

Training Faithful Trainers – Introduction

Key Image: Baton

Memory Verse:

“The things which you have heard from me . . . entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2.2 (NASB)

The “Endvision”

Let’s begin with an exciting question:

“What would Australia be like if everyone loved and obeyed God?”

Unfortunately, this is not reality. Here in Australia, only about 5 percent of all people have a real and meaningful relationship with Jesus. In this country over 400 people die daily, which means that **380 Australians enter a godless eternity every day.**

The world’s population is over **six billion people** – most of whom do not love and obey God. To reach them all for Jesus is humanly impossible! But with the power of the Holy Spirit, God can use **you** to reach vast numbers of spiritually lost people.

Three Great Commands

Jesus Commands Us to Love God. God created us for a relationship of love, and He commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22.37). We show our love through our obedience to Him: *“If you keep my commandments, you will remain in My love”* (John 15.10). Therefore if we want to grow in **intimacy** with God, we must obey Him.

Jesus Commands Us to Love People. God also desires for us to live in harmony as His people, so He commands us to love one another (Matthew 22.39). Love is not words or feelings, but actions. We can express love in many ways, but the greatest eternal value is found by being mutually **accountable** to one another to love and obey God.

Jesus Commands Us to Make Disciples. God wants all people to be reconciled to Him, but each person must hear the message, repent, and follow Him in obedience. Jesus commands His disciples to go and make disciples. Faithful witnesses passed the gospel on to us today, and we must pass it to others to **multiply** His Kingdom. Let’s examine **Matthew 28.18-20**:

- ***“All authority has been given to Me”*** Jesus is the highest authority in the universe. He has complete sovereignty as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, therefore we must obey Him!
- ***“Go”*** We can’t depend on people to come to us – we must go to them.
- ***“Make disciples”*** A disciple is an apprentice learner who follows the Master. Disciples *follow* Jesus in their lifestyle and go *fishing* for Jesus by catching people for the Kingdom (Mark 1.16-17). We make disciples, not just converts!
- ***“Baptising them”*** In order to baptise someone, he or she must decide to follow Jesus. This means we must first share the gospel message and bring that person to a point of decision.
- ***“Teaching them to obey”*** We must teach believers to obey Jesus – including this command. Therefore, a disciple is a disciple-maker! We train them to be trainers who train others, passing it on through many spiritual generations.
- ***“I am with you always”*** Jesus goes before us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Once we start moving in His power, we will begin to see God at work to create movements that reach many people and multiply His Kingdom.

The New Testament AIM of the Church

These Three Great Commands are foundational – virtually every instruction in Scripture traces back to them! Jesus gave these commands so we know how to please God, so we should obey them **every time** we meet together. A simple way to remember these commands is to use the words *Accountability*, *Intimacy*, and *Multiplication* (AIM). Here is the task of every believer:

Develop Accountability to one another . . .

to grow in Intimacy with God . . .

and to bring about the Multiplication of the Kingdom

Reaching Your Family and Friends

It is God's will that every person have the opportunity to know Him and His great love for them. God wants to use you as an "ambassador" to reach your family and those closest to you! Throughout the Bible, we see many examples of people who reached their family first:

| | The Story | What Lesson Do We Learn? |
|--|--|--|
| Noah Genesis 6-8 | God commanded Noah to build the ark. He preached good news that others could be saved from the flood. No one saw any danger, and no one was saved. | Only Noah's family was saved. |
| Rahab Joshua 2.17-20 | A woman of Jericho who provided protection for the spies sent by Joshua. | God spared her whole family. |
| Gerasene Man Mark 5.1-20 | A demon-possessed man who was healed by Jesus. He was sent to share the good news with his own people. | Everyone was amazed at the change in his life. |
| Cornelius Acts 10.1-33 | A man of great reputation who sought after God. Peter came to his house and shared the gospel with him. | His whole household was influenced by the message. |
| Lydia Acts 16.10-15 | A business person who was a dealer in purple cloth. Paul came and shared the Good News with her. | She and her household believed and were baptised. |
| Jailer at Philippi Acts 16.25-34 | Guarded the prison where Paul and Silas were held. After an earthquake shook the door open, Paul shared the gospel and the man was saved. | He and his household believed and were baptised. |
| You | God wants to use you to reach your entire family. | At the very least, witness to your own family. |

[At this point, hand out this lesson sheet and let participants practise teaching one another what you just taught them.]

The TFT Training Process

Give each participant a copy of "The TFT Training Process" (handout). Help each trainer to understand how the *Training Faithful Trainers* method works and what you will expect from them in the coming weeks.

Developing Your People List

Jesus said, "*the fields are ripe for harvest*" (John 4.35). This means there are many people out there who are ready to hear the Good News. Our task is to find them and tell them the news. When the Holy Spirit prepares people to believe, they will come to faith fairly quickly. But they must hear the message first.

- Make a list of all the people you know, starting with your family, friends, loved ones, and acquaintances.
- On your list, mark off those who know Jesus. Remember to thank God for saving these people!
- The remainder are those who need to hear the Good News. These are the people with which you will share the Good News over the next several weeks.

Sharing Your Personal Story

It is a great joy to lead others to Jesus! The most effective way to share about Jesus is to tell what He has done for you. The Bible commands us, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have*" (1 Peter 3.15). God commands you to be ready to help others know Him!

- Write a story about how God has changed your life. A good example is how you came to know Jesus as Saviour.
- Include one verse from the Bible (you don't need to state the reference).
- Keep it short. You should be able to tell your story in less than 2 minutes!
- Rehearse it several times, then practise it aloud with someone else.
- When you train others, be sure to share your story first as an example.

Assignment

- WRITE your People List starting with those closest to you and listing everyone you know
- SHARE your Personal Story with at least one person this week
- MEMORISE the memory verse: 2 Timothy 2.2
- READ from the Bible: John 10.24-29; Romans 6.3-11; 2 Corinthians 5.17-21; 1 John 5.11-13
- TRAIN at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained