

# **MAKING & MULTIPLYING KINGDOM DISCIPLES & COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST**

**A TRAINER & FACILITATOR GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS**

**A Discovery Learning Journey (DLJ)  
on**

**“Rediscovering the Kingdom of God” Through the Letters of the Apostle Paul**

**Written by: Karen Gan-Tay**

**1<sup>st</sup> Edition: April 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: June 2020**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition: Aug 2020**

**4<sup>th</sup> Edition: Apr 2023**

## **CONTENT**

<b>Part 1: My Personal Journey from “Church-ianity” to Discovering the Kingdom of God</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 2: Preface</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 3: DLJ Facilitator Guide</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 4: DLJ Trainer Guide</b>	<b>9</b>

## Part 1: MY PERSONAL JOURNEY FROM “CHURCH-IANITY” TO KINGDOM

At the age of 18, I had a tremendous encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ through a camp organized by Cru (aka Campus Crusade for Christ). I fell in love with Jesus and gave much time to studying His word. I was continually encountering Christ daily through the Bible and experiencing many things that were described in it for the first time. His word was not just a great source of peace, comfort, and joy, but provided much guidance and wisdom for my daily life.

By 19, I was so gripped with the fire and passion for God that I wanted to quit law school to serve Him. I was then attending a charismatic church (which believes in speaking in tongues and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit) in Singapore. And my idea then of serving God was serving in the church. My parents and the pastor of the church urged me to continue and complete my studies. So I did, and continued for another 5 years to graduate with a law degree from the National University of Singapore.

During my university years, I served in Varsity Christian Fellowship as a small group leader and was also given the position and role of a cell leader in the church at the same time.

I started outreach endeavours for the Lord in the university hostels and saw students come to Christ and filled with the Holy Spirit. As the groups I was leading began to grow in number, I began to raise and release more student leaders to disciple new believers.

After graduating from law school, while juggling work at a law firm and ministry on university campuses, I spent a lot of my time encouraging university students to reach out and disciple others for Christ and subsequently started and headed up the campus ministry arm of the church, which involved leading and multiplying cell groups across 5 different universities in Singapore as we saw a move of God amongst the unreached students.

Not long after graduating and practicing as a lawyer for about 2 years, I felt the strong call from God to leave my job to obey His call to the nations. For the next 10 years, I served as the Regional Director of *Christ for all Nations* offices (*CfaN* was the ministry founded by the late Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke) and pioneered ministry offices in Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong, reaching more than 30,000 prayer partners and networking with thousands of churches all over Asia for harvest events in the Asia-Pacific and Africa.

In 2004-2005, a private student hostel housing 1500 international tertiary students from all over the world also opened its doors for me to conduct programs for their students. There were students from all over the world – from Mongolia, Bhutan, China, India, Vietnam, Nigeria and many other African nations in this hostel. Finding favour with the secular hostel management, I conducted a three-night church camp for the campus students from 4 different universities in Singapore at the student hostel facility and also held two nights of evangelistic rallies at the hostel's open-air carpark, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many as three hundred students each night. We saw many of the students respond to the gospel being preached on both nights.

Beyond the preaching, it was really the one-on-one efforts of the student leaders in connecting with the students after the event that paid off and really bore fruit. We were able to connect with many of the foreign students there and I also encouraged the student leaders from the church to befriend them and disciple them. I was overwhelmed that the harvest was so plentiful but saddened that the labourers were truly few.

Many of the student leaders were having to spend a lot of time on activities, programs and “ministries” within the church, and as the cell groups were made “compulsory” for attendance, many of the student leaders within the church were not able to avail themselves for the work of the harvest at the hostel as they struggled to juggle school, church activities, and taking time to disciple many students at the hostel.

With such a great harvest at the doorstep of the church (the hostel was a stone's throw from the building where the church met), it was such a pity that the pastors and cell leaders in the church could not see that and did not release the students as labourers into the harvest fields! The church pastors and leadership viewed the church programs to be of greater priority, and as a result, the harvest at the student hostel was lost.

That same year, I prayed to the Lord and felt the leading to resign from all positions of ministry within the church and move towards ministry beyond the four walls of church. That was the start of my journey to discovering God's kingdom. I was amazed at the numerous open doors for me to preach and teach in various nations shortly after; in Brunei, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, India, Singapore and the USA; in churches, at youth, pastors', women's conferences and gospel campaigns.

Between 2005 and 2010, my husband Jason was hired as a salaried “full-time” staff in the church as intern to the senior pastor, and subsequently placed in charge of the I.T., sound and lighting departments. He had also been serving as a “worship leader” having “led worship” since he was 18 years of age at Sunday services and in many large conferences the church organized. He also held the “position” of a “deacon” within the church, which had meant “serving the pastors on Sunday” and “doing whatever job he was told to do by the Senior Pastor and his wife.

In 2010, he resigned as a “church staff” and joined me as a director in the ministry of Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke (CfaN), which I had been with as their director since 2002 after I left my job as a lawyer. The ministry at CfaN gave me huge exposure to life beyond “local church”, as I had to network and work with the larger body of Christ all over the world across different denominations, with hundreds of churches, pastors, and also marketplace leaders from various industries.

By 2011, we had both gotten more involved in other movements (4-14 global missions movement) and various networks within the body of Christ. We also started our own non-profit (Youth TransformNations) focusing on helping young people engage in different spheres of society to bring positive transformation in the nations.

Along our journey, Jason and I have realised how humanistic “church-ianity” is, in the name of God! And what a religious rut it has been to us and to many others!

For the next 10 years, as we went through the process of “detoxing” from “church-ianity”, we realised we were not alone. Along the journey, God has continued to connect us to many others; former pastors, missionaries and church leaders, who are also kingdom-minded and have ventured beyond the “four walls of church” to discover a whole lot more about God and His kingdom!

Since 2011, my husband and I have pioneered and released organic church communities who go on to disciple others in their communities. (organic in the sense of the life-giving, creative nature of God vs inorganic, synthetic, man-made religiosity); committed to walking in obedience to (D)ivine Truth, (N)urturing strong authentic relationships in community & an (A)postolic heart of going and being the church where the lost are. (DNA adapted from our dear friend, Neil Cole, author of “Organic church”, “Church 3.0” etc).

Free from endless programs, flashy events, worldly marketing ploys, and the encumbrances of lifeless legal structures and man-made systems to manage people to attend a weekly performance, we were able to experience and be “church” the way it’s described in God’s word.

In 2013, we also founded Missional Church Communities Network (MCCN) now known as Missional Movements ([www.missionalmovements.org](http://www.missionalmovements.org)), a relational network of like-minded organic / missional / house church communities focused on “multiplying disciples who make disciples”, seeking to create disciple-making movements (DMM) in the Body of Christ.

Gripped by a passion to see the Body of Christ come to maturity and fullness, Jason and I are currently conducting “APEST through Rediscovery of the Kingdom & Ekklesia” to equip the priesthood of all believers, for ministry through the discovery and development of the five gifts of Christ – the gifts of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher, in conjunction with DMM trainings.

---

*Trainings and Equipping Intensives are available for different groups in various countries; to equip God’s people and church leaders to advance beyond the religious rut of “church-ianity” and practically engage the world as God’s kingdom communities advancing His kingdom.*

Find out more at [www.missionalmovements.org](http://www.missionalmovements.org)

## Part 2: PREFACE

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, I spent considerable time over a few months re-reading the New Testament several times, which I had already known very well. I prepared this Discovery Learning Journey (DLJ) guide to facilitate the reading and study of the epistles/letters of Paul with groups of believers in 2 countries over Zoom.

The first group of believers had been going to church for many years and were “good” Christians.

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, I observed how “locked down” they were as good Sunday Christians, going from attending a physical Sunday church service to now attending an online .

They knew something was amiss, and that there was so much more to God and His kingdom, but did not know to do anything else because they had been in the religious rut of attending church and cell group for decades.

We went through the DLJ for about 2 months, which helped them discover more of God and His kingdom beyond Sunday church!

I was amazed at how most of them in the group, young and old, from 18-25 year old students, to adults in their 40s, and grandparents in their 60s, could read a whole epistle of the Bible each week, with some even reading it multiple times in different versions! Of course, being locked down at home with nowhere else to go and fewer distractions did help.

The outcome was very positive, with most of them developing a real desire to read the Bible and having a rekindled love and hunger for truth, as well as a fresh understanding and perspective of what the Bible really says, which is quite different from the non-biblical assumptions and traditions of church-ianity!

In about 8 weeks of lockdown, ALL of them had finished reading Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Tim, 2 Tim and Acts! In decades of ministry, it was the first time I had seen a group of people from different walks of life and age groups, complete reading seven books of the bible together, confessing old ways with one another and repenting!

This guide is designed to help followers of Christ desiring to read the bible together with their community of believers, to gain a clearer Biblical understanding of God’s word, God’s ways, and God’s Kingdom. And in so doing, I have discovered that many will go on to live for God’s kingdom in this world through a whole new perspective and begin to make disciples wherever God has placed them.

This is a **Discovery Learning Journey (DLJ) challenge!**

**Welcome to this Journey where you and your small group will discover assumptions to unlearn, forgotten truths to relearn, and fresh truths to learn!**

**Start your journey today with Part 3 below.**

## Part 3: DISCOVERY LEARNING JOURNEY (DLJ) FACILITATOR GUIDE

This Facilitator Guide comprises the <<UNDERSTAND>>, <<DO>> and <<RELEASE>> components in order to raise up more kingdom-minded disciples who make or will start making disciples.

Every facilitator should be a learner. And every learner can be a facilitator.

Let's teach one another. A facilitator teaches and is taught by others. We all teach and learn from one another.

### << UNDERSTAND >>

#### WHO You Can Go on This Discovering Learning Journey with

This is especially designed to be helpful for:

- Those who have been followers of Christ for quite some years, “attending church” but desiring to obey Christ in making other kingdom followers.
- Pastors and leaders who have been in ministry for many years and
- Anyone who thinks they know the Bible well.

You will be amazed at how much we don't know or how wrong an understanding and approach we have had! There is much to be discovered when we read the bible holistically with a group of believers.

For an optimum outcome, ***you and your group of believers should:***

- 1) Desire and be open to changes to the current situation based on what the Bible really says***
- 2) Be humble and receptive of each other's sharing***
- 3) Have 1 or 2 facilitators to facilitate sessions and encourage mutual learning, not dominate and teach.***

The next section will help one to understand the role of a facilitator in a DLJ.

### << UNDERSTAND >>

#### Role of a Facilitator in a DLJ Small Group

The basic role of a facilitator is to facilitate and encourage sharing, while helping everyone stay the course.

There should be 1 facilitator to ask the questions. You can have 2 co-facilitators if you are new to it, so you can help one another facilitate.

- 1) If you are asking the questions, you should not answer the questions first.
- 2) Always give others a chance to share, and do not turn it into your teaching session. Refrain from teaching and preaching a sermon.
- 3) A facilitator should be open to the Holy Spirit, be open and humble to unlearn old things and learn new things. He / she should be humble enough to learn from anybody else in the group as well.
- 4) A facilitator's role is not to give all the answers (he/she could be wrong!) but to encourage learning and discovery from each person in the group.
- 5) Everyone should answer. A facilitator should ask questions and encourage everyone to participate in the discussion, beyond giving information and teaching. If you know the people well, try to start with the one who talks the least to the one who talks the most. If you start with the one who talks the most, there will be no time left for anyone else.
- 6) A group size should be kept small. It takes about 40 minutes with 5 persons, and longer with a bigger group. Therefore, I do not encourage too big a group beyond 8 to 12. It will take too long and hinder active participation from each person, which dilutes the effectiveness of the DLJ and growth of the participants.
- 7) If someone detracts from answering the questions and starts talking about something else that is not relevant, gently bring the focus back to the questions.

## A DLJ Approach to Reading the Letters of Paul

This approach is as simple as ABC, and yet most pastors, leaders, and Bible School graduates have probably never done so.

This approach is so simple and fool-proof, and yet yields amazing results to help people rediscover the kingdom of God with a biblical worldview.

### **(A) Read one book/letter in ONE GO, and read past any chapter numbers, and ignore any sub-headings!**

*"Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble.  
Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find that you have crossed the mountain." – Unknown*

Read one letter in one single seating, to gain an understanding of what the letter is trying to communicate. When you come across a sentence that is particularly baffling, don't stop. Read on until you reach the end of the letter. I have never come across anyone who does not want to finish reading a letter which they receive, and instead try to stop at every sentence or even read a few sentences of a letter or book once a week. By the time you finish reading the letter or book (if you ever finish!), you would have lost track of the story or missed the whole point.

Get past the small pebbles so that you can cross the mountain once or twice first. Then you will understand how to navigate the terrain.

The original text did not have chapters, headings, sub-headings and verse numbers. These were inserted to help us make references. Otherwise, we would be saying something like "the letter of Paul (written by Tertius – Ah... if you read this letter, you will realise Tertius wrote for Paul, although Paul provided the content of the letter! Most Christians would have simply assumed Paul wrote it) to the church in Rome, paragraph 7, 2nd part of the sentence" instead of Rom 1:25!

Reading those headers and sub-headers provided in your bible are NOT always helpful. They were inserted by publishers and bible translation committees who had a certain perspective. Reading them can create a misperception of what the letter is truly saying. Instead, jot down a statement of what you think Paul is communicating as you read along. You might be surprised that those headers are quite off sometimes!

*Viewing the epistles as letters without chapters and verses, written to churches in different cities helps one to read it once through in one single seating!*

When I receive a letter, especially if it is important, I will read through it from the beginning to the end, to find out what the letter is trying to communicate and whether there is any action point to be taken. And if it is so important, I will read through it again to make sure that there is nothing I had missed!

In the same way, when we receive a letter, we don't usually read just a random line (verse) that sounds cool, but instead read from beginning to the end. In fact, if the letter is particularly important, you would read it again and again.

We do that with important letters we receive in life. But why is it that we do not do it with letters in the Bible?

Sadly, most Christians simply pick out one favourite verse/s out of the whole letter or only listen to sporadic parts picked out by someone else (a sermon). How then can it be possible that they know what the author is really communicating?

Worse still, there are believers who fuss over 1 part of a sentence they cannot understand or some passage regarding women and make a whole doctrine and denominational practice out of it! We should simply read a book/letter once through first. It is only common sense to do that!

We must not become lazy and rely on professionals to do the reading and understanding for us, letting them tell us what they want us to hear or think. In our day and age, with widespread literacy, no person has an excuse. Every person has the capacity to do that for themselves!

The truth is we do not need to rely on paid professionals or Bible schools to do the reading and understanding for us or to teach us. We have the Holy Spirit who is the best teacher. (Jesus told us that "The Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into ALL truth" (John14:26).

***(B) Read a DIFFERENT VERSION of the Bible from the one which you usually read***

Reading the bible in a version (eg. NLT, AMPC, ESV) other than the ones that are commonly used (eg. NKJV, NIV) will help you gain new fresh perspectives. Read one version at one go, then move on to the next version, instead of reading the different versions concurrently to compare and getting lost in a sentence or word or a verse.

The mind has an unusual behaviour called “mindset” which means to be set in a certain way of thinking and perspective after years of repetition. It has a tendency to go to the highlighted and underlined parts and tends to gloss over those parts that are not. Hence reading the same version might not be helpful but can cause you to miss out on new things you can learn.

Have you read a book you understand, that makes you want to continue reading to find out more till you get to the end?

And have you also read a book you don't understand, with such convoluted writings and concepts that you don't want to read on? (Perhaps this is another reason why young people nowadays do not like to read the Bible; because it has been translated into forms that no normal person can relate with)

In almost 30 years of preaching, teaching, leading bible studies, and small groups etc., I have come to realise one thing: People don't want to read something they don't understand. Or they lose the desire to read something they don't find interesting or relevant, or they think they already know.

This is a common problem amongst Christians.

Make time to get a fresh look at the Bible and rekindle a fresh love for the Word by reading a version that you have never read before. I personally find after decades of being well-versed with NKJV, NLT is particularly refreshing.

***(C) Listen to the AUDIO Version of the Bible***

Try a new way of approaching the Bible. Listening instead of reading it. Some of you might discover that you are auditory learners, i.e. that you learn better through listening.

For me, I learn to hear God from what I see and read more than what I hear. I tend to be a very fast reader compared to listening. However, at times when I listen to something, I do pick up fresh insights that I miss when reading.

## Guided Questions to Ask in a DLJ

These questions are not meant for a word for word exegesis of the letters. They are meant to help gain proper worldview of it rather than to quibble and debate over one small part of the letter.

When you are reading a letter of Paul to a church, these are **simple questions in the format of S.O.S. (Say, Obey, Share) to ask your small group:**

<b>SAY</b>	<p><b>Question 1:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Who</b> is the letter written by and who is the letter addressed to?</p> <p><b>Question 2:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Since this letter was specific to a group of believers (Ekklesia), <b>what is the main thing</b> that Paul / the author of the letter is trying to communicate to the recipients / Ekklesia?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">You can prompt them in this way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describe in your own words what Paul is trying to communicate.</li> <li>- Is there a main theme in the letter? And if so, can you describe what is it?</li> </ul> <p><b>Question 3:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Why</b> do you think Paul is writing in this manner, or focusing on these topics, or communicating that main point?</p> <p><b>Question 4:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) <b>What does this letter/ book of the bible</b> tell you about God's kingdom?</p>
<b>OBEY</b>	<p><b>Question 5:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>What</b> do you think God is asking you <b>to do differently now</b>, compared to what you have been previously doing? Is there something you should do differently now?</p> <p><b>Question 6:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>How can you OBEY Jesus our King in the mission</b> He has given us as His disciples in Matt 28:19-20?</p>
<b>SHARE</b>	<p><b>Question 7:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Who can you SHARE</b> what you have learnt with?</li> <li>b) <b>Would you like to facilitate the next DLJ?</b></li> <li>c) <b>Is there anyone not in this group you would like to start a DLJ with?</b></li> </ul>

## NEXT STEPS

> When you finish the above, **choose the next letter** to read for the next time you meet or come together, or ask someone to suggest which letter to read next.

> **Repeat** the above questions in the next DLJ together until you have finished all the 9 letters to the churches.

**NOTE:**

*The above framework and questions are meant for small group discussions of the letters in the New Testament only. And they are designed in a way to help one get to the essence and gist of these letters. The purpose is to help us shake off our dependence on religion and religious systems, to learn to depend on Christ through the Holy Spirit who will lead and guide us into all truth, and also help us to obey one of the commands of Christ to teach one another.*

In a few weeks, depending on how often your small church community/group gathers, you would have covered 9 letters, which is 1/3 of the New Testament! All of them would have gained a sound understanding and a better big picture of what the Kingdom of God and Ekklesia (church) should look like and start making disciples for His kingdom!



> When you have completed the letters to the Ekklesia /churches, you can start on **4 more letters Paul wrote to specific persons, namely:**

- Timothy (1Tim, 2 Tim)
- Titus
- Philemon

or the **Narratives**: Acts which narrates the acts of the Holy Spirit with the early apostles and disciples; and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John which narrate the life of Jesus Christ.

**<< RELEASE >> << DO >>**

Start MAKING KINGDOM DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST today!

Start simply, by simply starting.

If you are interested to learn more about how to disciple a pre-believer into the Kingdom of God, you can find other free tools and resources to help you at [www.missionalmovements.org](http://www.missionalmovements.org)

## Part 4: DISCOVERY LEARNING JOURNEY (DLJ) TRAINER GUIDE

The key to multiplication is train others to train others. The recommendation is to go on the DLJ first before you train others. You should train others only after you have first facilitated several DLJs yourself. In this way you know not just the successes to follow but also the pitfalls to prevent.

This is a 1-hour Training Guide which comprises the <<TEACH>>, <<DO>> and <<RELEASE>> components in order to raise up more facilitators for small groups.

Using the Bible as your only resource, particularly Paul's letters to the followers of Christ, you and your small group can also journey out of a religious rut of "Church-ianity" into rediscovering the Kingdom of God to serve and advance His kingdom together!

### <<DO>> <<TEACH>>

#### Part 3: DLJ FACILITATOR GUIDE

### << TEACH >>

#### Religion Blinds Us!

*"But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" – John 9:25*

Religiosity and religion blinds people. Up till today, many Jews are still spiritually blinded and cannot see that their Messiah has already come, and that Jesus is the Son of God sent by God as the Saviour of the world.

More than 2000 years after Jesus's death on the cross, resurrection and ascension, ask yourselves: how far removed are we from the original design and intent of being true followers and disciples of Christ? Have we formed for ourselves another religion and religious system called Catholicism or Christianity?

I firmly believe these letters which Paul wrote would have great relevance again to help many rediscover the kingdom of God afresh and to really know God for themselves, desiring a new life that can only be found in Christ; not in the form of religion, religious practices or traditions of what we might know to be Christianity.

If Jesus wanted to start a new religion, He would have given His disciples including Paul the mission to build temples and buildings everywhere. Jesus did not come to establish another religious order. Instead He commanded them to make disciples who make disciples and to baptise them into His name, teaching them to obey (not just teaching) all that He has commanded. (Matt 28:18-20). And that was exactly what Paul did and tried to do. Much of Paul's letters have been misunderstood and misapplied. We have used Paul to justify what we do in the name of our religion and religious practices.

I would like to bring you on a discovery learning **journey from religion into the Kingdom of God, and also equip you to help others "see"**.

### << TEACH >>

#### Discover, Learn and Journey (DLJ) - through the 9 letters of Paul to churches and the Acts of the Apostles

These are the **9 letters Paul wrote to the Ekklesias/ Churches in:**

Rome (Romans),  
Corinth (1, 2 Cor),  
Galatia (Galatians),  
Ephesus (Ephesians),  
Philippi (Philippians),  
Colosse (Colossians),  
Thessalonica (1, 2 Thessalonians).

Hebrews is not included in this list, as it is disputed as to whether he was the author.

- Since each letter is written to groups of followers of Christ in a certain locality, these should NOT be read for our own selves, but to be *done together with your spiritual community*.
- You could go through the letters in chronological order. But there are disputes as to the chronology of the letters written as well. The fact is, it does not matter which of Paul's letters you start off with, the outcome will be pretty much the same.

- You will start to notice *certain patterns in Paul's writings* to help us know and read the Bible with better understanding and application.
- **At any point or alongside a letter**, you can start on the **Narratives - Acts of the Apostles. 3/4s of the narrative (21 out of 28 chapters!) in the Acts of the Apostles throws the spotlight onto one man Paul**. Reading Acts will help one navigate through Paul's life before He encountered Christ, what happened when he encountered Jesus, and Paul's life after His encounter including his missionary journeys to the places and people he later wrote the letters to.
- On a side note, as you read Acts, discover for yourselves the \*messages of the apostles like Peter, and Paul and also Stephen the martyr in these narratives too.

## << TEACH >>

### POINTERS IN TRAINING FACILITATORS

#### 1) Understanding Why

In raising and training facilitators, it is important to help them to understand WHY something is done. The WHY question is very key in any learning journey. The "Why" determines the "How". If we understand why, we will know how.

King Solomon said in Proverbs 24:3-4  
 "Through wisdom a house is built,  
 And by understanding it is established;  
 By knowledge the rooms are filled  
 With all precious and pleasant riches."

#### 2) Understanding Clear Patterns of Paul's writings

Paul's letters consists of very clear patterns. He told Timothy to "follow in the pattern of his wholesome teachings" in his letter to him (2Tim1:13).

#### 3) Learning How to Draw Out Others' into Deeper Authentic Sharing

In order to facilitate the understanding and a sound approach to Paul's letters and the patterns of his writings, it is crucial to help facilitators to be able to draw out the others in the group into deeper sharing. It is important to guide the sharing to connect to the reality of life.

*Prov 20:5 (AMPC)*

*"Counsel in the heart of man is like water in a deep well, but a man of understanding draws it out."*

- i) **Formulate Questions Beyond Discussion's Sake**  
 Formulate simple questions like those in Part 3 that will help you and your group to go beyond the head knowledge of knowing what had happened or what is written.
- ii) **Listen in Order to Ask Questions**
- iii) **Be Intentional towards God's Purpose and Mission of Making Disciples Who Make Disciples**

#### 4) Understanding Context

Context is everything. Without context, everything is meaningless. It is important to train facilitators who have the context and background of the author and the letters.

#### Background of Paul and his letters in a Chronological Timeline

Introduction of Paul (Saul of Tarsus) as Persecutor, Murderer of Followers of Christ	Acts 7,8,9	A.D. 36
Saul's Encounter with Christ on the Way to Damascus	Acts 9	A.D. 36
Paul's Call and New Mission	Acts 13:1-3	A.D. 47
His First Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 13:4-14:28	A.D. 48
Paul Writes letter to church in Galatia?	Galatians	A.D. 49 or 57?
Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:6-35	A.D. 50
Second Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 15:39-18:22	A.D. 51
Paul Writes 1 <sup>st</sup> letter to Church in Thessalonica	1Thessalonians	A.D. 52
Paul Writes 2 <sup>nd</sup> letter to Church in Thessalonica	2Thessalonians	A.D. 53
Third Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 18:23-21:17	A.D. 54

Paul writes 1 <sup>st</sup> letter to Church in Corinth	1 Corinthians	A.D. 57
Paul Writes Letter to Church in Galatia?	Galatians	A.D. 49 or 57?
Paul Writes 2 <sup>nd</sup> letter to Church in Corinth	2 Corinthians	A.D. 58
Paul Writes to the Church in Rome	Romans	A.D. 58
Paul Writes letter to Church in Ephesus	Ephesians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes letter to Church in Philippi	Philippians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes letter to Church in Colosse	Colossians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes to Philemon	Philemon	A.D. 62
? - Disputable dates source: <a href="http://blueletterbible.org">blueletterbible.org</a>		

### Apostle Paul's Background

***(You CAN SKIP READING this as this can be a spoiler for your own discovery journey, and you can get these from reading Acts yourselves if you wish to!)***

Paul, previously called Saul of Tarsus (his birthplace), was heading to Damascus on a mission, with letters requested from the high priest addressed to the synagogues of Damascus, to seek cooperation for the arrest of disciples of Christ and bring these followers of the Way chained back to Jerusalem. He was on the way to Damascus with this mission when He heard the voice of Jesus Christ from heaven asking Him "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?". Saul fell down to the ground and was blinded by the bright light during this encounter with Christ and did what Jesus said to him to do. For the next 3 days, he was led by hand to Damascus, during which he neither ate nor drank for 3 days!

While he was blind, He saw a vision! He "saw" a "certain disciple"(he was simply a "disciple", follower of Christ who was willing to obey), named Ananias come and lay hands on his eyes and healing him from blindness. The Lord Jesus also gave Ananias a vision and told him to go to Straight Street, to the house where Paul was staying and what he should do. Ananias, who had heard the reputation of Paul being a murderer and persecutor of followers of Christ, was afraid of going to Paul. But nevertheless, Ananias obeyed and laid hands on Paul. Right at that moment he laid his hands, something like "scales" fell off Paul's eyes and He could literally see again! He was also filled with the Holy Spirit and thereafter water baptized into the name of Jesus.

What a dramatic transformation! Paul was spiritually blinded by his own religiosity, but now he could see and begun to enter the Kingdom of God. He was born again into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-9)!

Imagine Saul's transformation to Paul!

He was previously a member of one of the most religious sects of those days, the Pharisees, which demanded the strictest obedience to Jewish laws. He was from the tribe of Benjamin, raised a Hebrew and had gone under the tutelage of one of the most recognized and expert religious teachers of those days, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

When it came to Jewish laws and Judaism, Paul knew everything there was to know. After Paul met Christ on the way to Damascus, He was a changed man, and who renounced his past religion.

The very synagogues in Damascus he wanted to go into and bind new followers of Christ, hand and foot to bring them to Jerusalem to be imprisoned, he went now to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 9:20)!

Paul was a changed man, who had gone from being a persecutor to being the persecuted. He also bore the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ on himself with several of his later letters being written from prison.

Let's understand that Paul was, at the time of writing those letters, a new creation in Christ and a true follower of Christ, not a follower of Judaism. So Paul for sure did not come to establish Christianity as another religion and neither did Paul recommend for church buildings to be built.

If that is the case, then what was the focus and emphasis of Paul's letters? What perspectives did he write from?

He was never trying to be a Pharisee to the churches he wrote to again. He was blind but now he could see! He was transformed from a legalistic, persecutor of Christ's followers, a circumcised Pharisee, a learned Hebrew, into an Apostle (in Greek -apostolos - "sent one", Latin - "missio" - root word for missions and missionary) of Christ, with a kingdom mission to fulfil - to bring the gospel of the kingdom of God to the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel. (Acts 9:15). Paul had aborted his original mission and was now deployed in his new mission.

What is your new mission?

## << TEACH >>

### STRUCTURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Understanding how The New Testament of the Bible is structured will help us gain insight as to how to read the Bible.

The New Testament comprise of 27 books and they can be classified into these genres:

1) **Narratives:**

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; Acts of the Apostles

2) **Letters:**

i) **Letters by Paul to Ekklesias**

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians

ii) **Letters by Paul to Individuals**

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon,

iii) **Letters by Other Apostles**

Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude

3) **Prophetic /Apocalyptic Literature:**

Revelation of John

**<< RELEASE >> << DO >>**

**Start MULTIPLYING KINGDOM DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST today!**

**Find others** who have gone through the journey with you and train them to facilitate small groups of DLJs.

**Enjoy your journey** with the Holy Spirit and with others and **keep on multiplying trainers and facilitators who will release kingdom-minded disciples for Christ!**

A copy of this free booklet is available and downloadable at [www.missionalmovements.org/tools](http://www.missionalmovements.org/tools) and also downloadable at PDF.com.