in our relationships to others as we show all-embracing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and the love for peace even when offended. Our act of forgiveness should not be premised on the offender seeking to be forgiven but as our act of love. A Christ-like character is devoid of greed and aggression but lived in contentment and thanksgiving to God in all situations. By esteeming others above ourselves and living as examples, we must be advocates of Christ-like attitude through teachings, rebuke and encouragement to others to emulate Christ. Our driving force is to be transformed to become like Christ more and more.

WEEK 14

LORD'S SUPPER SUNDAY

EXTRA SCRIPT
TRANSFORMING SPHERES WITH
CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

Main Text: Acts 16:24–34

Memory Verse: *About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them – Acts 16:25*

Introduction

Every Christian has a calling to be ‘salt of the earth and light of the world’. This is a call to influence people and society with values and principles of the Kingdom of God thereby bringing the needed transformation. For effective engagement with our various target groups we should go beyond mere slogans and preaching, and be authentic by living out the values and principles we affirm. In our study today, we will glean lessons from how Christ-like character has the potential of opening doors for Christians to transform spheres.

Questions for Discussions

1. Why did the jailer want to commit suicide? Acts 16:27
2. What did Paul tell the jailer? Acts 16:28
3. How did the Christ-like character of Paul and Silas transform the life of the prisoners, jailer and his family? Acts 9:36
4. Identify spheres in your society that require urgent attention to transform them with Christ-like character.
5. In what ways can you demonstrate Christ-like character to influence these spheres?

Conclusion

The only way to transform society and influence spheres is to demonstrate Christ-like character. This means that it is only Christ-like believers who are able to transform spheres. When the jailer saw the prison doors opened, he thought the prisoners had escaped because that was the logical thing by worldly standards. However, Paul and Silas had influenced the prisoners overnight with their Christ-like character. The joy they exhibited in praising God all night in a prison condition was enough to transform the world-view of the other prisoners. Paul’s words of reassurance to the jailer that every prisoner was still there despite the broken doors, was enough to transform the jailer to accept Christ and invite the missionaries to present the gospel to his household. Paul and Silas found themselves in a very difficult situation but stayed true to their Christ-like character. We can then engage the governance structures and other social spheres when our character radiates Christ to attract their attention to us.