



2024 BIBLE STUDY AND HOME CELL MANUAL

ENGLISH

VOL. 2

APRIL - DECEMBER



THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

2024
BIBLE STUDY AND
HOME CELL MANUAL

Volume 2 (April-December)

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Compiled by
National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee

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The National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee

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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. 2:19, 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 sits on the pane. 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 into 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 is 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 provides 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 organised to get all study leaders abreast of the spirit of the content before they facilitate discussions. More so, the discussions must be carried out with the overarching aim of Vision 2028 in mind. This will help participants relate lessons to practical life situations in their spheres of influence.

Again, as the vision 2028 directs, the study has provided materials which will require the various Workers' Guilds to have Bible study discussions at their respective groupings.

Provision has also been made for Intergenerational study where members of different generations will be integrated in the Discipleship Groups for study discussion.

The script writers, Pastors Joseph Owusu-Boateng, George Osei-Asiedu, Emmanuel Pasteeco Arthur, Godwin Worlasi Kondjah and Samuel Acheampong, are acknowledged for their inputs. Also, the translation team led by Pastor Alex Kieninger Anum is appreciated. Pastor Henry Sowah Ako-Nai (Rtd.) and Pastor George Osei-Asiedu, Head of Editorial Team, and the team are duly acknowledged for their 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 other 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 (APRIL–DECEMBER 2024)

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WEEK 15

BREAKING BARRIERS TO REACH ALL PEOPLE

Main Text: John 4:7-24

Memory Verse: *Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone to win as many as possible* –1 Corinthians 9:19.

Introduction

It is the will of God for all manner of people to be saved through the propagation of the gospel. However, social, religious, ethnic, and ideological barriers may sometimes separate the church from the very people who must be reached. In Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman, He ignored the social, religious and cultural barriers of His day to win her. Persons with socio-cultural stereotypes can only be reached by a dynamic church that is prepared to open up and devise new strategies for the harvest of souls. We shall therefore discuss the need to overcome these barriers as we reach out to all manner of persons with the gospel.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was Jesus seeking to achieve in his discourse with the woman? Verses 9–15.
2. Why were the disciples surprised to see Jesus with the woman? Verse 27.
3. Mention the various groups of people this woman represents in our communities.

4. What makes it difficult for some Christians to ignore socio-cultural barriers and minister to such persons?
5. How can we overcome barriers to reaching such persons?

Conclusion

The city of Samaria was founded by King Omri of the northern kingdom of Israel. It became the capital of the northern kingdom until the Assyrian invasion destroyed it. They deported the Israelites there and brought in pagans from 'Babylon, Cuthah, Awwa, Hamath, and Seperwayim and settled them in the cities of Samaria' (2 Kings 17:24).

These new settlers intermarried with the few original settlers who were not taken into exile, and the result was mixed-blood descendants. Thus, the mixed racial background of the Samaritans and their syncretic religious worship had become a major source of hostility between them and the Jews. More so, a rabbi like Jesus was not permitted by the socio-cultural norms of the day to interact publicly with a woman.

However, Jesus broke religious, social and cultural stereotypes in order to minister to the Samaritan woman. As a result, the Samaritan woman became a blessing to her community. When we break barriers and minister to such neglected people, they become the vessels through which the gospel reaches their kind. The fact that God loves everyone should motivate us to reach all manner of persons with the gospel without prejudice.

WEEK 16

STUDY IN WORKERS' GUILD GROUPS
PAYING THE PRICE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Main Text: Nehemiah 5:14-17

Memory Verse: *But the earlier governors placed a heavy burden on the people...but out of reverence for God, I did not act like that* – Nehemiah 5:15.

Introduction

Nehemiah is a good example of how Christians can boldly challenge the status quo and initiate change in their respective spheres of influence. He used his leadership position and influence to bring about change in the structure of governance that extorted from the poor for the comfort of royalty. As unleashed agents of change, our role is not to just complain about the ills of society, but rather, take bold steps to sanitise the system.

However, this will demand a great deal of sacrifices from every member of the church. Today, we shall discuss the sacrifices involved in bringing about positive change in our various spheres of influence.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did the previous governors treat the people? Verse 15
2. Identify key decisions Nehemiah took to enhance the welfare of the people. Verses 16-18.

3. In your opinion, what did Nehemiah sacrifice in taking those decisions?
4. Discuss some sacrifices one must make to bring about positive change in one's sphere of influence.
5. How can we overcome the consequences of standing for the truth and initiating change in a corrupt society?

Conclusion

It will take the unleashed church to bring about changes in the structures and practices responsible for the moral decadence and injustice in our society. However, members unleashed into various spheres of society must be ready to make significant sacrifices to bring about change.

During the twelve years Nehemiah stayed with them, he forfeited fringe benefits and rather, provided food for the people from his own resources. Contrary to what was done in previous administrations, he instructed his servants not to extort from the people.

In addition, he refrained from using his influence as a leader to buy the lands of poor people who would have gladly sold their lands cheap due to the prevailing situation. The high moral standards expected from an agent of change demands sacrifice of comfort, benefits, fame and sometimes, friends. Let us be encouraged by the success story of Nehemiah as we initiate change in our various spheres of influence.

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MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

HOME CELL

CLOSING THE BACKDOOR OF THE CHURCH

Main Text: Luke 15:1-7, Acts 2:44-46

Memory Verse: *And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. – Luke 15:5*

Introduction

Retention of old members and assimilation of new converts and new members are very crucial for any local church that seeks to grow. Unfortunately, it is believed that some churches have more members in their books than the actual number of worshippers. Surprisingly, leaders and members may be unaware of the fact that these absentees have left the church through the ‘backdoor’.

Mostly, such persons are new members, new converts and sometimes old members of the church who may have grievances or lacking the experience they desire. However, the question is, how did they slip out unnoticed, who was supposed to be watching that door and how can the backdoor be closed? Our discussion today will help us answer these questions with the primary objective of closing the backdoor.

Questions for Discussion

1. In your opinion, how did the lost sheep leave the fold without being noticed? Luke 15:3.
2. How did the early church maintain the bond of love and fellowship among members? Acts 2:46.
3. How do some people leave the church without being noticed?
4. What can we learn from the early church as we seek to close the back door of the church?
5. How can we strengthen the structures responsible for the assimilation of new converts and new members in the local church?

Conclusion

Literally speaking, the back door is a rear exit where people slip out without being noticed or questioned. The back door of the church is therefore a metaphor that refers to people leaving the church without being noticed over a long period of time. People leave unnoticed for various reasons. These include issues of welfare, weak assimilation structures, unresolved grievances, relocation, and backsliding.

Much as these situations persist in varied forms in local churches, a lot can be done to enhance the assimilation of souls won and retention of old members in the church. Church structures like the New Members' Class, New Converts' Class Home Cell are there to ensure that people don't slip through our hands unnoticed.

For new converts and new members, effective follow-up should be prompt and consistent. In addition, they must be assigned to new converts' classes and new members' classes, respectively. Also, while going through these classes, they should be placed in home cell groups based on their residential location. When the leaders of all these disciple structures work effectively, it will be difficult for such persons to leave through the back door unnoticed.

More importantly, new members and converts should be embraced with love and fellowship, unlike situations where they are left alone during interactions among old members.

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WEEK 19

FOLLOWING A PATTERN OF TEACHING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Main Text: Acts 17:1-4

Memory Verse: *Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women – Acts 17:4.*

Introduction

Consistency in teaching leads to persuasion and translates into commitment towards a cause. Thus, there is the need for every local church to adopt a pattern of teaching that highlights the need for members to see themselves as priests and ambassadors of Christ in their spheres of influence. In view of this, we shall discuss key Kingdom principles the local church needs to teach as we endeavour to clarify their role as agents of change in their spheres of influence.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Paul do for three Sabbath days in the synagogue? Verses 2 and 3.
2. How did this pattern of teaching influence some of the Jews and God-fearing Greeks? Verse 4.
3. What happens when members of the church are exposed to a pattern of teaching over a period?

4. How can we use patterns of teaching to help members understand their role in the possessing of the nations agenda?
5. Mention some Kingdom principles members need to understand as we seek to possess the nations.

Conclusion

Basically, a person's conduct and commitment to an activity stem from his or her convictions, belief systems and understanding of what is expected of him or her. When people are exposed to a pattern of teaching over a period, their belief systems change, which translates into a new way of life directed by the teaching.

Thus, without a pattern of teaching geared towards a new paradigm of ministry that looks beyond the four walls of the church, some members will stay aloof. It is consequently, imperative to pursue a pattern of teaching that will help us see the family, the state, the arts and sciences, the world of commerce and industry as spheres where God must be served and honoured. Members of the local church must be taught to see their "secular jobs" as opportunities for ministry and a call to do God's work in their sphere.

God's work in this context is influencing their sphere with Kingdom principles such as faithfulness, truth, justice and fairness. In view of this, the local church must have a work plan that guides them to follow a particular pattern of teaching within the period of the implementation of Vision 2028.

WEEK 20

BUILDING THE CHURCH TO SPREAD

Main Text: Acts 11:18-24

Memory Verse: *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility* – Ephesians 2:14.

Introduction

A church that has the vision to spread has key characteristics. First, in its quest to spread, efforts are made to reach out to everyone, regardless of nationality, race, culture, or age. The target is, therefore, not to restrict the church to people of a particular nationality, tribe, culture, or race but whosoever believes.

As a result, the church members are evangelistic in nature and friendly to visitors which include foreign nationals, other tribes, reckless youth, and drug addicts. Today, we shall discuss the features of a dynamic church committed to pursuing the Great Commission to the uttermost part of the world.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was wrong with the evangelisation strategy of the Jews? Verse 19.
2. What did the men from Cyrene and Cyprus do differently? Verse 20.

3. What was the outcome of their outreach strategy? Verse 21-23.
4. How can the local church reach diverse groups of people with the gospel?
5. How can you help the church to spread?

Conclusion

It was very usual for Jews to speak to their own brothers about the gospel. Stuck in tradition, some were not willing to spread the good news to the gentiles. However, many Gentiles were won to the Lord after men from Cyrene and Cyprus decided to share the gospel with the Gentiles.

This led to the opening of the church in Antioch which later became a strong base for missionary activities to other Gentile nations. A church that is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission should neither be rigid nor stuck in her traditional approaches to ministry. Rather, the unleashed church must be dynamic – it should be proactive to make provisions for the harvest of souls within its catchment areas and beyond. For example, if you have a growing population of young migrants, the church unleashed must be proactive to fashion out strategies that can reach them. Also, members of the church must be intentional about spreading the good news anywhere they settle and help to establish a branch of the church there where possible.

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MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024

HOME CELL

PROMOTING ATTITUDINAL CHANGE TO CREATION CARE

Main Text: Deuteronomy 23:12-14

Memory Verse: *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it* – Genesis 2:15.

Introduction

Our world is facing both natural and human-caused catastrophes. Its impact is devastating. The frightening proportions to which these calamities have escalated should be a cause for concern. Creation care is therefore the means of tackling this canker. “Creation care” means caring for everything God created.

This includes every micro-organism, common plants or weeds and lands. Creation care takes place by stopping and preventing every activity that is harmful to creation and by participating in activities that will promote its sustainability. It is the removal of every form of abuse on physical and human social environment. Merritt says, “If we are concerned about the gospel, we should be concerned about the environment”.

The study discusses how Christians collectively could promote attitudinal change to creation care.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was the reason for designating a place outside the camp? Verse 12.
2. Which tools were they asked to carry along to the designated place? Verse 13.
3. What were they to do with the tools? Verse 13.
4. Mention three (3) ways by which we could promote attitudinal change to care for our environment.
5. Discuss three (3) reasons why we should promote attitudinal change to creation care.

Conclusion

Largely, Christians seem to have shirked their responsibility towards the environment, thinking this is not part of the gospel's mandate. God instructed His people to designate a place outside the camp so that they could go and relieve themselves. They were explicitly commanded to go with digging equipment so that they could dig a hole and bury their faecal matter.

Some Christians' attitude to creation care have been so cruel, crude, savage, vicious, brutal, atrocious and harsh instead of being tender, warm, pacific, peaceable, compassionate, agreeable, aesthetic and sustainable. For instance, there are attitudes of neglect, laziness, ingratitude, disgrace, insanity,

dirtiness, pollution, selfishness, loitering, poor maintenance, degradation, deforestation, toxification, etc.

Changing our attitude and changing our lives will only happen if we begin to value the interests of others more than our own and get past our self-absorbed thinking (Philippians 2:3-4). We must therefore do everything possible to change our attitude towards creation.

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WEEK 23

**POSSESSING NATIONS THROUGH THE
CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY**

Main Text: Matthew 28:18-20

Memory verse: *In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven* – Matthew 5:16.

Introduction

Chaplaincy is a marketplace ministry of the church where members are trained and unleashed to offer pastoral, and priestly ministry to people in various spheres of society. The purpose is to bring ministry closer to people in the marketplace, schools, offices, malls, security services, etc. instead of waiting for them to come to us in our churches. In view of this, the local church is expected to explore all creative ways to gain access to organisations and institutions in their catchment areas and send out equipped members to offer ministry in these spheres. We shall therefore discuss how we can explore this ministry in our various local churches in line with the Vision 2028.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to make disciples of all nations?
Verses 18 and 19.
2. In what ways can we liken the marketplace to a nation?

3. How will the chaplaincy ministry help to win people in the marketplace for Christ?
4. What is the role of the local church in fulfilling this vision?
5. Discuss the potential challenges and prospects of the chaplaincy ministry.

Conclusion

It is a fact that majority of people spend most part of the day at their workplaces and institutions of learning. Unfortunately, some of these people hardly set foot in our churches. Thus, the marketplace constitutes a huge nation that must be won and disciplined for Christ. The chaplaincy ministry offers unbelievers, backsliders and people of other faiths the opportunity to be reached with the gospel.

Therefore, unleashing members to reach all these groups of people at the various workplaces and schools will help win many souls and disciple them for Christ. Strategically, the chaplaincy ministry uses a three-pronged approach of equipping members to minister, model and mentor people in the marketplace with Kingdom principles and values.

In view of this, our members deployed to serve in the Chaplaincy Ministry are expected to lead by example in the organisations and institutions into which they are sent to minister. They are to model Christlikeness in their personal life, model authentic Christianity in their public life and model ideal Christianity in the workplace or professional

environment. This will then challenge the hearts of the unbelieving world and bring them to the saving knowledge of Christ. Such a lifestyle will also transform our world and cause righteousness to reign.

WEEK 24
PEMEM WEEK
**THE PRIESTLY ROLE OF THE MAN
IN THE HOME**

Main Text: Job 1:1–5

Memory Verse: *Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts'. This was Job's regular custom – Job 1:5b.*

Introduction

In the Old Testament, priests played key roles in religious worship. Their roles included safeguarding God's temple, offering sacrifices on behalf of the people, teaching them the way of the Lord and pronouncing blessings on God's people. Thus, the priestly role of the man in the home is essentially, the responsibility of making his home a place where the word of God is taught and intercessions are made for everyone. It is a call to all men to assume their priestly duties in order to salvage the home from various attacks on the institution of the family. Today, we shall discuss how men can perform their priestly role in the home as we seek to build strong families.

Questions for Discussion

1. What qualities of a good father are depicted in the passage? Verses 4 and 5.
2. How did Job perform his priestly role as a father? Verse 5.
3. What constitutes the priestly role of a man in the home?
4. What factors militate against the priestly role of fathers in the home?
5. How can other members of the household help to make this role effective?

Conclusion

In the home, the man is a husband, father and a priest. He must therefore, acquit himself creditably in all these roles because the neglect of one would affect the others. As a priest, the man is supposed to organise the home church and make it functional. In addition, he should be intentional about teaching his household the Word of God regularly. Like Job, who offered sacrifices on behalf of his children, the man must always intercede for the family. Aside these duties, he could assign roles to other members of the family and train them to execute same excellently.

In view of this, other members of the household must cooperate to make the priestly role of the man effective. Every member of the household must avail himself or herself for family devotions, family retreats and other spiritual deepening exercises when the man calls.

WEEK 25

INTERGENERATIONAL STUDY

**THE FAMILY AND GOD'S MASTER
PLAN OF SALVATION**

Main Text: Exodus 20:5-6

Memory verse: *They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household' – Acts 16:31.*

Introduction

Our faith as Christians is founded on personal salvation in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ (Eph. 2:8). While salvation is a deeply personal experience, it is worth noting that it often extends beyond the individual to encompass the family unit.

In Acts 16:31, in answer to what must I do to be saved, Paul declares: 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household'. This verse illustrates the interconnectedness of faith within the family. The concept of households coming to faith together is a testament to the importance of the family in God's redemptive plan. In this study, we shall discuss the family and God's master plan of salvation.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did God instruct the Israelites not to do? Verse 5.
2. How does God describe Himself? Verses 5 and 6.
3. What does God do to the children of godly and evil parents? Verses 5 and 6.
4. How does the passage connect to the salvation of a family?
5. State three practical things you would do to guarantee the salvation of your family.

Conclusion

The salvation of one family member can serve as a catalyst for the faith journeys of others in the household. It underscores the powerful role of the family in not only nurturing faith but also in collectively coming to faith. The family's spiritual legacy can either be a burden or a blessing. The godly home is not only a place where faith is nurtured but also where it is shared and passed down through generations.

The God of Israel, the jealous and loving God, instructs the Israelites not to bow nor worship any image in any form.

The actions and attitudes of parents can leave a lasting imprint on the spiritual trajectory of their descendants. However, when we come to faith in Christ Jesus, exemplify Kingdom values and principles in the family, and live the Kingdom lifestyle in all we do, our destinies are changed, and we become members of God's family.

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MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

HOME CELL

WORKING TOGETHER WITH COMMUNITIES FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Main Text: Nehemiah 2:12-18

Memory Verse: *They replied, 'let us start the rebuilding'. So they began this great work* – Nehemiah 2:18b.

INTRODUCTION

Stakeholders in our communities such as chiefs, civil societal organisations, district assemblies, non-governmental organisations and people within our communities constitute a huge resource for the church's community transformational initiatives. Neglecting them and pursuing the vision of community transformation alone would limit our sphere of influence and sustainability of the initiatives.

It is thus imperative for the Home Cells in various communities to mobilise stakeholders to own and partner community self-help initiatives. The passage read provides an example of how people can be influenced to commit their energies towards community transformation. We shall therefore discuss how to replicate same in our various communities.

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Nehemiah convince them to be part of the rebuilding agenda? Verse 17.

2. What was the response of the stakeholders? Verse 18
3. Discuss any community transformational project you can initiate as a cell.
4. How can the cell get the community to own this project?
5. What are the advantages of communal ownership of such initiatives?

Conclusion

The involvement of communities in the transformation agenda of the church is crucial. In view of this, home cells must learn how to collaborate with key stakeholders in the communities to bring about transformation in their respective spheres. In the passage, Nehemiah was able to convince a group of people to the extent that they shouted, 'we shall arise and build'. Prior to this, they felt they could do nothing about rebuilding the wall.

Thus, helping people to appreciate the need for change is one major step towards getting them to be involved in a vision direction. Here, the task is to enlighten people about the damaging effects of the situation if left unattended. After this, we must be ready to engage various stakeholders until a concrete decision is taken and a roadmap drawn together to pursue the initiative.

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WEEK 28

STUDY IN WORKERS' GUILD GROUPS

**TRANSFORMING UNGODLY VALUES
WITH VALUES AND PRINCIPLES
OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Main Text: Nehemiah 5:9-19

Memory Verse: *But the earlier governors – those preceding me – placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that –* Nehemiah 5:15.

Introduction

The 'Possessing the Nations Agenda – Phase 2' is a clarion call to transform our world with values and principles of the Kingdom of God. This calls for being intentional about living the values and principles of the Kingdom of God and ensuring that ungodly values in our various spheres are discarded and the people transformed to live by the godly values of the Kingdom. In this study, we will glean practical lessons from how Nehemiah worked to transform his sphere with some of these values and principles.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Nehemiah advise when he was informed of the enslavement of the people by their own brethren? Verses 9–11.
2. How different did Nehemiah conduct himself in his position from previous governors? Verses 14 and 15.
3. State some values and principles Nehemiah demonstrated in his position as the governor. Nehemiah 5:16; 13:13.
4. Why did Nehemiah stay away from what was allotted the governor?
5. Identify areas in your sphere that require some urgent attention to transform with values and principles of Kingdom of God. How will you go about it?

Conclusion

Nehemiah was a man who lived the values and principles of the Kingdom of God at his workplace. He also worked at transforming his fellow colleagues to ensure Kingdom values and principles were the lifestyle of all around him. When he heard about the enslavement of the people by their own kindred, he shed light on their negative conduct and insisted they stopped.

He also offered to assist the needy with his own resources as well as ensure whatever had been usurped was returned. Though Nehemiah held a position of influence, he declined to lord it over the people and take food allotments and riches as did the previous governors. He also took responsibility of

ensuring that those he worked with did not take advantage of the people. He exhibited hard work, fairness in not taking the lands of the people and generosity by providing bountifully for his workers and the needy from his own resources. He further displayed integrity by appointing faithful and trustworthy stewards and demanded accountability. Nehemiah was compassionate on the people considering the heavy burden on them.

Again, he was willing to engage in the menial job of building the walls though he held the position of governor. Through leading by example, Nehemiah was able to galvanise his colleagues to adopt to the new values he introduced.

WEEK 29

INTERGENERATIONAL STUDY

**THE IMPACT OF THE CHRISTIAN
HOME ON THE CHURCH**

Main Text: Numbers 6:22-27

Memory Verse: *I am reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother, Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am persuaded, now lives in you also – 2 Timothy 1:5.*

Introduction

The Christian home is identified by the personal and collective faith in Jesus Christ as the Lord and personal Saviour, undergirded by personal devotions; the family altars as the fulcrum of worship facilitating the study of the word of God, prayers, and singing the hymns of faith.

In building godly families, we have to be intentional in prioritising faith, worship, prayer and instruction in the word of God (Deut. 6:4-9).

Being a Christian husband or wife does not necessarily translate into one's home being Christian. A Christian home has Jesus Christ as the Lord, Christian marriage as the foundation of the home, the fear of God as the native air of the home and biblical norms and values constitute the culture of the family.

The church, be it the local assembly, denomination or the body of Christ, is a primary beneficiary in raising a Christian and godly home. We shall, in this study, discuss the godly family's unique impact on the church as an institution.

Questions for Discussion

1. What were Aaron and his sons expected to do? Verse 23-26.
2. What was the impact of their pronouncement on the Israelites? Verse 27.
3. Identify the role Aaron's children played in the passage. Cf. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-12.
4. Bring out the impact of the Christian home on the church, according to the following scriptures: a) Hebrews 10:23-25, b) Acts 2:42-47.
5. State any three (3) practical ways a Christian home can impact the church.

Conclusion

The godly family should raise men and women of integrity who would go out to impact the church. Aaron and his sons were to bless the church, Israel. The priestly blessing was to put the name of God on the church, Israel.

A godly Christian family impacts the church by enriching the worship life of the church, providing personnel to serve in the various ministries of the church according to their spiritual giftings and endowment.

They become focal points for discipleship groups (Home Cells, Bible study, prayer, service to one another), community outreach, and evangelisation. As a result, their lives become salt, light, and yeast of the earth, bringing glory and making our faith relevant in a world looking for authenticity.

The godly Christian home becomes the church's arm in practising hospitality and Christian charity; they support the church financially, and provide the men and women who are equipped for church offices as full-time and part-time officials.

WEEK 30

GOSPEL SUNDAY/ YOUTH WEEK

**AVAIL YOURSELF TO BE GROUNDED
AND UNLEASHED TO YOUR WORLD**

Main Text: 1 Timothy 4:9-16

Memory Verse: *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity – 1 Timothy 4:12.*

Introduction

The Church of Pentecost is a church that emphasises the Wholistic development of all facets of its membership. One of the significant groupings in the church is members aged between thirteen to thirty-five (13-35 years).

This bracket is referred to as the youth. The Youth Ministry of the church serves to win, disciple, identify giftings and talents of the youth, and unleash them to transform their world. With the increasing population of the church being youthful, the leadership of the CoP has introduced a weekly Monday evening meeting for the ministry once again.

Our study today will focus on how the youth can become holistically grounded and fully unleashed to their world.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does the writer say is trustworthy, and to labour and strive at? Verse 10.
2. How is the young Timothy admonished to ensure no one looks down on his youthfulness? Verse 12.
3. What was Timothy admonished not to neglect? Verse 14.
4. Why are the youths urged to watch their life and doctrine closely? Verse 16.
5. State practical steps you would take as a youth or help the youth to become well-grounded and unleashed to the world.

Conclusion

Timothy is reminded that what deserves acceptance, to labour for and strive at is that we put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all humanity. To ensure that he was considered serious and his youthfulness not disparaged, Timothy was to watch his speech, lifestyle, love life, faith and purity to serve as an example to others.

He was also entreated to work at his gift so that it so that it will produce effect. Paul reveals that if Timothy watched his life and doctrine closely, he would save both himself and those who heard him.

One way to watch his life and doctrine was to be fully given to reading of the scriptures, preaching of the gospel and teaching of divine truths. The youth can achieve these feats if

they do not see themselves above youth meetings but attend regularly. Other adults have roles to play by ensuring the youth participate in Youth Ministry activities.

Also, leadership of the Youth Ministry, at all levels, should intentionally commit to relevant youth-oriented programming. Furthermore, the youths should make personal devotions a daily activity, commit to evangelism, put their gifts and talents to godly use in humility and keep the hope of glory, which is Christ in us, alive.

The youth should also learn to sit under the feet of leadership and get well-grounded. Evangelism and living a life of purity serve to preserve the youth and make them acceptable in both church and their communities.

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024

HOME CELL

EVERY LITTLE CONTRIBUTION COUNTS

Main Text: Nehemiah 3:1-5

Memory Verse: *So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached the height, for the people worked with all their heart – Nehemiah. 4:6.*

Introduction

Sometimes, it is common to find people distant themselves from the grand vision of a church, organisation or nation. Such persons have the wrong impression that their contribution is insignificant and thus, refuse to initiate change in their various communities. In the passage, the wall was rebuilt because all families were involved in repairing a section of the wall that was close to them.

In like manner, the Home Cells represent a strategic tool unleashed into every community to do the Lord's bidding. We shall therefore discuss how the various Home Cells can initiate positive change in their vicinities and communities.

Questions for Discussion

1. How was the task towards rebuilding the wall accomplished? Verses 1-3.
2. Mention at least three groups of people who were

involved in rebuilding the wall.

3. How can we initiate change as Home Cells in our various communities?
4. What are the hindrances to such initiatives?
5. How can we overcome these hindrances in our own small way?

Conclusion

Nothing gets done unless a group of people decide to make contributions to development, however small. In the passage, the whole circumference of the wall was assigned in sections to various families and groups of people.

In Nehemiah 4:6, we learn that the work progressed according to plan because every family or group committed themselves to the section assigned them. The coming together of these forty-three groups which included families, priests, and artisans is an example of how much we can achieve if every Home Cell is committed to bringing about transformation in its vicinity. With each Home Cell transforming its sphere, the cumulative effect will be significant to transform the world.

To achieve this, every Home Cell must see itself as a strategic units of the Vision 2028 agenda as it sets smart goals towards the transformation of its various vicinities.

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WEEK 32

STUDY IN WORKERS' GUILD GROUPS

**WORKING TOGETHER TO TRANSFORM
THE WORKPLACE**

Main Text: Daniel 2:1-4. 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 overarching aim of the Vision 2028 Agenda is to influence our spheres with principles of the Kingdom of God. One way we can do this effectively is to work in partnership with our colleague professionals to establish the reign of godly principles at our work places.

Pentecost Workers' Guild (PEWG) offers a great opportunity for partnership and collaboration as we seek to influence our various workplaces with the light of the gospel. Today, we shall discuss the important place of workers' guilds in the transformation agenda by drawing lessons from Daniel and his Hebrew brothers in the Babylonian kingdom.

Questions for Discussions

1. What was the king's request to his wisemen? Verses 1–3.
2. What did Daniel do after leaving the presence of the king? Verses 14–18.

3. In your view, how did the collaboration between Daniel and his colleagues help solve the problem?
4. Discuss the importance of Workers' Guilds in the Possessing the Nations Agenda.
5. How would you bring about the establishment of workers' guild at your workplace?

Conclusion

Pentecost Workers' Guilds are professionals and nonprofessional Church of Pentecost members who work in defined institutions and are committed to attaining the church's Vision 2028. As shown clearly by the passage and discussions, coming together as like-minded Christians helps to fight a common cause.

The exemplary conduct of collaboration between Daniel and his colleagues brought glory to God at the workplace. When believers come together to form a guild at the workplace, they serve as a collective force to 'cure' the ills at the workplace.

Also, it serves as a source of godly comfort and support for people to boldly confront wrongdoing at the workplace. Among many others, it is an avenue to share the faith, develop potentials and network for the mutual benefit of the Kingdom business. It is important that as we are unleashed to the workplace, we collaborate to bring transformation in our spheres.

WEEK 33

THE CHURCH, A PARTNER IN NATION BUILDING

Main Text: Matthew 25:34-46

Memory Verse: *Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper – Jeremiah 29:7.*

Introduction

History of the development of nations indicates that the church has been instrumental in promoting transformational development. As an example, Christianity inspired many civil society movements which advocated for issues such as abolishing of the slave trade and enhancement of human rights of the minority.

Currently, the church's contribution in the areas of education, health, agriculture and livelihood empowerment cannot be overemphasised. Commendably, The Church of Pentecost has made significant contributions in promoting social action and providing amenities through PENTSOS.

We shall, therefore, discuss the need to support this noble cause and initiate same in our various communities and nations.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does this passage reflect God's concern for the needy? Verses 34-36.

2. Discuss the statement, 'whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Verse 40
3. Why should the church support the needy and contribute to nation building?
4. Can you name any of the church's social interventions in Ghana?
5. How can we support these social interventions?

Conclusion

In Matthew 25:35-37, the Lord Jesus Christ emphasised the need to pay attention to the various groups of needy persons in our communities – sick, hungry, prisoners, and strangers. This is because people find themselves in such situations due to a myriad of factors.

These include death of parents or guardians, incapacitation through accidents, sickness, migration, poverty, famine, droughts and bad weather conditions. When we contribute to nation building, the needs of the populace are met, which pleases God. For some of these needy persons, and communities, their only hope is a church ready to demonstrate the love of Christ.

In view of this, the interventions and developmental projects spearheaded by PENTSOS – drilling of boreholes, provision of irrigation facilities, building of skill training centres, schools and hospitals, should be supported by everyone in the church.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

HOME CELL

GROWING WHOLISTICALLY LIKE CHRIST

Main Text: Luke 2:41-52

Memory Verse: *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man* – Luke 2:52.

Introduction

The theme of The Church of Pentecost for the year 2024 is: 'A People of God, Unleashed to Transform their World'. In order to transform the world around us, every member of the church must first seek to become like Jesus.

We must all strive to measure up to the full and complete standard of Christ. If we can reach this point, we must follow the example of how Christ grew when He was born as a human in the world.

In today's discussions, we shall look at the pattern of Jesus' growth and discuss how we too can go through that process so as to become like Him, and be ready to influence society by our way of life.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did Jesus' earthly parents do every year? Verse 41.
2. When did they attend the Passover festival with him? Verse 42.
3. Briefly describe the incidence that occurred after the celebration was over. Verse 43-51.
4. Identify four areas in which Jesus grew. Verse 52.
5. Discuss how today's Christian can also grow in each of the four areas identified.

Conclusion

God's plan for us as His people whom He has called out to transform the world is that we too, like Christ, will grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and all people. "Growing in wisdom" means increasing in our knowledge and understanding of God. It also means developing the capacity to reason accurately, make right decisions or choices, and properly evaluate and implement knowledge.

"Growing in stature" means taking good care of our physical bodies so they remain healthy as long as we live in them. Our bodies are an important gift from God, and we need them to be able to serve Him and the people around us.

"Growing in favour with God" means maintaining a close relationship with Him and living to please Him at all times and in all situations. We can do this when we are actively involved in the daily study of God's Word (Josh. 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3), daily prayers (Luke 5:16, 1 Thess. 5:17), and in the

meeting together of believers (Heb. 10:25). Finally, “growing in favour with people” means positively influencing the lives of the people around us (our neighbours, co-workers, members of our households, etc.).

We can achieve this as we intentionally demonstrate the values and principles of the Kingdom of God in our relational lives.

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WEEK 36
CHILDREN'S WEEK
INTERGENERATIONAL STUDY
**RAISING AND UNLEASHING GODLY
CHILDREN TO TRANSFORM THEIR WORLD**

Main Text: 1 Samuel 1:27-28; 2:12, 16-19, 22-36

Memory Verse: *"Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed"* – Psalm 112:2

Introduction

Children are valuable members of the family and the church. This is because they form the foundation to passing on values and influencing future generations. To produce godly offspring, that is children honour God and reflect the character of His Son, Jesus Christ (Mal. 2:15 and Gen. 18:19), we must be very intentional about their upbringing.

They are treasures God gives us to care for and nurture as stewards (Ps. 127:3). We shall look at how godly children can be raised and unleashed to transform their world.

Questions for Discussion

1. What should the attitude of Christians be in raising godly children? 1:27 and 28.
2. What role do parents and the church play in raising and unleashing godly children to transform their world? 2:16-19.

3. Identify practical and effective ways in which the church can facilitate mentoring and coaching of children
4. How can the church build a very strong and effective Children's Ministry to achieve God's mandate and the church's vision of being unleashed to transform their world (Vision 2028)?
5. What would be the implications for parents and the church if we failed to raise and unleash godly children to transform their world? 2:27-36.

Conclusion

To cultivate the attributes of godliness in children, Christians must model and persist in godliness. We must live what we teach or transfer to the children, both in word and lifestyle, and constantly pray with and for them.

The church must provide mentoring and coaching, better parenting techniques, engage the children in innovative and discerning programmes, provide finances, logistics and quality human resource to support the Children's Ministry. They must be assigned leadership roles at their ministry level.

WEEK 37

**DISCIPLING THE NATIONS
THROUGH THE E-CHURCH**

Main Text: Matthew 28:18-20

Memory Verse: *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them* – Matthew 18:20.

Introduction

In today's digital age, technology has transformed the way we live, work, and connect with people. Thus, churches are embracing the power of the internet to reach their congregations and spread the gospel to unbelievers beyond their borders. In the Vision 2028, The Church of Pentecost will start the E-church, also known as virtual church.

The E-Church allows people to participate in church services and activities from the comfort of their own homes without being physically present at one location. This innovative approach to worship and evangelism has the potential to make the church and gospel more accessible, convenient, and inclusive for people of all ages, abilities, and locations. In this study, we shall explore the concept of the E-Church, its benefits, and prospects for The Church of Pentecost as we seek to disciple all nations.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to 'make disciples of ALL nations'? Verse 19.

2. How can nations with strict rules against Christianity be reached with the gospel?
3. How can converts who face persecution when they try to join the church be taught the Word of God?
4. How would the E-Church help to meet needs such as prayer, counselling and fellowship in such places?
5. What do the church and Kingdom of God stand to benefit from this innovation?

Conclusion

The 'Go Ye' command to disciple all nations is sometimes met with huge barriers. These hindrances are intentionally created by some nations or religious sects who do not want their adherents to be reached with the gospel. Ultimately, the goal of the E-Church is to utilise technology as a means to propagate the gospel message and disciple converts in such and similar situations.

Sometimes, converts who try to join churches are persecuted severely and therefore cut off from teachings which will ground them. In such instances, the E-Church can easily be accessed by such persons as they are taken through the rudiments of the faith to ground them. With a pastor and Presiding Elder responsible for the E-Church, other needs such as prayer, counselling, and fellowship would be met in the virtual space. Individuals, assemblies and districts are also encouraged to engage the virtual space with the gospel.

WEEK 38

OFFICERS' APPRECIATION

APPRECIATING OUR LEADERS

A KINGDOM VIRTUE

Main Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Memory Verse: *Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you – 1 Thessalonians 5:12.*

Introduction

The Bible provides valuable insights into the importance of appreciating and respecting church leaders. It offers guidance on how believers should relate to those who guide, teach, and pray for them within the church community. In this study, we will focus attention on the need to intentionally plan and execute a form of appreciation for the leaders God has put in charge of our souls.

Questions for Discussion

1. What specific instructions does Paul give regarding the relationship with those who labour and care for us in the Lord? Verse 12.
2. How are church members exhorted to regard church leaders, and what is the basis for this exhortation? Verse 13.

3. What are the responsibilities of church members towards one another, as outlined in Verse 14?
4. In what ways does the passage encourage Christians to interact with church leaders and fellow believers, and what is the underlying motivation for these interactions? Verse 13-15.
5. How would you personally show appreciation and respect to the church leaders in your local assembly henceforth?

Conclusion

The local church is a unit of the family of God. Leaders are assigned the responsibility of nurturing the growth of every member into maturity. Thus, the relationship in the church is expected to be one of cordiality and fellowship.

The apostle Paul provides clear guidance on the attitudes and behaviours that believers should adopt towards their church leaders and fellow members. He emphasises the importance of respect, mutual care, and unity within the church community. By following these instructions, believers can contribute to a harmonious and supportive church environment, honouring those who guide, teach, and pray for them, and fostering a spirit of cooperation and love among all members.

One way to love and hold our church leaders in high regard is to visit them, pray for them, obey them and give to assist their physical needs. The Church of Pentecost marks Officers' Appreciation Day to serve as annual reminder to this special duty we owe our officers.

As we congratulate officers on their wonderful work over the flock of God, every member is encouraged to personally take keen interest in the welfare of his or her officers.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

HOME CELL

RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Main Text: Daniel 6:1-6

Memory Verse: *They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent* – Daniel 6:4b.

Introduction

One of the driving forces of social transformation is a sense of responsibility. When people feel responsible for their actions, they act with utmost care, attention and urgency. They concede that no one but themselves are to blame for their predicaments.

Therefore, they adopt and adhere to godly principles that lead them towards the path of transformation. On the other hand, irresponsible behaviour destroys what has been built, breeds laxity, a sense of entitlement and moral decadence all of which retard social transformation. Today, we shall examine the role of this godly principle in social transformation and discuss how we can imbibe this virtue as we seek to transform our world.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was the testimony about Daniel, according to the

passage? Verse 4

2. In what way do Daniel's qualities constitute responsible behaviour?
3. What does it mean to take responsibility or feel responsible for a task or situation?
4. How is a good sense of responsibility linked to social transformation?
5. How can we imbibe and demonstrate this Kingdom principle in our spheres?

Conclusion

A strong sense of responsibility refers to an individual's commitment and accountability towards fulfilling what is morally expected of them. It depicts a holistic understanding of the impact of one's actions on oneself, others, and the society. The testimony about Daniel reflects responsible behaviour that we must all imbibe and practise in every sphere of our endeavours. Irresponsibility accounts for the immorality, corruption, conflicts, and superstition that plague our society. However, social transformation and economic progress can only be achieved, when individuals take bold decisions to accept responsibility for their actions.

Playing the blame game and expecting others to do what we must do would only lead to stagnation. By encouraging accountability and emphasising responsibility in character development, we can contribute to constructive societal transformation.

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WEEK 41
GPCC/OUTREACH
**UNLEASHED FOR TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH THE GRACE OF GIVING**

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Memory Verse: *But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving – 2 Corinthians 8:7.*

Introduction

One of the areas of impact that the child of God is expected to demonstrate the power and character of God resident in him is in giving. Giving is an attribute of God that He shares with His children. It is the outward manifestation of His love. The greatest display of this love was the giving of His only begotten Son to save humankind from sin.

As a people of God who are being unleashed into the world to bring transformation, we are expected to show this grace by giving for the work of the Lord for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

In today's lesson, we will look at how the Macedonian church demonstrated this grace and how we can unleash this grace of giving to bring transformation.

Questions for Discussion

1. What grace did God give the Macedonian church?
Verses 2–4.
2. What was the extent of this grace? Verse 5.
3. What was Paul's expectation about the Corinthian church concerning this grace? Verses 6 and 7.
4. In what areas can you personally demonstrate this grace of giving?
5. What would be the effect if we should all willingly display this grace in the church and our spheres of influence?

Conclusion

Generosity and a heart of sacrifice are the hallmarks of a child of God filled with the Spirit of God. The Macedonian church, despite their dire circumstances, were willing to give beyond their ability. They first gave themselves for the work of ministry and then did not relent in offering what they had for the work of the Kingdom of God.

Paul declares that this was by grace, and was expecting this same grace to be present in the Corinthian church. This was because they were all saved by the same Lord and filled with the same Spirit. To ensure this was done, he sent Titus to help them show this grace.

We can all demonstrate this grace by giving our substance to the work of the Kingdom of God and to meet the needs of others.

We can also personally manifest this grace to others in our spheres of influence to show God's love and bring transformation into their lives.

WEEK 42

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH FAITHFUL TITHING

Main Text: Malachi 3:10-12

Memory verse: *'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this', says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it' – Malachi 3:10.*

Introduction

Tithing is the practice of devoting a tenth of one's gross earnings or property to God. It was practised before the law was given (Genesis 14:17–20) and was a sign of the individual's acknowledgement of total dependence on God and His lordship upon us and all that belongs to us. As a people of God, He expects us to tithe so that the blessings of tithing will enable us bring the needed transformation to our spheres.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was God commanding His people to fully bring into the storehouse? Verse 10a.
2. Why did He demand that it should be brought into the storehouse? Verse 10b.
3. What response did God guarantee His people if they obeyed His command? Verse 10-12.

4. To what extent have you been obedient to this command?
5. How can the blessings of obedience to this command help you to bring transformation into your world?

Conclusion

God commanded His people to bring all the tithes into the storehouse. This means none was to be left for any purpose. This was so that there may be enough food in the house of God.

Tithing is the channel that God utilises to release blessings upon His people. It is a sign that validates our faith in God and His promises. He promised that He would pour out blessings that exceed what you gave, rebuke anything that destroys your source of income and bring favour upon you.

The blessings of obedience strengthen and help us to influence our world as we are in a position to meet the needs of others, especially the people of God and help the work of the Kingdom.

[illegible]

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

HOME CELL

**ENGAGE IN STRATEGIC OUTREACH
TO THE LOST IN COMMUNITIES
THROUGH THE HOME CELL**

Main Text: Romans 16:1-20

Memory Verse: *The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends – Acts 10:24.*

Introduction

The Early Church was a church that began from the home (Acts 1:13). From this small circle of disciples of Christ has been birthed the beautiful body of Christ across the world. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul spent considerable time sending words of felicitation and encouragement to the believers gathering in homes.

The number of home groups mentioned shows the important place home cells held in the life of the church. With the Mondays of the Lord's Supper week ceded for home cells, we all have a mandate to ensure the cells are strategically used to reach the lost in our communities. This will be the focus of our study.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does Paul refer to Priscilla and Aquila? Verse 3.
2. Where did the church members with Priscilla and Aquila meet? Verse 5.
3. Who was Epenetus? Verse 5.
4. Identify the number of household churches (home cells) in the Roman church as mentioned in the passage.
5. How can your local assembly make use of home cells to reach out to the lost in the communities?

Conclusion

The Roman church was a thriving church. It had spread fast with many members. In the passage, Paul spends considerable time mentioning them by name and the various home cells they belong to. He refers to Priscilla and Aquila as his fellow workers in Christ.

So, this couple was fellow workers in soul-winning. Paul further identifies that a group met in the home of Priscilla and Aquila out of which was the first convert in Asia.

Paul mentions the hard work and support some cell members were offering to their communities. He asked the church to extend their support to Phoebe.

The home cell can become a strategic tool for spreading the gospel when we use the cell to identify community needs and proffers solutions; interact with the community through games, participate in their social gatherings; preach the gospel; create more cells to spread into the communities where members live; intentionally commit to let the home cell meetings on the Mondays of the Lord's Supper week prove workable; invite neighbours into our meetings, and visit community members to pray for them, among others. When Peter heard of the need to visit Cornelius, he did not hesitate.

The result was the conversion of the entire community of family and friends of Cornelius (Acts 10:44, 47–48) The transformed lifestyle of the cell members, coupled with some of these strategic engagements, executed prayerfully, has great potential to reach the lost and transform our communities.

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WEEK 45

UNLEASHED TO WITNESS ABOUT CHRIST TO OTHERS

Main Text: John 1:36-46

Memory Verse: *The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is Christ). – John 1:41.*

Introduction

A witness is someone who has seen or had an experience of something and can testify to the facts of that thing. As Christians, one of our primary roles is to become witnesses of Christ to the world. This means we have the duty of telling others about our personal experience of the new life in Christ Jesus. As witnesses of Christ, it is our responsibility to boldly share with others, the truth about Him and what He has done for the salvation of humanity. The ultimate goal for this task is to draw the lost to the saving knowledge of Christ.

The Bible repeatedly emphasises this duty, and calls on all followers of Christ to be committed to it. We shall, in today's study, consider two biblical examples of being a witness of Christ Jesus.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was John the Baptist's testimony of Jesus? Verse 36.
2. How did the disciples of John respond to his testimony? Verse 37.

3. Identify what Andrew and Philip did after they encountered Christ. Verses 40-42, 45 and 46.
4. What can we learn from the actions of these two disciples?
5. Discuss the factors that hinder today's Christian from witnessing about Christ to others, and how those factors can be eliminated.

Conclusion

In the passage, we see how Andrew and Philip, went out to tell others about Christ after they encountered him, This is what is expected of every Christian; we have been saved by Christ and unleashed into the world to bring others to Him through our testimony of His saving grace.

To be effective witnesses of Christ, we must first know Him personally and seek to grow in our knowledge of Him through consistent study of the word of God. We must also develop a strong prayer lives, regularly intercede regularly for unbelievers and ask God for opportunities to share the message of Christ with them. Additionally, we must be known for godly living since a life of ungodliness discredits our testimony.

Last but not least, we must always seek the leading of the Holy Spirit, and rely on Him for the power to witness.

WEEK 46

STUDY IN WORKERS' GUILD GROUPS

**UNLEASHED TO BECOME THE
SALT OF THE WORLD**

Main Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Memory Verse: *You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men – Matthew 5:13.*

Introduction

Every Christian has been called by God to be a change agent, and is therefore expected to play an active role in the transformation of the world. As agents of God's transformation agenda, we have the divine mandate to influence every sphere of life (such as marriage and family, trade and commerce, the media and governance, etc.) with the values and principles of the Kingdom of God. Only in our pursuit of this mandate can we succeed in possessing the nations for Christ.

In the main text, Jesus uses two analogies to describe the roles Christians must play as we seek to transform the world. Today's lesson shall focus on the first analogy, while we discuss the second one in the subsequent lesson.

Questions for Discussion

1. How are Christians described in verse 13?
2. What are some uses of Salt?

3. In what practical ways can Christians live or function as salt?
4. Discuss how the role of Christians as salt can contribute to the transformation of society.
5. Identify some factors or situations that make it difficult for today's Christian to function as the salt of the world.

Conclusion

Salt has two main purposes. First, it is used to preserve certain foods like fish, meat, etc., which could easily go bad especially in the absence of refrigeration. Secondly, it is used to enhance the flavour of food.

Thus, for Christians to be referred to as the salt of the world implies that we have the mandate to preserve society from moral decadence by resisting ungodly behaviours such as bribery and corruption, sexual perversion, robbery, political vigilantism, injustice, etc. (Psalm 14:3, Rom. 8:8). We can achieve this by speaking boldly against these social vices, becoming examples in godly living, praying against evil manipulations in society, and interceding for the wellbeing of the nations (Jer. 29:7). Also, we must stand out as people who enhance the lives of others.

Where there is strife, confusion or conflict, we are to be peacemakers; where there are hurts, we are to help in binding up the wounds; and where there is hatred, we are to exemplify the love of God (Luke 6:35).

We must help to bring out the best in people and make societal life taste better.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

HOME CELL

IMPORTANCE OF CONVENTIONS

Main Text: 1 Samuel 1:1-20

Memory Verse: *But you are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go – Deuteronomy 12:5*

Introduction

Conventions involve bringing together a number of local churches within a geographical space to mark landmark events on the Christian calendar. In The Church of Pentecost, conventions are organised to mark the birth and death of our Lord Jesus. These celebrations are observed through systematic teaching on a theme, intensive prayer for needs, and spiritual deepening.

The programmes are organised at district, zonal or area levels of the church, based on the direction of leadership. Specifically, Christmas conventions climax spiritual activities of the year through teachings, intensive prayer, impartation of gifts and healings, water baptism, and prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Today, our discussions will help us understand the value of such programmes and the responsibilities that come with them.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Elkanah and his family travel to Shiloh every year? Verse 3.
2. Describe Hannah's attitude at Shiloh. Verse 10-13.
3. How should one conduct oneself before, during and after conventions?
4. What are the responsibilities of members and officers during conventions?
5. What are your expectations for this year's Christmas convention?

Conclusion

Shiloh was the centre of worship and the venue for religious feasts of the Jews during the time of the judges (Judges 2:16-19). During the three annual religious feasts required by law, Jews everywhere came to Shiloh to offer sacrifices and worship. These conventions were times for renewal, revival and commitment. They also served as time for people to meet and interact in a godly environment.

It was during one of such meetings that Hannah prayed, made a vow to God and received her miracle. The believers held such gatherings sacrosanct. In like manner, conventions should be taken seriously by everyone in the church.

Thus, all members of the church must bear up the convener (Area head or Pastor) and all stakeholders of the programme in prayer during the week set aside for prayers towards the success of the convention. We must pray for the harvest

of souls, discernible healings, deliverance and miracles. Individuals must also prepare themselves in fasting, prayer and meditation before the commencement of the programme. As much as possible, everyone must strive to be punctual and not choosy of days to attend. We must go with great expectation and participate in all aspects of this year's Christmas convention.

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WEEK 49

**UNLEASHED TO BECOME THE
LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

Main Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Memory Verse: *You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden* – Matthew 5:14.

Introduction

In our previous study, it was mentioned that every Christian has been called by God to be a change agent, and is therefore expected to play an active role in the transformation of the world. It was explained that as agents of God's transformation agenda, we have the divine mandate to influence every sphere of life through the demonstration of the values and principles of the Kingdom of God.

We further discussed Jesus' description of His followers as the salt of the world and the implications the description has on their way of life.

We shall continue today by focusing on the second analogy Jesus used to describe the roles Christians must play in our efforts to transform the world.

Questions for Discussion

1. How are Christians described in verse 14?
2. What role does light play in human life?

3. In what practical ways can Christians live or function as light in the world?
4. Discuss how the role of Christians as light can contribute to the transformation of society.
5. Identify some factors or situations that make it difficult for today's Christian to function as the light of the world.

Conclusion

The analogy of light implies that as Christians, we are to shine in the darkness of the world, exposing its ills and corrupt practices by doing good works for all to see. We are to shine our brightness on the crooked path of society, and show people the right way to please God.

To do this, we must show people who Jesus is and what He is like, not only through our words, but often more through our actions by following His example. As lights, we are to actively look for ways to assist other people and serve our communities. By so doing, we shall reflect Christ's humility (Matt. 20:26-28) and show His compassion.

We can serve people and communities through simple acts of kindness (Col. 3:12) and by participating in community initiatives, such as helping to clean up our neighbourhoods, working against injustice and crime, sharing food and clothes, offering voluntary chaplaincy or counselling services to families, schools, hospitals, etc.

WEEK 50

**LIVE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES
OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Main Text: Philippians 2:1-9

Memory Verse: *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus* – Philippians 2:5.

Introduction

Every Christian has been called to a place of royalty and priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). Both positions call for a new paradigm in lifestyle and conduct. Royals live by a code and serve as custodians of the customs and rules of the respective kingdom. Priests serve by example and teach followers to be obedient and submissive to God. Being a royal priesthood requires that Christians comply with Kingdom principles and translate them into personal values that conform with that of Christ. In our study today, we will reflect on some of these Kingdom principles and values as lived by Christ to serve as a blueprint for transforming societies.

Questions for Discussion

1. What does Paul say will make his joy complete? Verse 2.
2. What does it mean to consider ‘others better than yourselves’? Verse 3.
3. Identify at least four (4) values and principles exhibited by Jesus in the passage.

4. State four (4) situations in which Jesus exhibited these values and principles.
5. How can you demonstrate similar values and principles in your identified spheres?

Conclusion

Wherever the values and principles of the Kingdom of God are demonstrated, it brings joy and harmony. It is this atmosphere that the apostle Paul desired for the church in Philippi. He encouraged them to have the mind of Christ to make his joy complete.

He emphasised Christ's example of demonstrating love for all. These include compassion, obedience, humility, care for others and obedience to God. In making himself nothing but a servant, Jesus also demonstrated a heart of forgiveness by not imputing the wrong of His accusers against them (Luke 23:34).

Jesus loved even His enemies and was willing to die for their sins; He was tender and did not answer back at His accusers; He showed self-control by not using His divine authority to harm anyone;

As agents of Christ, we can transform society as He did by first living these values and principles by reflecting on His life and allowing the Word of God guide us when we are presented with similar situations in our homes, workplaces, churches, and neighbourhoods.

WEEK 51

ALIGNING WITH THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Main Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Memory Verse: *Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.* – Matthew 6:10.

Introduction

Every king has a domain (territory) within which his rule extends. The domain of the king thus becomes his kingdom. It marks the extent to which his rule and influence extend. This rule and influence are marked by the values and principles that highlight the desires of the king and the lifestyle of his people. The 'Possessing the Nations – Phase 2' - is an agenda to make God's Kingdom extend to all the ends of the earth.

It means making the values and principles of the Kingdom of God permeate every aspect of the national life of the nations. Today's lesson will focus on appreciating the place of these values and principles in the Kingdom of God.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does Jesus refer to the King in Heaven? Verse 9.
2. What did Jesus say believers should request to come? Verse 10a.
3. What is to be done on earth? Verse 10.

4. Mention some values and principles that mark the will of God.
5. How can you ensure the values and principles of God are done on earth?

Conclusion

When the disciples had gone to Jesus to seek to be taught how to pray, He revealed to them what God desires of those who revere Him and seek Him in prayers. He referred to God as the Father in Heaven who has a Kingdom that must influence the earth. As God the Father rules as King, Christians are royals who must hold dear the values and principles of the Kingdom.

Jesus further elaborates that Christians should seek that God's will is done on earth as it is in Heaven. The will of God refers to values – constructive internal character qualities in conformity with God's standards, and principles – the eternal laws and regulations of God that guide human behaviour. To 'possess the nations' is to make God's will – the values and principles of the Kingdom of God – become the norm everywhere.

Some of the values and principles of God's Kingdom are gratitude, hard work, sincerity, self-control, responsibility, integrity, and humility. Others include honesty, accountability, trustworthiness, and tolerance among others.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

HOME CELL

PROMOTING LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP AMONG CHRISTIANS IN THE COMMUNITY

Main Text: Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:22-25

Memory Verse: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer – Acts 2:42.*

Introduction

The first sign of our Christianity that the community sees is our love for one another and the fellowship that exists among believers (John 13:35). As a people of God who are being unleashed to transform our spheres, the values of love and fellowship that we demonstrate to one another becomes the centre of attraction that will draw others to Christ.

In today's lesson, we would examine ways in which we can promote love and fellowship among believers so that we can have the moral courage to step out into the community.

Questions for Discussion

1. What was the attitude of early believers toward one another in the Christian community? Acts 2:42.
2. What personal attitude is required from believers in our day? Hebrews 10:22, 25.

3. What should be our attitude towards other believers in the community? Hebrews 10:24; 1 John 3:17.
4. What has been your attitude towards other believers in the community of faith?
5. How can you improve the demonstration of your love and fellowship to fellow believers in the community?

Conclusion

The early church was together and had everything in common. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. The Lord desires that, as believers, we build one another up, fellowship together and share our love for one another.

As a people of God, we must not give up meeting together but encourage one another in godly fellowship and demonstrate good deeds at all times. Sincere love showing in our act of giving not only to people we know but also to other people in our communities is Christ-like. We should therefore not think too highly of ourselves, but rather encourage one another as we strive together and wait for the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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