

Pentecost Every Day

The Official Eight Lesson Series of Pentecost Every Day

GATS
GLOBAL ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

globalmissions

UPCI
UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
THE WHOLE GOSPEL • TO THE WHOLE WORLD • BY THE WHOLE CHURCH

Pentecost Every Day Series

Content

Lesson One
Introduction to Pentecost Every Day

Lesson Two
Pentecost Every Day Then and Now

Lesson Three
Pentecost Every Day and Global Partnerships

Lesson Four
A Fresh Look at the Great Commission

Lesson Five
Disciples Every Day

Lesson Six
Digital Evangelism, Education and Engagement

Lesson Seven
Pentecost Every Day and Bible Schools

Lesson Eight
Goals for Pentecost Every Day

These lessons are available in multiple world languages. To inquire if the lessons are available in a particular language, or to seek permission to translate them, contact GATS@upci.org.

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson One

Introductory Lesson

Key Verse

> And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9, NKJV)

Our Teaching and Distribution Approach

To advance our vision, we encourage our seasoned senior leaders to echo the lessons they have been taught and cascade them to others at the grassroots level in every nation and local church. This multiplication method will cause a ripple effect. Senior leaders and instructors will become equipped and inspired to share the material with others, ultimately reaching the grassroots level. This requires:

Clear and Concise Content	Present content and concepts in a clear, concise, easy-to-comprehend format.
Reproducible language	Language that senior leaders can confidently share with others.
Storytelling	Incorporate stories and examples of real-life experiences. This makes the material relatable and shareable.
Actionable Takeaways	Provide practical tips, tools, and resources they can immediately apply, utilize, and share with others.
Cascade Communication	Use the train-the-trainer approach so the material can be easily cascaded down to others, who in turn can be equipped.
Multiplication Tools	Provide senior leaders and instructors with presentation materials, guides, and interactive workbooks or materials to help replicate and share the content.

"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

Introduction

We are believing God for and working toward "a sustainable annual harvest of one million-plus disciples from every nation and people group."

The mission of UPCI Global Missions is "to every tribe and nation, Jesus. Send the message. Train messengers. Produce self-supporting, self-propagating, self-governing churches. Establish fellowship in truth and holiness."

The purpose of the United Pentecostal Church International is to carry the whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church: to establish an effective organized effort; to encourage the opening and establishing of new works; to evangelize the world by every means possible; and to produce and maintain a clean ministry and fellowship.

"The whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church." Our scriptural end-vision is penned, prophesied, and promised in Revelation, the final book of the Bible: "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9, NKJV).

Our vision is often referred to as "Pentecost Every Day." Together, we are working to mobilize the UPCI's global church and community to annually achieve, with the Lord's empowerment, a million-plus disciples from every nation, tribe, and people group, experiencing Pentecost every day through the power of the Holy Spirit, reproducing themselves and transforming their communities.



"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:44–47, NKJV).

Pentecost EVERY Day

Daily means:

Daily Water Baptisms in Jesus' Name	
Daily Baptisms in the Holy Spirit	Believers are experiencing the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit every day.
Daily Evangelism	Sharing the gospel with others every day, leading to a harvest of souls.
Daily Discipleship	Believers are growing in their faith, being discipled and reproducing themselves every day.
Daily Supernatural Ministry	Believers operating every day in the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as healing, prophecy, and deliverance.

These elements emphasize the importance of living a Spirit-empowered, evangelistic, and discipleship-focused life every day.

According to James G. Poitras in *Acts: God's Training Manual for Today's Church*, the early church did the following *daily*:

Evangelism	Acts 5:42; 8:4; 11:19–21
Discipleship	Acts 2:42–47; 5:42; 11:26
Worship	Acts 2:46–47; 5:42
Prayer	Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:31; 6:4; 12:5
Fellowship	Acts 2:42–47; 4:32–37
Breaking of bread	Acts 2:42, 46–47; 20:7
Miracles, signs, and wonders	Acts 2:43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:6–7; 14:3

The daily practices of the early church, as described in Acts 2:42–47, were instrumental in their growth, thriving, and fulfillment of the Great Commission.

These timeless universal practices and disciplines that worked in the first-century church are just as effective in the twenty-first-century church.

By embracing and emphasizing these practices and disciplines, the modern church can and will experience similar growth, vitality, and impact.

The Great Commission is recorded in five books and is a divine mandate for the whole church. No wonder we often state, "The whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church." We take the gospel from everywhere to everywhere.

- Matthew 28:19–20
- Mark 16:15
- Luke 24:44–47
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8

Unreached People Groups

Recently, there has been a much-needed emphasis on unreached people groups. This is a way we can reach people and nations that are not currently being reached. The mission has not changed, but there should be measurable, tangible waymarks to gauge our progress.

Our heartbeat needs to be in alignment with Heaven's directive to reach the unreached. This focus is on spreading the gospel to those who have never heard it, particularly among unreached people groups (UPGs)—communities that remain largely untouched by the message of Christ, often isolated by language, culture, or geography. Reaching UPGs is not a solo mission but a collaborative commission.

The emphasis of the Great Commission is not just on nations but on niches of neglected neighborhoods, nameless nomads, and nations near and far where the Jesus Name message has not been preached. May the Lord of the harvest ignite in us a commitment to Christ's commission that encompasses a passion for unreached pockets of people where the light of truth has never dawned. There are upwards of 7,400 unreached people groups still in existence today, with billions of people that may never hear of Jesus without our intentional efforts in evangelism. They are unreached, but they should never be forgotten. Language divides, some areas are remote, and rigid traditions can create walls, but we need to break through all of that to connect communities with Christ Jesus.

It begins with prayerful preparation; the foundation of every successful mission is fervent intercession. Praying people need to be equipped, energized, and empowered for a pioneering purpose: reaching the unreached.

We do not send out missionaries and church planters randomly; we intentionally send them into areas where the need is greatest. This is accomplished and strengthened through prayer preparation, strategic sending, and sustainable support.

The vision for Pentecost Every Day is not merely about the quantity of converts but the quality of disciples who make disciples. It is a ripple effect. When someone reaches one unreached person, the impact is immeasurable.

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Two

Then and Now

Key Verses

> And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17–18, NKJV)

Introduction

What would Pentecost Every Day look like? For the answer, perhaps we need to travel back to the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost.

The prophecy of Joel 2:28–32 was quoted by Peter in Acts 2:17–21. This speaks of God pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh in the last days. This was indeed fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2. But it didn't stop there. The Spirit's outpouring has continued ever since and is still being fulfilled today. The Holy Spirit continues to be provided in salvation and empowering believers for witness, service, and ministry.

> And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
> your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams,
> your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and
> on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28–29, NKJV)

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is a hallmark of the last days, and it is a key aspect of God's plan to prepare His people for His promised return. We can expect a continual outpouring of His presence and power upon all flesh.

The crowd that gathered on that original Day of Pentecost converged on Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks. They represented a wide range of cultures, languages, and economic backgrounds and were united by their shared heritage and belief system. They were a diverse and vibrant group of Jewish pilgrims from all corners of the ancient world. They traveled from far-flung places.

As they gathered in the city, these devout men and women were eager to worship and celebrate the Jewish festival to commemorate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Little did they know that this day would become a pivotal and defining moment in history, highlighting the birth of the Christian church through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Please note that with the assistance of AI technology (Meta) here is a brief description of what the crowd would be like if the Day of Pentecost happened today in the twenty-first century: The crowd gathered in Jerusalem would be a kaleidoscope of cultures, ages, and backgrounds. They would be a tech-savvy, globally connected, and socially diverse group of people.

Imagine a sea of faces from every continent, with smartphones in hand, capturing every moment on social media. The crowd would include young people as well as older adults, all united by their faith and curiosity.

You would see people from everywhere, all standing together, eager to experience the outpouring. The air would be filled with anticipation as people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

As the event unfolded, the crowd would erupt into many languages, with people speaking in tongues, prophesying, and worshiping God. It would be a truly global, Pentecostal experience, demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit to unite people across cultures, borders, and generations.

Revelation 7:9 describes a vision of a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne of God, worshiping Him. If this scene were to unfold today, it might look something like this:

> Imagine a vast, sprawling gathering of people from every corner of the globe. They are dressed in attire reflecting their diverse cultural heritage: African Dashikis, Asian kimonos, Latin American ponchos, and European suits. They are all ages, from children to elderly, and they are all united in their worship of God.
>
> The crowd is made of multicolored skin tones, hair textures, and facial features. You see people with disabilities, people of different socioeconomic backgrounds, and people from various professions. They are all equal, all valued, and all cherished in God's sight.
>
> As they worship, you hear dozens of languages: Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and many more. But despite the language barriers, they are all singing the same song and proclaiming the same message: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:10, NKJV).

In this diverse, worshipful gathering, you see the beauty of God's kingdom, where every nation, tribe, people, and language is represented.

Having Pentecost every day would be an extraordinary experience, transforming individual lives, communities, and the world at large. Here is a glimpse into what it might be like.

Pentecost Every Day would be like waking up each morning with a sense of God's presence abiding with you and hovering over you. The Spirit is ever-present to empower and guide.

Every day, people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and languages come together, and the Holy Spirit bridges the gaps, enabling them to understand and communicate with each other in miraculous ways.

The church becomes a hub of supernatural activity, with healings, miracles, and deliverances occurring regularly along with a manifestation of other gifts of the Spirit. The power of God is palpable, and people are drawn to the church, seeking hope, transformation, and a deeper connection with God.

As believers, you are empowered to live a life of active, bold witness, sharing the gospel with confidence, compassion, and clarity. The Holy Spirit gives you the words to speak, the courage to act, and the wisdom to navigate different life variables.

Pentecost Every Day means the church becomes a force for transformation, impacting communities, cities, and nations. Believers are equipped to care for the marginalized and demonstrate the love of Christ.

In this environment, discipleship becomes a lifestyle, with believers learning from each other, growing in their faith, and reproducing themselves in others. The church becomes an incubator for disciples empowered to shape culture and society.

Having Pentecost Every Day would be a truly revolutionary experience, transforming the church, communities, and the world. It would require a willingness to surrender to the Holy Spirit, to trust in God's power, and to live a life of radical obedience.

Here is a glimpse into what Pentecost Every Day might look like for the global church, a national church, and a local church.

Global Church

Unified Prayer	Believers from every nation, tribe, and language unite in prayer, seeking God's presence and empowerment.
Global Revival	Pentecostal outpourings occur simultaneously across the globe, sparking widespread revival and awakening.
Cross-Cultural Collaboration	Churches and ministries from diverse backgrounds partner together, sharing resources, expertise, and best practices to advance the Kingdom.
Accelerated Missionary Work	The Holy Spirit propels believers to fulfill the Great Commission, resulting in rapid church planting, discipleship, and evangelism.

National Church

National Revival	Pentecostal outpourings occur across the nation, sparking widespread revival and awakening.
Unity	Unite in prayer, worship, and mission, putting aside differences for the sake of the gospel.
Renewed Evangelism	Believers are empowered to share the gospel with boldness and clarity, resulting in a significant increase in conversions.

Local Church

Vibrant Worship	Worship services are marked by the presence of God, with believers experiencing heartfelt praise, intimate prayer, and supernatural manifestations.
Empowered Evangelism	Believers are equipped and empowered to share the gospel with their neighbors, friends, and family members, resulting in a steady stream of new converts.
Discipleship and Leadership Development	The church prioritizes discipleship and leadership development, raising up a new generation of leaders who are equipped to serve and empower others.
Community Transformation	The church becomes a hub for community transformation, with believers engaging in acts of service, compassion, and justice.
Supernatural Ministry	The church experiences a release of supernatural ministry, with believers operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as healing, prophecy, and deliverance.

In each of these contexts, Pentecost Every Day would be marked by a deep sense of God's presence, a passion for evangelism and discipleship, and a commitment to unity, prayer, and supernatural ministry.

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson 3

Pentecost Every Day and Global Partnerships

Key Verse

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (Acts 2:1, NKJV)

Introduction

Fulfilling the Great Commission requires a global vision and a spirit of partnership. No single church, organization, or nation can complete this mission alone. Through strategic collaboration, shared resources, and unified efforts, the gospel can reach every corner of the earth.

People are always moving through various levels of the discipleship process. We should be moving people from evangelism to teaching.

Our wineskins are insufficient to accommodate this great increase. The parable is meant to show the audience that the new teachings of Jesus cannot be put in the old wineskins of such practices as Jewish fasts. To put this new wine into the old wineskins would destroy it, and people would then lose both the old and the new.

Digital Engagement

We can create content using new mediums that meet people where they are today. Content needs to be broken down into byte-size material.

Adam Hunley, general director of UPCI Global Missions, wrote, "One of the criticisms of this generation is their micro-attention spans, likely a result of only seeing personalized, curated content that is short, to the point, and tailored for them. Attention spans are shorter than ever before…a definite weakness. But let's use technology to meet them there, instead of just criticizing the way they are. By meeting them there, we can help them develop a greater hunger as the Spirit leads them through anointed content that

speaks to them personally. This generation needs to have content that uses the strength of the media to reach the weakness of the generation."

If every UPC across the globe saw a net gain of two new disciples per month, this would result in our goal of Pentecost Every Day: 45,000 x 2 x 12 = 1,080,000 new disciples annually.

A Day of Pentecost net result every day of the year (like 3,000 on the original Day of Pentecost): 3,000 x 365 = 1,090,000 per year.

Percentage growth over previous years may work for some. Percentage growth varies from nation to nation, based on the goals and reality. Clearly, 5 percent growth will take a long time, but 20 percent growth would be much quicker.

Much of our overall retention takes place through Bible studies, friendships, and personal connection. This does not ignore the intentional sowing and reaping in special meetings like crusades and conferences. Concurrently, we must help our national and local churches create cultures of soulwinning and disciple-making in addition to these events. Evangelism alone is not sufficient. Disciple-making alone is not enough. Retention focus is not enough. There must be a multifaceted approach. Combining these strategies and the work of the fivefold ministry into one can move us speedily toward the goal.

Pentecost Every Day is not merely an event; it is a lifestyle and vision that guides our choices and focus.

The UPCI is the vanguard of revival and harvest in the Apostolic movement. That has been consistent from the days of its formation. It is in our DNA, our church culture, and will never change.

The global church is spectacular. Adam Hunley mentioned that he was praying concerning some specific situations, and the Lord gave him a word: "You see My body in the local context, and you grieve the limitations. I see My body on a global scale. She is always in victory, always in peace, always growing, and always abounding. The body always grows and loses cells, a constant replacing, but that doesn't diminish the body. My body is not diminished."

Just within the global council members of the United Pentecostal Church International, we are nearing six million constituents. In a recent year, including North America estimates, we saw 338,661 receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and 266,422 were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As of this writing, there are 210 nations in our world, and we have a confirmed presence in 200 of these. By geographic measure, we are moving toward every nation. We are actively researching to discover which of the 17,500 people groups in the world have a UPCI presence.

There is another way to see our world besides through the lens of land, and that is peoples, languages, and cultures. A different lens requires a different approach.

We need to have a "whole" church because the whole gospel will get to the whole world when the church is whole.

Most healthy, growing national works have an equally healthy Bible school program. Not only are they operating in one central location but have diversified, taking the training to where the people are.

Sustaining the Workforce

We must be intentional about developing teams on all leadership levels. We can grow only to the effectiveness of our leadership structure.

We can increase our Faculty Development Seminars throughout the regions to provide tools and equip the teachers of our nations.

The gospel is more than just a doctrine. It is an Apostolic Pentecostal experience. This is translated into a transformed life and lifestyle, not just on Sunday or Wednesday but every day.

Ministry is not an event; it is an outgrowth of who we are. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9, NKJV).

Matthew 9:38 contains an interesting word or concept. The Greek word *ekballo* implies a forceful thrusting out or compelling. The Lord of the harvest literally compels the workforce to go into all parts of the harvest. It conveys a tremendous sense of urgency.

"Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37–38, NKJV).

The harvest doesn't happen without preparing, planting, and watering. "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart"

(Galatians 6:9, NKJV). "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:5–6, NKJV). "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35, NKJV).

It's a little past 3:30 a.m., and I'm wide awake. Souls are on my mind! In morning prayer yesterday, I read these words and can't shake them: "He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame" (Proverbs 10:5b, NKJV). The principle here is that we shouldn't sleep when there is so much work to be done. God has a vast global harvest prepared for us, and we must awaken to it.

"The harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20). Therefore, "I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4, NKJV).

Summer is quickly coming to an end. Soon, the harvest will be passed. We must be awake to the cries and needs of unharvested people and do something about them. Let me unpack that for you in a few sentences outlining just a few opportunities:

- 8.2 billion people reside on the planet; over half have not heard the gospel or the name of Jesus.
- There are 31 access-challenged nations. These are considered closed doors. We must find creative ways to knock those doors wide open.
- There are approximately 17,313 unique people groups; 7,188 of them are unreached. Add to that, another 1,100 minimally reached people clusters. Some of these groups are as large as entire nations. Many exist in what is referred to as the 10/40 window. This area, often referred to as the Resistant Belt, includes most the world's poorest people and the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists.
- There is the 4/14 window made up of 1.9 billion children needing to hear God's Word, making it the largest of the people groups. Some continents are made up of 50 percent children. I noticed on the https://414movement.com/ site these fitting words: "Awakening a generation to a life with Jesus. If a child can come into an authentic relationship with Jesus, not only will their life be changed, but they can transform their community and even the world around them."

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11, NKJV). We cannot reach the world alone. It takes all apostolic generations working together focused on the mission by giving, going, praying, or any combination of the three. Daniel Deck, in his message "Generation to Generation," explained that the success of the harvest is vital to survival. When it is time to plant or harvest, everyone is involved. Sometimes school is

even dismissed, and the field becomes the focus of everyone. It is not uncommon to see three generations working in the field side by side because success, survival, and the season demand it. We must learn to run and work together.

The clearest marks of a disciple are teachability, hunger for God, and a forward momentum.

The environment of stability, trust, and the encouragement of collaboration under the overarching vision has positioned us where we are today.

Global vision is not a new thing in the UPCI; it is in our DNA as an Apostolic movement.

GATS Faculty Development programs facilitating and encouraging the fulfillment of the Pentecost Every Day vision would do well to review "The Teacher and Bible School Going Local" lesson material. This provides great content on multiplication and discipleship.

Consider this quote from that lesson: "With the world population exploding and the supply of trained pastors dwindling in sight of the unmet demand, something must be done to train more disciples in a shorter time period. In congregations around the world we have an abundant labor force that can be mobilized to meet the discipling needs of a ripened harvest. I still maintain that full-time training for pastors, works, and national church leadership is necessary for a solid church in any country, but I also know that the body of Christ has the potential of 'turning the world upside down' (Acts 17:6)."

Four elements of Pentecost Every Day have been identified. They include:

Global Partnership

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:21).

A united, globally connected church is a powerful force in fulfilling the Great Commission. By working together, Apostolic Pentecostal believers can ensure that every nation, tribe, and tongue hears the life-changing message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Global partnership is imperative in fulfilling the Great Commission and reaching every tribe, nation, and tongue. Fulfilling the Great Commission is not a solo mission; it is a collective, collaborative effort we all do together in partnership with God. More can be done together than what we can do alone.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase… For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (I Corinthians 3:6–7, 9).

Our mission compels us to spread the gospel globally, making disciples of all nations. This is not something any national church or organization can achieve alone. It requires unity, collaboration, and global partnership among all believers. Through shared resources, combined efforts, and mutual support, our fellowship can effectively and efficiently reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ.

There is a biblical foundation for global partnership. The Bible consistently emphasizes the importance of partnership and unity in the body of Christ. In Acts 1:8, Jesus instructed His disciples, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

This verse highlights the progressive expansion of the gospel, beginning locally and continuing until it reaches the ends of the earth. However, no single group of believers can accomplish this mission alone. The early church relied on missionary networks, financial support, and shared leadership, as seen in the ministry of the apostle Paul, who partnered with churches across Asia Minor and Europe.

Likewise, I Corinthians 12:12–27 describes the church as one body with many members, each playing a crucial role. This principle applies not only within a local congregation but also on a global scale—each church, missionary, and believer has a unique contribution to fulfilling the Great Commission.

You may ask why global partnership is essential. Churches exist in diverse cultural, linguistic, and geographical contexts. Some churches are strong financially, while others have missionary manpower or deep roots in countries and cultures yet to hear the gospel. They may speak the language and have a better understanding of the people being reached. By partnering together, churches can extend their influence into unreached areas, ensuring that every nation, tribe, and people group has access to biblical salvation.

For example, an unreached Portuguese-speaking nation or city in Africa may not be quickly accessed and reached by the North American church. However, the United Pentecostal Church of Brazil, through our Global Commission of Missions, the Regional Commission of Missions, and missionaries from Brazil, has a vision to send Portuguese-speaking missionaries throughout the Portuguese-speaking world.

Challenges to Global Partnership

While global collaboration is essential, it is not without challenges. Some of these include:

Cultural Differences	Churches operate within unique cultural frameworks, which can sometimes create misunderstandings.
Financial Disparities	Some churches have abundant resources, while others struggle financially, leading to potential dependency issues.
Persecution and Government Restrictions	Some countries prohibit foreign religious influence, making partnerships difficult.

Despite these challenges, Apostolic Pentecostals must remain committed to global unity. Overcoming these obstacles requires humility, communication, and a focus on the shared mission of spreading the gospel.

To build stronger global relationships, we can:

Pray for the Global Church	Regularly intercede for missionaries, ministers, persecuted believers, and church leaders worldwide.
Support Missions Financially	Invest in missions programs, Bible schools, and church-planting efforts.
Engage in Cross-Cultural Training	Learn about different cultures to foster better collaboration.
Send and Support Missionaries	Encourage people to pursue missions and provide ongoing support.
Utilize Technology for Connection	Use online platforms for training, fellowship, and resource sharing.

Encouraging and Equipping Indigenous Leaders

Rather than relying solely on foreign missionaries, global partnerships help empower indigenous pastors, evangelists, church planters, regional missionaries, and missionaries appointed by national churches. Local leaders understand their cultural context better than outsiders and are more effective in communicating the gospel to their own people.

Global partnerships help empower national churches and local pastors through leadership conferences (Leadership Development International), Global Children's Ministries, Global Student and Campus Ministries, and GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies).

GATS has a vision of establishing Bible schools in every nation to train men and women for excellence in ministry.

Students speak the diverse languages of a country and raise up ministers who can plant churches and disciple new converts in their own area using their own heart language. In many parts of the world, churches minister in regions affected by poverty, war, natural disasters, and persecution. Global partnerships enable humanitarian aid, medical missions, and community development projects that open doors for the gospel. Acts of compassion demonstrate the love of Christ and create opportunities for us to share the message of salvation.

For example, Apostolic Pentecostal churches have responded to earthquakes, hurricanes, and refugee crises by providing food, shelter, and medical care. These acts of compassion demonstrate the love of Christ and create opportunities to share the message of salvation.

Unifying the Apostolic Message

Global partnerships through organizational advances like the Global Council of the UPCI foster doctrinal unity, fellowship, and accountability among churches. It permits us to encourage one another in the faith and ensure that the message remains biblically sound.

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Four

Pentecost Every Day and a Fresh Look at the Great Commission

Special Note

Originally titled "The Teacher and a Fresh Look at the Great Commission," this lesson has been edited and is presented here as part of the Pentecost Every Day Series.

Key Verses

> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations… Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19–20).

Introduction

A prosperous man was making a long journey. In his bag he packed all his valuable jewels and money. A thief started following him, pretending to be a friend. He was actually waiting for the opportunity to steal the wealthy man's riches.

Aware of the thief's motives, the rich man thought of a plan. Each night as he stopped at a local hotel, he would invite the thief to share the room. Once inside, the rich man would say, "Here is a towel. You go and wash up for the night."

The rich man would hide his treasures while the thief was taking his shower. When the thief was done, the rich man would have his bath while the thief searched frantically for the treasures. He looked in the rich man's luggage, searched the closet, drawers, under the bed, between the mattresses, and under the rich man's pillow. He couldn't find the treasure.

At the end of the journey, the rich man boarded a homebound train. He called out to the thief, "I know why you've been following me. You've been trying to steal my treasures. Each night you have looked in my bags, searched the closet, and rummaged

through the drawers. You have looked under my bed, between the mattresses, and even under my pillow. The one place you never thought to look was under your own pillow. The treasure was closer than you thought!"

We treasure:

1. Church growth
2. Revival
3. Spiritual maturity

Those treasures are closer than we think. They are at our immediate disposal for our instantaneous use.

Ron Libby recently said in one of his sermons:

- We expand the Kingdom through evangelism.
- We deepen the Kingdom through discipleship.

The Big Idea

Jesus, in His earthly ministry, was frequently addressed as Teacher. Teaching was one of His priorities. Nicodemus said, "We know that thou art a teacher come from God" (John 3:2). Nicodemus's statement was almost correct: Jesus was *God who came to teach*. He possessed a determination to transform hungry hearts and could make a classroom out of any setting.

It sometimes seems as though the teaching ministry is becoming lost or minimized in the local church, not to mention the church at large. Biblical teaching is being neglected, ignored, and many times abandoned because of fewer weekly services, shorter services, and high-powered services.

One of the first things I encountered when I became a Christian over forty-five years ago was that teaching had a reputation of being boring. If a visiting preacher came to our church and was considered boring, people would say, "Oh, he's a teacher."

Good preachers are called "preaching machines," "fireballs," and so forth. I wonder what good teachers are called. Some teachers forget that God's Word is good news. They teach in such a way that it is neither good nor news.

Teaching is the revival ministry of the apostolic church. Through teaching, the pastor guards the flock from false doctrine. Teaching grounds (deepens) the flock in truth and promotes spiritual growth and maturity. A sampling of a few Scriptures solidifies this:

> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (Ephesians 4:14–15, NLT)

> Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. (Psalm 1:1–4)

> Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. (Joshua 1:8, NLT)

Therefore, teaching and spiritual maturity are part of the spiritual growth core values of theological education and should be fundamental in our local churches.

Face it:

- Nations don't start Bible schools because they don't see the value of teaching and making disciples.
- Churches don't have new converts courses because they don't see the value of teaching and making disciples.
- Churches don't have Sunday schools because they don't see the value of teaching and making disciples from birth to the grave.
- Members don't come to Bible school because they don't see the value of learning.
- Pastors don't send God-called students to Bible schools because they don't see the value of teaching and making disciples.

Someone has forgotten, neglected, abandoned or ignored the Lord's promise: "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15).

The Great Commission

The Great Commission is the one of the most significant passages of Scripture for two reasons:

- It is considered to be the last personal instruction given by Jesus to His disciples. It contains the marching orders for all followers.
- It is a special calling from Jesus Christ to followers to take specific, deliberate action while on Earth.

Part of our vision within the global missions efforts of the United Pentecostal Church International is to train the messenger and send the message. Both of these aspects are firmly embedded in the Great Commission and fulfill our desire to train people in handling the Word of God effectively.

In Matthew 28:19, which we know as the Great Commission, we find four verbs:

- Go
- Make disciples (teach)
- Baptize
- Teach

Have you ever noticed the main verb (some say it is the only verb) of the Great Commission? It is imperative, crucial, urgent, and very important. Due to our familiarity with the English translation, we commonly suppose that the main verb is *go*.

Greek, the original language of the New Testament, has different types of verbs. Knowing this helps distinguish between the main verb and auxiliary verbs. The main Greek verb of Matthew 28:19 in the NKJV is *matheteuo* or *make disciples*. The KJV renders this verb "teach" (*didasko*). Thus, the main action verb in the Great Commission is the command to teach and make disciples. That is the core of the Great Commission.

Therefore, the Great Commission is:

DISCIPLE
... by going
...by baptizing
...by teaching

The Great Commission sounds like this:

DISCIPLES,
DISCIPLE
... as you are going
... as you are baptizing
... as you are teaching

Based on Matthew 28:18–20, we can derive the following disciple-making formula:

Go
+ Baptize (Evangelize)
+ Teach (Educate)
= Make Disciples (Mature Followers of Jesus Christ)

Most sermons place the emphasis of the Great Commission on the word *go* rather than *teach* or *make disciples*. It seems that what we value is "going." Going is certainly important. It must be included if all nations are to be reached. But going is not the main point of the Great Commission. This lesson is not an effort to downplay "going into the entire world." It merely is to highlight the neglected component of the Great Commission. It is not an either/or scenario. Both should be done.

Jesus told us what to do (disciple) and how to do it.

- Go
- Baptize
- Teach
-

No one component is more important than the others. Each component is necessary to fulfill the command of making disciples. "Go" is the driving force of the imperative. It is impossible to fulfill the command to make disciples without going. But it is possible to go without making disciples. Some speak of a "great crusade." A crusade cannot be considered to be great unless disciples are made.

> Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18–20, NLT)

In the Greek society, a disciple was a person who submitted himself to a gifted teacher. A disciple is someone who believes and practices the teachings of another and is involved in the process of life transformation.

A disciple is a student, but he is more than just a learner. He is a disciplined follower. He is one who dedicates his life to follow the teachings of his master. Jesus said we are to teach His disciples to observe (or obey) everything He has commanded us. Discipleship begins with obedience (Luke 6:46; John 14:15, 23–24). George Barna explains the Great Commission is not primarily about evangelism but about discipleship. I

think it contains both. You cannot have one without the other. However, the emphasis is on making disciples, which is best accomplished through teaching.

Notice that disciples reproduce themselves by training other disciples. Second Timothy 2:2 is very close to this understanding. That commission represents a continuous cycle.

Teach them to win them.	"I will teach transgressors your ways" (Psalm 51:13). "So he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:26, NKJV).
Teach them to keep them.	"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). "But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood… All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work" (II Timothy 3:14–17, NLT).
Teach them to build them.	"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2). "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard" (Colossians 1:23). "I am now entrusting you to God and to his message that tells how kind he is. That message can help you grow and can give you the inheritance that is shared by all of God's holy people" (Acts 20:32, GOD'S WORD). "You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong" (Hebrews 5:12, 14, NLT). "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself

	being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19–21. NKJV). A church built only on evangelism is very long but not very high. A church built on evangelism and training is both long and high. It becomes a giant that the world cannot conquer. (Illustrate this on whiteboard or in a graphic).
Teach them to send them.	"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2).

Conclusion

The Great Commission called for the discipleship of the nations. It was not merely about making converts but about making disciples. Thus, we not only evangelize, but we also educate.

J. I. Packer, in *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, asserts that it is through teaching that a preacher is best able to fulfill his or her ministry. He claims that teaching the gospel, to condense it to its simplest essentials and consider it point by point, is the preacher's first responsibility.

> When Paul preached the gospel, formally or informally, in the synagogue or in the streets, to Jews or to Gentiles, to a crowd or to one man, what he did was teach—engaging attention, capturing interest, setting out the facts, explaining their significance, solving difficulties, answering objections, and showing how the message bears on life.
>
> Clearly, in Paul's view, his first and fundamental job as a preacher of the gospel was to communicate knowledge—to get gospel fixed in men's minds. To him, teaching the truth was the basic evangelistic activity; to him, therefore, the only right method of evangelism was the teaching method. (Packer, 48–49)

What should every minister of the gospel have in common? The ability to teach God's Word. Look specifically at I Timothy 3:2. Most translations either say "apt to teach" or "able to teach." A few others say a minister should have "the gift for teaching" (Weymouth); be "good at teaching" (World English Bible); be "a teacher" (Douay-Rheims Bible); and be "a ready teacher" (BBE). No matter which way you look at it, God is calling you to be a teacher. What are you waiting for? Go and teach!

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Five

Disciples Every Day

Key Verses

> And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
> (Acts 2:42–47, NKJV)

Introduction

By pursuing a sustainable harvest in discipleship, we can create a culture of intentional discipleship that yields long-term fruitful results for the kingdom of God. But first we should get a deeper understanding of what is truly meant by the terms "disciple" and "discipleship."

Defining a Disciple

Biblically, the word "disciple" refers to a learner, a follower, or an apprentice who is committed to learning from and imitating a disciple maker.

Jesus' definition of a disciple is best summarized in the following passage: "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'" (John 8:31–32).

A disciple is:

- regularly and purposely learning from Jesus and growing in Christlikeness.

- a person who yokes their will to Jesus' will, discovering their identity and purpose by learning of Him and from Him as they share the same road alongside Him.
- more than just a learner or a student. A disciple counts the cost and is totally committed to following Jesus.
- someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another. The followers of Jesus were called "disciples" before they were ever called "Christians" (Acts 11:26).
- a genuine believer. The New Testament equates being a Christian with being a disciple. "Christian" is mentioned three times in the New Testament, and "disciple" is mentioned over 260 times. Check out the Book of Acts. "Disciple" was the most common term used to describe Christians.
- following spiritual leadership in their life but also has someone else following them. In *Follow to Lead: The Journey of a Disciple Maker*, Stan Gleason states that disciples make disciples. You know if you are a disciple by answering the question "Who is your disciple?"

A. W. Tozer once said, "True discipleship is obeying Jesus Christ and learning of Him and following Him and doing what He tells you to do, keeping His commandments and carrying out His will. That kind of person is a Christian—and no other kind is."

Fundamental Goals of a Disciple

In his epic book *Practicing the Way*, John Mark Comer states that a disciple has three driving goals:

1. to be with Jesus,
2. to become like Him, and
3. to do as He did.

Jesus said, "Follow me" (Mark 1:17, NKJV). Those are some of the most important words ever spoken in human history.

"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:33, NKJV).

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me'" (Matthew 16:24, NKJV).

Characteristics of a Biblical Disciple

Followed Jesus	Left their old lives behind to follow Jesus, both physically and spiritually (Matthew 4:18–22).
Learned from Jesus	Listened to Jesus, asked questions (Mark 1:1–20).
Imitated Jesus	Sought to imitate Jesus' example, character, and ministry (John 13:34–35).
Transformed by Jesus	Transformed by the teaching of Jesus and His presence. This led to a change in their lives, values, and priorities (Romans 12:1–2).

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1–2, NKJV,

emphasis mine). Did you notice the two options in Romans 12:2? A person is either conformed or transformed. Which one are you?

Proving and Improving Being a Disciple

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples" (John 15:8, ESV). One proves to be a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ by bearing much fruit. What does it mean to bear much fruit?

First, bearing much fruit and proving to be a disciple are interconnected. The two processes cannot be separated, so we will treat them together here. Bearing fruit is a sign of a true disciple and encapsulates various spiritual characteristics and actions.

"Formation into the image of Jesus is a long, slow process, not a one-time event. There is no lightning bolt from heaven. Spiritual growth is similar to bodily growth—very gradual. It takes place over a lifetime at an incremental and at times imperceptible rate. Yes, we experience periods of dramatic change like birth or a teenage growth spurt, but those key inflection points are the exception, not the rule. As the Regent College professor James Houston often said, 'Spiritual formation is the slowest of all human movements'" (Comer, *Practicing the Way*, 73).

Disciples Every Day includes endeavoring to:

Live a transformed life	Ephesians 4:22–24; Romans 12:1–2
Manifest the fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22–23
Obey Christ's commands and His Word	John 14:21, 23; Philippians 2:12
Demonstrate love for others	John 13:34–35
Help others come to God	Matthew 28:19–20
Reflect God's glory	II Corinthians 3:18
Remain faithful, enduring to the end	Matthew 10:22
Bear fruit	John 15:5–8
Abide in Christ	John 8:31–32; 15:4–5
Follow Jesus' example	John 13:15; Matthew 16:24
Live a life of service and sacrifice	Romans 12:1–2; I Peter 2:21
Make disciples	Matthew 28:19–20
Hide in Christ	Colossians 3:3
Be formed by Jesus Christ	Colossians 3:1–4
Become like the Master	Luke 6:40
Surrender to Jesus	Luke 14:26–27; 9:23–24
Live a devoted, consecrated life	Romans 12:1; Leviticus 20:7
Walk in the Spirit	Galatians 5:16, 24
Continue in the Word	John 8:31–32; Acts 2:42–47
Live a holy, godly lifestyle	II Timothy 3:12; I Peter 1:14–16
Yoked with and learning from Jesus	Matthew 11:28–30
Serve others	John 13:15
Share the truth	II Timothy 2:1–2
Become complete in Christ	Colossians 1:28–29
Be strong and courageous	Joshua 1:5–7, 9
Trust in Jesus	John 14:1; Proverbs 3:5–6
Forsake the works of the flesh	Galatians 5:19–21; Hebrews 3:12–14
Unwavering commitment to their faith and to spiritual practice or disciplines	Luke 9:23, 62; 14:27
Persevere, enduing hardships, trials, and temptations, without giving up	Romans 5:3–4; James 1:2–4; I Corinthians 9:24; 10:13; Hebrews 12:1–2; Isaiah 40:31; Luke 18:1–8; II Thessalonians 2:15
Refuse to be distracted or swayed	I Corinthians 7:35; Luke 21:34–36;
Be faithful in loyalty and devotion to God	I Corinthians 4:2; 9:27; Proverbs 20:6
Be equipped with the whole armor; having done all, stand	Ephesians 6:13–18; Proverbs 28:1; I Peter 5:8–9
Hold captive every thought	II Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8–9; Colossians 3:2

Fight the fight of faith	I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:1
Engage in spiritual warfare	Ephesians 6:11–18; II Corinthians 10:4–5; Matthew 16:18–19; John 10:10; Luke 10:17-20

Sustainable Harvest and a Disciple

In the context of discipleship, a sustainable harvest could be a powerful metaphor for describing the long-term fruitful results of intentional discipleship efforts. Here is a breakdown of what sustainable harvest might mean in discipleship:

Sustainable	This implies that the discipleship process is designed to be ongoing, self-sustaining, and adaptable to changing circumstances. It isn't a one-time event or a short-term program, but rather a continuous journey of growth and development. Sustainable means protecting from being depleted or permanently damaged. When it comes to sustainable discipleship, it means not just getting people into the church but keeping them in the church once they get there.
Harvest	This represents the fruitful results of discipleship efforts, where individuals are transformed by the gospel and become mature, reproducing disciples of Jesus. The harvest is not just about numerical growth, but about the quality of disciples produced—their character, faith, and obedience.

In practical terms, a sustainable harvest in discipleship might look like the following:

1. A disciple-making process that is intentionally designed to be reproducible, with each new disciple equipped to disciple others.
2. A focus on long-term relationships and mentorship rather than short-term programs or events.
3. An emphasis on spiritual formation, character development, and obedience to God's Word.

4. A commitment to ongoing learning, growth, and evaluation, with a willingness to adapt and improve discipleship strategies.
5. A celebration of the fruit of discipleship, including the transformation of lives, the growth of faith communities, and the expansion of God's kingdom.

By pursuing a sustainable harvest in discipleship, churches and ministry leaders can create a culture of intentional discipleship that yields long-term, fruitful results for the kingdom of God. It is estimated that over 80 percent of evangelism in the early church was done by ordinary Christians.

Drawing on years of pastoral and leadership experience, Stan O. Gleason explains that to fulfill their destiny of reaching the world, the church must live a lifestyle of disciple-making. (Gleason, *Follow to Lead*, 19). The West's lens of guilt-innocence and individualism opposes this biblical method of disciple-making. Gleason expounds on this concept in later chapters, asserting that a true lifestyle of biblical discipleship must be patterned after the life of Jesus, not to gather large crowds but to influence a generation by reaching just a few people through daily personal relationships. Prioritizing the normative and cultural rules to achieve individual success in the American dream leaves little time to build the intentional daily closeness needed for successful disciple-making. By contrast, the Eastern culture of honor-shame and collectivism often hinders individuals from breaking away from inherited religious traditions for fear of bringing shame upon their family and community. No matter the cultural background, stepping out in obedient faith, as Abram did, to follow the call of God still creates familial and cultural tension and requires risking everything for salvation and spiritual reward (Emily Minchey, "Abraham's Obedient Faith: For the Church Today").

Conclusion

A well-trained and fully committed disciple can live in a hostile foreign culture without succumbing to that culture because his mind is fixed on another world. One West African chorus says, "I have another world in view. My Savior's gone to prepare for me a place. I have another world in view." We must be Kingdom minded and heavenly minded.

David Watson once said, "If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually become disciples, the church in the West would be transformed and the resultant impact on society would become staggering." What is true of the West is also true of many other parts of the world.

Stan O. Gleason explained that to fulfill their destiny of reaching the world, the church must live a lifestyle of disciple-making. That lifestyle is patterned after the life of

Jesus, not to gather large crowds but to influence a generation by reaching just a few people through daily personal relationships. Prioritizing the normative and cultural rules to achieve individual success leaves little time to build the intentional, daily closeness needed for successful disciple-making. Thus, the West's lens of guilt-innocence and individualism opposes this biblical method of disciple-making. The Eastern culture of honor-shame and collectivism often hinders individuals from breaking away from inherited religious traditions for fear of bringing shame upon their family and community. No matter the cultural background, stepping out in obedient faith, as Abram did, to follow the call of God still creates familial and cultural tension and requires risking everything for salvation and spiritual reward.

Let's close out this lesson with a simple prayer. "Lord Jesus, as global disciples, help us to multiply ourselves by mentoring and making other disciples. May we always embody Your love and conform to Your Word. May we move forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. May our lives mirror Your grace, compassion, and truth. Enable us to partner with You to transform communities worldwide. Let us walk in obedience, humility, and dependence on You, making disciples every day of all the nations. In Jesus' name!"

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Six

Digital Evangelism, Education, and Engagement

Key Verses

So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2, NKJV)

Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle. (Psalm 144:1, NKJV)

Intended Use/Purpose of Lesson

This lesson is part of the GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies) Pentecost Every Day Series developed in collaboration and partnership with Global Missions, UPCI, its vision and mission. It is intended for use in the following ways but is certainly not limited or restricted to these. Objectives have been included where applicable:

→ **GATS Faculty Development Program.** Provide faculty with an understanding of digital evangelism, education, and engagement. By exploring key concepts, discussing best practices, and designing digital plans, faculty and administration of Bible schools will be equipped to effectively integrate digital technology into their teaching, research, administration, promotion, and service.

→ **GATS Bachelor Program**. This lesson and the various stories and exercises will be incorporated into an elective course called "Pentecost Every Day Studies/Series." This will be part of a twenty-four-classroom-hour type course. The lesson could also be incorporated into Bible school evangelism courses, but we would utilize a shorter simplified lesson derived from this advanced extensive lesson and material.

→ **Leadership Development.** This lesson and workshop is designed to equip pastors and church leaders with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their ministry practices. By exploring key concepts, discussing best practices, and developing a digital ministry plan, participants can develop leadership resources to be utilized in/with digital tools and on digital platforms.

→ **Global Campus and Student Ministry.** Equip high school- and college-level students, and student ministries with knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their campus ministry practices.

→ **RENEW** (School of Missions). Equip missionaries and representatives with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their ministries. Quickly generate and prioritize digital engagement and evangelism ideas that are culturally relevant and feasible in a specific country or region.

→ **Global and Regional Missionaries of the UPCI**. Similar to what is included in RENEW above.

→ **Global Council** (members) and the **Executive Global Council** (delegates) of the UPCI. This lesson material hopefully will be usable by the members and delegates of these councils and the areas they represent.

→ **Regional and Subregional Conferences, Level One Leadership, Area Coordinators, and National Boards**. To help regional, subregional, national, and local leadership explore the role of digital technology in advancing the mission of the church, and to develop strategies for effective digital evangelism, education, and engagement. By considering key principles, strategies, and partnerships, the various boards and leaders can provide vision and direction for the church's digital ministry efforts.

→ **Short-Term Missions.** The lesson material may be shortened and adapted for teaching and discussion in our various STM programs including, but not limited to, Next Steps program, Apostello, Robert K. Rodenbush Global Training Center, Global/Regional Training Program(s), and the Missionary Gateway Center.

→ **North American Missions.** We highly appreciate our collaboration with North American Missions and various districts and local churches in attaining and sustaining the vision for one million disciples globally. It is our desire that this lesson and material could be adapted for their use as well.

Introduction

In the early church, the Roman road system served as a strategic superhighway for the gospel. This vast network—stretching over 250,000 miles—secured safe passage for Paul and other missionaries, streamlining the spread of salvation (Romans 10:15). Roads connected congregations, carried correspondence, and catalyzed Christian communities. They paved the way for the proclamation of Christ, propelling the gospel from city to city

and soul to soul. Just as the printing press later amplified biblical access, these roads accelerated the message of redemption across the known world.

The printing press propelled a paradigm shift that imparted knowledge to the people. It sparked a surge in literacy, allowing common people to consume content once confined only to the elite. It revolutionized reading, reshaped reasoning, and redefined reality. Most important, it made Scripture accessible, accelerating the spread of God's Word (Psalm 119:105). Before its invention, books were scarce, knowledge was stifled, and spiritual growth was slow. Printing ignited information exchange, empowering minds and equipping hearts. The ability to engage with truth was no longer a privilege; it was a possibility for all.

Today, the Roman roads of our era are digital: the internet, smartphones, and social media (among other media platforms). With over 5.35 billion internet users in 2025, online engagement is an unprecedented opportunity for evangelism and discipleship (Mark 16:15). Someone has paid the price for these digital highways—now, believers must travel them with truth. While the mission remains unchanged, the methods have multiplied. Will we walk these new roads and carry the gospel to every screen and soul?

Biblical Premise or Support for Digital Evangelism, Education, and Engagement

With a digital evangelism and engagement theology, the logical first step is to ascertain the scriptural foundation, basis, or support for using digital engagement and evangelism. We find it in the sayings of Jesus:

1. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15, NKJV). To fulfill the Great Commission, digital platforms can help us reach our global audience.

2. "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?" (Matthew 18:12, NKJV). Leave the ninety-nine and find the one lost sheep. Digital evangelism and engagement can help us reach the lost who will not be reached through traditional approaches.

3. "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37–38, NKJV). Digital evangelism can motivate and mobilize more workers for the big harvest.

4. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to

all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14–16, NKJV). Digital platforms can help us shine our light to more people and hold out the Word of God. (See also Philippians 2:14–16).

"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you" (I Corinthians 9:22b–23, NKJV). We evangelize by using every means possible.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it" (Psalm 68:11). "Make known his accomplishments among the nations... Declare His glory among the nations" (I Chronicles 16:8–9, NET; Psalm 96:2–3, NKJV).

"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region" (Acts 13:49).

"But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world" (Romans 10:18).

The internet has revolutionized the way we communicate. "The internet has transformed how we consume information and communicate with the world, and it is more accessible than ever" (Andrew Feng and Nick Wu, "Digital Strategies for Collaboration" in EMQ: Missions Tech, July-September 2023, vol. 59 #03). A large part of our world is online. Even in areas where smartphones and internet access are currently limited and constrained, circumstances change, and progress can pivot quickly.

Concerning distance education or educational initiatives utilizing cell phones, a regional educational representative mentioned that if such education was implemented, very few pastors in his country would be able to take advantage of the online Bible education and digital tools because so few owned cell phones. Just a few years later, the same regional representative reported that if such an education possibility was implemented, most of his pastors could take advantage of it. What happened? Digital and technological development literally moved at cyber-speed.

The Pandemic and Post-Pandemic Ministry

What can we learn from the COVID-19 pandemic when it comes to digital evangelism, education, and engagement?

The COVID-19 pandemic revolutionized and improved the church's online presence by forcing many churches to quickly adapt to online platforms for worship, preaching, and outreach.

With in-person gatherings restricted, churches turned to social media, live streaming, and online communities to engage with their members and reach new people. This led to increased online engagement, with many churches reporting higher attendance and participation rates online than in-person.

The pandemic led to the development of virtual prayer meetings, online small groups, and social media-based Bible studies. These innovations helped churches stay connected with their members and reach new people. They enabled churches to reach a wider audience and expand their accessibility. They could reach people who were unable to attend in person due to their location, mobility, and other areas of limitation. Digital tools and resources for discipleship were developed, including online Bible studies and devotionals. Churches leveraged online platforms to share the gospel and serve their congregations.

The pandemic-induced shift to digital and online engagement has diminished but, in some ways, it is here to stay. As the world pivots from pandemic restrictions to prioritizing in-person ministry, we can continue to expand our online presence. Further pivotal practices, platforms, and principles can be preserved and perpetuated. We can leverage online platforms to reach a broader global audience and to those who may not have immediate access to in-person ministry. We should seek to blend the best of online and offline interactions and ministry.

Research and Quotes from Authors involved in Digital Evangelism, Education, and Engagement

Andrew Feng, general editor of *The State of Digital Technologies for the Great Commission*, stated, "These are innovative times for followers of Christ and mission organizations. It is possible to advance the Great Commission faster than ever before" (3).

The digital world offers numerous opportunities to share the gospel and engage people in discipleship. Many are spiritually hungry and searching for God. For instance, a simple web search for pages mentioning "God" yields 410,000 results, while searching for "Christ" brings up approximately 146,000 hits (Feng, 6).

As of January 2022, 62.5 percent of the world's population uses the internet, and this number grows by approximately 600,000 new users daily. The potential impact of this rapid growth is immense, especially among the world's unreached people groups.

The most common languages used online include English, Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Indonesian, French, and others. To effectively communicate and connect with diverse audiences, it is crucial to monitor the technologies used by various

people groups and determine the most suitable methods for evangelism and spiritual formation.

As noted, "A single technology will not work for everyone; every technology, language, and people group requires a contextualized and personalized approach."

"Digital evangelism can lead to digital discipleship which may involve audio and video calls for deeper relationships… Technology, powered by innovation and collaboration, is crucial for the future of missions" (Feng, 12–13).

"So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod" (Exodus 4:2–5). "Moses had his shepherd's staff in his hand; we have smartphones or a computer keyboard in ours. With the touch of our screen or click of a button, the world is accessible to us. What will we do with these tools God has given to us?" ("The Opportunity of Digital Engagement in Modern Missions," Upstreamcollective.org). New media technology characteristics include communication, collaboration, convergence, creativity, and community ("The Mediating Role of New Media Engagement in this Digital Age," frontiersin.org/journals).

In *Digital Missionary: Fulfill the Great Commission without Leaving Your Keyboard*, Anthony F. Russo wrote, "May we make full use of the technology available to us today, harnessing this power to proclaim Christ and all His glorious excellencies—proclaim them loud and clear like we were town criers of the Internet Age!—that we might connect this world to God and do the thing which will last forever: Touch lives through publishing for Christ" (62).

"The digital world is getting smaller, too. Every day, more remote parts of the world are getting access to the Internet that did not have it before" (Russo, 99).

In *Sharing Jesus Online: Helping Everyday Believers Become Digital and Metaverse Missionaries*, Dr. John Harris and Jeff Reed said, "The key to digital ministry is relationship" (xii). "Technology has given us a global audience, and therefore the world is at our fingertips. We can have an immeasurable impact online if we become more intentional… Digital evangelism allows us to cross national borders and eliminate geographic distance to bring Jesus to people through phones, laptops, and googles right where they are—anywhere around the world! And in most cases, we can do it for free!" (17).

"The mission of Facebook is 'to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together'" (Harris and Reed, 22). "As of August 2022, over 10 million groups were on Facebook, with over 1.8 billion people using them each month. Facebook groups are a great opportunity for digital missionaries (like you!) to build relationships and start conversations among people who already have shared interests" (Harris and Reed, 49).

"When someone creates content, the only way they know that someone is listening is by reactions, comments, and questions. There are a lot of spectators online. They read and listen but do not engage. Digital missionaries engage by responding to content. We let people know we are digitally listening by digitally responding" (Harris and Reed, 62).

In her book *Online Jesus*, Angel Craig said, "This is one of the biggest reasons social networks thrive. We post in hopes someone will tell us [that] our life matters. We post to be seen" (62). "When it comes to digital evangelism, we are encouraging you to literally use what is in your hand. Whether it is a smartphone, laptop, or VR goggles, use what is in your hands. Do not worry about what you do not have or cannot do. God will use what you have and change the world with it" (128–129).

"Digital media is probably the most important development facing Christian mission," said Steve Hollinghurst in a chapter titled "Finding Jesus Online: Digital Evangelism and the Future of Christian Mission" from *Missio Dei in a Digital Age*, edited by Jonas Kurlberg and Peter M. Phillips. Hollinghurst stated, "This requires a digital missiology not just digital action... I see digital evangelism as a bridge…through which we meet offline people who find it easier to explore faith online because of the way it disinhibits people and enables experimentation" (75).

Hollinghurst further stated, "Web based evangelistic resources…enable people to explore faith anonymously without having face to face conversation or feeling any human pressure. As John Edminston said, 'People do their secret thinking on the Internet, and because of that people explore things on the Web—such as who Jesus Christ is—that they can't or won't explore in public'" (89).

Possible Digital Strategies

Here are some strategies for using technology in evangelism and spiritual growth:

1. **Digital Tracts**: Traditional tracts can be adapted and distributed digitally.

2. **Event-Based Advertising**: Clickable ads can direct users to deeper, relevant content. For instance, a Facebook ad can lead to a Facebook Messenger interaction with tailored questions to spark conversations. Facebook currently has 2.5 billion active monthly users.

3. **Blogs, Videos, Podcasts, and Sermons**: Platforms like YouTube, which has 2 billion monthly users, offer opportunities for sharing these types of content.

4. **Social Media Platforms**: With an audience of around 4.5 billion users, social media provides a platform for anyone to share their voice publicly.

5. **Church Websites**: Websites at local, national, and global levels can provide not only information but also paths to life transformation. Society is shifting from using the web solely for informational purposes to fostering relational connections.

6. **Mobile Apps**: Approximately 92 percent of internet users access it via mobile devices, making apps an essential tool.

7. **Online Communities**: These can facilitate prayer, education, and fellowship helping believers grow in their faith.

8. **Artificial Intelligence**: AI can be used for basic language translation of lesson and course material. Care must be taken to have someone edit such material for accuracy.

9. **Online Education**: Courses and programs can foster learning and spiritual development.

10. **Audio and Visual Technologies**: These tools are particularly valuable for reaching oral cultures.

While working on this material, the author reached out to one of our United Pentecostal Churches in Canada that effectively utilizes several digital tools and platforms. Here is what they reported:

1. Over the life of their YouTube channel, it has grown to over 107,000 subscribers.

2. Additionally, the channel still reaches people who don't subscribe. It is estimated that 71 percent of viewers are not subscribers.

3. On the YouTube channel they average between 2,000–3,000 unique viewer each day.

4. They had viewers from 109 countries in the past year. Over the channel's lifetime, they have had viewers from 186 countries.

5. On their Facebook page they have 14,700 followers.

6. In the past year the page has reached 212,375 people.

7. Services live streamed to Facebook reach about 1,500–2,000 people per service.

This report highlights the potential of using digital tools for evangelism, education, and engagement. If they can do it, you can too!

I Have a Story

Crafted by Meta AI (Llama 3.2), the story that follows showcases the potential of digital initiatives. Although the names, narratives, nations, and neighborhoods may differ, the desired outcomes remain consistent, demonstrating the power of digital endeavors in evangelism, education, and engagement.

In war-torn Yemen, where Christian persecution is rampant, a young man named Ahmed lived a life of quiet desperation. Despite the risks, Ahmed had been secretly searching online for truth and meaning.

One day while browsing the internet, Ahmed stumbled upon a website provided by the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) in the Middle East. The website was in Arabic, and its message of hope, love, and redemption resonated deeply with Ahmed.

Ahmed spent hours exploring the website, reading testimonies and watching videos of people who had found new life in Jesus Christ. He was particularly drawn to the section on the Apostolic doctrine, which sparked a deep desire within him to follow Jesus.

As he continued to engage with the website, Ahmed began to sense a deep conviction in his heart. He felt an overwhelming desire to be baptized in Jesus' name.

Ahmed sent an email to the contact address listed on the website, requesting to be baptized in Jesus' name. The email was received by Pastor Ammar, a courageous UPCI pastor in the Middle East, who was overjoyed to hear from Ahmed.

Pastor Ammar quickly arranged for a discreet meeting with Ahmed, knowing that his decision to follow Jesus would come with great risk. As Ahmed was baptized in Jesus' name, he felt a sense of peace and joy he had never known before.

Days turned into weeks, and Ahmed continued to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He spent hours in prayer, fasting, and studying the Scriptures. Finally, the day arrived when Ahmed received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance.

Despite the challenges of living in an access-challenged nation, Ahmed continued to receive discipleship and spiritual formation through digital means. He engaged with online Bible studies, webinars, and conferences, growing in his faith and knowledge of the Scriptures.

As Ahmed grew in his faith, he began to sense a call to ministry. He started sharing his testimony with others, leading Bible studies, and preaching in underground churches.

Eventually, Ahmed became a pastor and church planter, using his gifts to establish new churches in Yemen. Despite the risks, he continued to preach the gospel, disciple new believers, and baptize them in Jesus' name.

Ahmed's story serves as a testament to the power of digital evangelism and the impact of a website provided by the UPCI in an access-challenged area. In a region where Christian persecution is rampant, a young man's life was forever changed by a digital witness, and a new generation of leaders emerged to spread the gospel.

Conclusion

Digital evangelism, education, and engagement offers vast and varied possibilities and opportunities. By deliberately developing our digital discipleship skills and engaging with diverse audiences, we can utilize digital tools and platforms that can enhance and augment our outreach, ministry, and the ways we provide biblical-based education. May the principles and practices explored in this lesson or course empower you to effectively navigate the digital realm, foster fruitful connections, develop great online or digital content, and facilitate furthering the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Perhaps on that great in-gathering day, some in that vast number will be those who initiated or furthered their Christian journey partly because of digital evangelism, education, and engagement. "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands" (Revelation 7:9).

Exercises and Discussion Questions for Digital Evangelism, Education, and Engagement

RENEW (School of Missions), Global Missionaries, Regional Missionaries:

Here is a thirty-minute interactive initiative that can be done as a roundtable discussion and brainstorming exercise to help determine digital engagement and evangelism activities suitable for a specific region, country, or culture. If this exercise is done at an event like RENEW (School of Missions), it may work best to group similar countries or cultures together.

Objective: To quickly generate and prioritize digital engagement and evangelism ideas that are culturally relevant and feasible in a specific country or region. No idea is deemed incorrect. At this point, brainstorming is key.

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard (Smaller size) or a large sheet of paper (maybe the very large sticky note type)
- Markers or colored pens
- Sticky notes or index cards

Encourage participants to think creatively and consider innovative solutions.

Exercise Steps:

Step 1: Introduction and Context Setting (2 minutes)

a. Introduce the exercise and its objective.
b. Ask participants to share their country or culture.

Step 2: Brainstorm Digital Engagement Ideas (15 minutes)

a. Ask participants to brainstorm digital engagement ideas that could work in their country or culture. Examples might include (but are certainly not restricted to):
(1) Social media campaigns
(2) Online prayer groups
(3) Digital Bible studies
(4) Podcasts or online radio shows
(5) Websites

b. Write each idea on a sticky note or index card

c. Encourage participants to build on each other's ideas

Step 3: Prioritization (10 minutes)

a. Ask participants to review the ideas and prioritize them based on feasibility and cultural relevance.
b. Use a simple voting system (e.g., dot voting) to identify the top 3–5 ideas.
c. Write down the prioritized ideas on the whiteboard or paper.

Step 4: Conclusion and Next Steps (3 minutes)

a. Summarize the top ideas.
b. Ask participants to commit to exploring and implementing their chosen digital engagement ideas.
c. Encourage participants to share their progress and learn from each other's experiences.

Step 5: All index cards or sticky notes can be turned in, and a master list of digital engagement options/strategies could be compiled.

GATS Faculty Development Workshop

Objective: To equip faculty with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their teaching, research, and service.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define digital education and engagement in the context of a Bible school?

2. What digital tools and platforms are most effective with education and engagement?

3. How could we leverage social media, online courses, and other digital resources to expand the number of students we are teaching?

4. How could digital tools and platforms enhance teaching (with in-person teachers and in-person students)?

5. How could GATS faculty development lessons and program creators better utilize digital tools? In what ways? Using which digital tools?

6. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of implementing and utilizing digital tools for developing students, spiritual formation, and training?

7. Which is more beneficial in fulfilling the vision and mission of GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies): in-person interaction and training, online interaction and training, or both? Why and why not? Remember the mission of GATS and its membership nations is to develop and equip men and women to reach their maximum potential in apostolic ministry.

8. What types of content or courses would be most effective for digital education?

9. How can we best create content and courses that would resonate with, and be a blessing to, a wider audience?

10. What type of content or areas should a Bible school website cover or include? What type of digital evangelism material could be included on a website for the occasional person that is checking out the college's website but may not be qualified to be a student?

11. How could we measure our effectiveness with digital evangelism, education, and engagement? What metrics and evaluation tools can we use to assess impact?

Regional and National Churches Workshop

To facilitate a discussion of how to implement digital evangelism, education, and engagement into the church organization, from the region to the subregion to the national churches right down to the grassroots local churches.

Objective: To explore the role of digital tools and technology in advancing the mission of the church in our continent/region, and to discuss strategies for effective digital evangelism, education, and engagement.

Discussion Questions

1. How is the digital landscape changing the way people interact, communicate, and engage with the church? What opportunities and challenges does this present for our churches?

2. What are the key principles and strategies for effective digital evangelism? How can our region, subregion, nations, and churches leverage digital technology to share the gospel and reach new audiences?

3. What digital tools are most effective in our region, subregion, and nations? What digital tools are currently being used that are effective?

4. How can we implement a plan to encourage nations and churches to have an effective website that can be both informational and relational? Why is it important to have a website? What should a website include?

5. How can our churches use digital technology to disciple believers and equip them for ministry? What role can online communities, social media, and digital resources play in this process?

6. What is the role of leadership in promoting digital evangelism, education, and engagement?

7. What examples do we have of digital tools, websites, and so forth being used in the region, subregion, or nation, that may provide a model for others to follow?

Resources

Offer a template for developing a website for the nation and for local churches within the nation. (Perhaps this would be provided by the digital engagement coordinator from Global Missions, UPCI, and fine-tuned by regional, subregional, and/or local leadership).

Leadership Development Workshop

Objective: To equip pastors and church leaders with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their ministry practices.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your vision for digital evangelism, education, and engagement in your church or ministry? How can you develop a strategy to achieve this vision?

2. What types of content are most effective for digital evangelism and education?

3. What digital tools and platforms could be beneficial with leadership development?

4. Discuss the role of leadership in promoting digital evangelism, education, and engagement in the church. Explore the importance of vision, strategy, and resource allocation.

5. What resources are readily available? Develop a list of available leadership development lessons, videos, or resources that could be added into a website for the UPC in the nation, or even into websites for ministries or local churches.

Global Campus and Student Ministry Workshop

Objective: To equip high school- and college-level students and student ministries with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their campus ministry practices.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you (or could you) personally present yourself online, and how does this impact your witness and relationships with others?

2. What are some effective ways to share the gospel and engage in evangelism and ministry online? How can you use social media, online forums, and other digital platforms to reach your peers?

3. How can you use digital technology to disciple and mentor others? What role can online communities, social media, and digital resources play in this process?

4. How does cultural context impact digital evangelism, education, and engagement? What are some considerations for effectively engaging with people from diverse cultural backgrounds online?

5. What challenges and opportunities do you face in using digital technology for evangelism, education, and engagement on campus? How can you overcome these challenges and capitalize on these opportunities?

6. How could digital storytelling be used for evangelism and education? Discuss the importance of narrative and the role of technology in sharing stories.

7. What are some strategies for building and maintaining online communities for students? Explore the use of social media, online forums, and other digital platforms for community engagement.

8. What are some digital evangelism and education resources that could be provided on a campus ministries website or to students?

This discussion and exercise are designed to equip high school- and college-level students with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively integrate digital evangelism, education, and engagement into their campus ministry practices. By exploring key concepts, discussing best practices, and designing a digital ministry plan, students will be well-prepared to leverage digital technology in their future endeavors.

Local Church Workshop

Objective: To assist a local church in developing digital tools to enhance their evangelism, education, and engagement efforts.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the church's vision for digital evangelism, education, and engagement? How can digital tools support this vision?
2. Who is the church's target audience for digital evangelism, education, and engagement? What are their needs and preferences?
3. What digital tools are currently being used by the church? What new tools could be explored to enhance evangelism, education, and engagement?
4. What types of content are most effective for digital evangelism and education? How can the church create and curate content that resonates with its audience?
5. What strategies and tools can the church use to promote engagement and interaction with its digital content? How can it foster a sense of community and connection with its audience?
6. What elements should be factored in or included in a website for the local church?
7. What are some examples of a local church website we could use as a model in creating or improving our site?

This discussion and exercise are designed to assist a local church in developing digital tools to enhance their evangelism, education, and engagement efforts. By exploring key concepts, discussing best practices, and developing a digital tool plan, the church will be well-prepared to leverage digital technology in its future endeavors.

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Seven

Pentecost Every Day and Bible Schools

Key Verse

> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (II Timothy 2:2, NKJV)

Let's dive into the *why* behind Bible schools, global educators, and Bible school students.

The Vision

The vision is to equip a new generation of Christian leaders with a deep understanding of God's Word and the skills to effectively share it with others.

Why Bible Schools?

- **Discipleship**: Bible schools provide a unique environment for students to deepen their relationship with God, cultivate spiritual disciplines, and develop a biblical worldview.
- **Leadership development**: Bible schools serve as a launching pad for future Christian leaders, providing training in ministry, leadership, and evangelism.
- **Community**: Bible schools offer a supportive community where students can connect with like-minded individuals, build lifelong relationships, and grow together in their faith.

Why Global Educators?

- **Global reach**: Global educators recognize the need for quality biblical education worldwide. By developing faculty around the globe, they can reach more students, churches, and communities.

- **Cultural relevance**: By training local faculty, global educators ensure that biblical education is contextualized and relevant to the cultural, social, and economic needs of each region.
- **Sustainability**: Empowering local faculty enables Bible schools to become self-sustaining, reducing dependence on external resources and allowing them to thrive in their respective contexts.

Why Bible School Students?

- **Passion for ministry**: Bible school students are often passionate about serving God and others. They are eager to learn, grow, and make a meaningful impact in their communities.

- **Hunger for knowledge**: Bible school students are hungry for a deeper understanding of God's Word and its application in everyday life.

- **Potential for impact**: By investing in Bible school students, global educators and Bible schools can shape the next generation of Christian leaders, who will go on to influence churches, communities, and nations for Christ.

By focusing on Bible schools, global educators, and Bible school students, we can create a ripple effect of spiritual growth, leadership development, and community transformation that extends far beyond the classroom.

Go back and start with the *why*. Why Bible schools? Why Bible school students? Because of the power of one. Reaching one person with the gospel and empowering them to become a minister of the gospel can have a profound and far-reaching impact. Here is a glimpse into the potential ripple effect:

The Multiplication Effect

When one person comes to the faith and becomes a minister of the gospel, they can:

- **Reach their family and friends**: Sharing the gospel with loved ones creates a ripple effect of faith and transformation.

- **Influence their community**: They can serve as a beacon of hope, compassion, and truth in their neighborhood, workplace, or school.

- **Disciple others**: They mentor and guide new believers, creating a multiplying effect that can spread exponentially.

The Potential Impact

Consider the following statistics:

- **1 person can reach 10–100 people**: Through personal relationships, social networks, and community involvement.
- **1 minister can impact 100–1,000 people**: Through preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.
- **1 church can influence 1,000–10,000 people**: Through collective outreach, evangelism, and community service.

Local Church Planters

In many parts of the world, individual church planters are reaching entire villages, towns, and cities with the gospel, transforming communities and cultures.

The Power of One

Reaching one person with the gospel and empowering them to become a minister of the gospel can:

- **Change lives**: Transforming individuals, families, and communities through the power of the gospel.
- **Impact generations**: Leaving a lasting legacy of faith, hope, and love that can span generations.
- **Advance the Kingdom**: Contributing to the global spread of the gospel, as believers from all nations and backgrounds come together to worship and serve Jesus Christ.

The power of reaching one person with the gospel is immense, with far-reaching consequences that can echo throughout eternity.

The vision of Global Association of Theological Studies (GATS) is centered around empowering leaders and transforming lives through theological education and leadership training worldwide. GATS aims to equip ministers and laypeople with culturally adaptable curricula, fostering a deeper understanding of God's purpose and promoting apostolic ministry.

At its core, GATS seeks to:

- **Advance theological education**: Provide accessible quality theological education to individuals worldwide, particularly in underserved regions.

- **Empower leaders**: Equip leaders with practical training in theology, leadership, and ministry, enabling them to effectively serve their communities.

- **Foster global connections**: Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among theological institutions, educators, and leaders worldwide.

To achieve this vision, GATS has established a global network of regional representatives, curriculum development committees, and partnerships with organizations like Pentecostal Publishing House. By working together, GATS aims to create a global community of empowered leaders transformed by the power of theological education.

The Global Association of Theological Studies and its membership nations develop and equip men and women to reach their maximum potential in apostolic ministry.

Let's not forget that at the dawn of the twentieth century, a Bible school instructor named Charles Parham stood before his students to assign them a thought-provoking task. Perhaps there were groans and whispers of, "Another assignment!" Yet this teacher knew the importance of the endeavor he was about to set in motion. He encouraged his students to diligently search the Scriptures for undeniable biblical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, aiming to prepare them to present something irrefutable to the world—something that aligned perfectly with the Word.

Parham departed for three days and returned on the morning of December 31, 1900, to hear reports of the students' findings. To his astonishment, they all reported a singular truth: despite the varied manifestations of the Pentecostal blessing, the undeniable evidence on each occasion was that they spoke in other tongues.

The following day, Agnes Ozman, one of the students, received the Holy Ghost when Parham laid hands on her. In just two days, other students and even the teacher himself experienced the same outpouring of the Spirit. Thus, the Pentecostal revival ignited within the walls of a Bible school classroom—a movement that would prove unstoppable.

Approximately 27 percent of the world's Christians, and 8 percent of the world's population, identify as Pentecostal or charismatic, with an astonishing growth rate of about 19 million each year. Current estimates suggest there are around 600 million

Pentecostals/Charismatics globally—an impressive achievement for a movement that began in such humble circumstances.

Imagine if our Bible schools could recapture this extraordinary vision! History has a way of repeating itself, especially when educators grasp the boundless potential embedded in the classroom and the promise that resides in those who occupy its desks. I will boldly proclaim from any pulpit or platform available that teaching is the linchpin of the church's revival ministry! It is an eternal investment that sparks visionary ideas. When my friends discuss revival, global impact, or the mighty move of God's Spirit in these last days, I remind them with that gleam of enthusiasm in my eye that it all stems from the profound influence of the Bible school classroom!

Pentecost Every Day Series
Lesson Eight

Goals for Pentecost Every Day

Key Verse

> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)
>
> And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:42)

Introduction:

The Book of Acts begins with Jesus' vision and final words for His disciples. The disciples went about accomplishing His vision one soul at a time by taking the gospel to others one step at a time. The Book of Acts is a record of their progress in completing Jesus' giant vision.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, but in the direction we are moving."

It has been said, "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." Accomplishing Pentecost Every Day is no exception. Without a goal, we will not advance the cause of Christ to our projected level.

> At the end of this lesson, you should be able to concisely define and articulate your goals

in a way that will be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time related. To accomplish the vision of Pentecost Every Day we must be intentional.

Remember we are believing God for and working toward "a sustainable annual harvest of 1, 000,000+ disciples from every nation and people group."



What Is a Goal?

Jack Canfield, in *The Power of Focus*, defines a goal as the "ongoing pursuit of a worthy objective until accomplished."

Ongoing	Continuing; it takes time
Pursuit	A chase may be involved
Objective	Intention(al)
Worthy	Something valuable or admirable

Rick Pitino, in *Success Is a Choice*, explained, "Dreams are where we want to end up. Goals are how we get there. Dreams are our vision of where we are after the struggle, the prize at the end of the journey. Goals are the individual steps we take to ultimately deserve the prize."

Charles Givens, in *Superself*, said, "Goals are the stepping-stones toward the realization of your dreams." Givens went on to say, "Success is the progressive, timely achievement of your stated goals."

Goals get you where you want to go.

Elbert Hubbard said, "Many people fail in life not for lack of ability but simply because they have never organized their energies around a goal."

Goal setting is seriously lacking in the church. "There is at best a vague understanding of the church's goals and at worst an uncaring attitude about whether the church has goals or not" (Bailey Smith, *Real Evangelism*).

Bruce Howell, former missionary to El Salvador and general director of Global Missions, said, "The only year the El Salvador church did not grow was the year they did not set goals."

Studies show that the most powerful predictor of success is the passion to pursue well-defined goals. Goals give us purpose and direction and assist us in defining where we will place our energies.

Other words for goals include aims, objectives, targets, milestones, tasks, assignments, desires, and plans. Napoleon Hill, in *Think and Grow Rich*, claimed that all successful people have one thing in common: They "set a specific goal and devise a plan for achieving that goal."

Long-term success is a direct result of what is achieved each day. Goals help with the daily routine, keep us organized, and create discipline in our lives. Someone has rightly said that right decisions done repeatedly over time will eventually compound our success.

Peter L. Hirsch, in *Living with Passion*, related a conversation with Napoleon Hill. "If you want success in any endeavor, there is one and only one quality you will require—definiteness of purpose. You must have the knowledge of what you want and a burning desire to possess it."

Jesus and Goal Setting

Jesus had a plan and purpose for His life. At the age of twelve, He said, "I must be about my Father's business" (Luke 2:49). Throughout His earthly ministry, He continued to explain His purpose, vision, and goals.

- 🕮 "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

- 🕮 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

- 🕮 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Because Jesus knew His purpose, vision, mission, and goals, He was able to say on the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

Paul understood his vision and goals, and he was able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:7).

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

Florence Chadwick, in her attempt to swim the English Channel, asked to be taken out of the water a few hundred meters from land. When asked, "Why couldn't you make it?" she said, "I would have made it, but fog moved in and kept me from seeing the shoreline. If I could have seen the shore, I could have made it." If we keep our eyes on our goals and vision, we can make it to the finish line.

> I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (Philippians 3:12–14, NLT).

Why People Do Not Set Goals

Few people take the time or make the effort required to set goals.

1. They do not know how to set goals.
2. They are wandering through life aimlessly without a plan or vision.

3. They have tried setting goals and failed.
4. They are too lazy to set goals. Goal setting eventually means work.
5. They have an "I don't care" attitude. Whatever will come will come.

Basics of Goal Setting

Use the SMART acronym (adapted for our use) to help set achievable goals.

S	Specific (focused)
M	Measurable
A	Attainable
R	Realistic
T	Time-related

Use without the SMART acronym with translations into other languages.

1	Specific (focused)
2	Measurable
3	Attainable
4	Realistic
5	Time-related

Time Divisions for Goal Setting	
Short-term goals	Up to one year
Mid-term goals	One to five years
Long-term goals	More than five years

Pentecost Every Day and Goal Setting

We should set goals:

1. Daily
2. Monthly
3. Quarterly
4. Annually

We should set goals:

1. Personally
2. Locally
3. Nationally
4. Regionally
5. Globally

If every UPC globally saw a net gain of two new disciples per month, this would result in our goal of Pentecost Every Day (45,000 x 2 x 12 = 1,080,000 new disciples annually).

Or a Day of Pentecost net result every day of the year (3,000 like on the original Day of Pentecost x 365 = 1,090,000 per year).

Percentage growth over previous years may work for some. Percentage growth varies from nation to nation, based on the goals and reality (clearly 5% growth will take a long time, but 20% growth would be much quicker).

Much of our overall retention takes place through Bible studies, friendships, and personal connection. This does not ignore the intentional sowing and reaping in special meetings like crusades and conferences. Concurrently, we must help our national and local churches create cultures of soulwinning and disciple-making in addition to these events. There must be a multifaceted approach. Evangelism and disciple-making alone are not sufficient. Retention focus is not sufficient. Combining these three strategies and the work of the fivefold ministry into one can move us speedily toward the goal.

Pentecost Every Day is not merely an event; it is a lifestyle and vision that guides our choices and focus. To accomplish this we must set goals.

Pentecost Every Day is a bold, God-sized vision that requires collaboration and cooperation on all levels. This includes globally, departmentally, regionally, locally, among all people groups and languages. Such a God-sized vision necessitates goal setting that is equally bold yet concrete, measurable, and grounded in reality.

It is important to translate this God-sized vision into human-sized steps.

This will bring about clarity and implementation.

Keep in mind that a vision of this dimension is not determined solely by strategy. Prayer is foundational, so intercessory teams, prayer, and fasting will be needed. Pentecost Every Day is a prayer-driven vision.

Someone has said, “What gets measured gets multiplied.” Then it needs to be celebrated. Celebrated goal achievement reinforces their recurrence and helps form habits of outreach. It builds culture!

Create a measuring or reporting system.

Regular check-ins will encourage accountability, adaptation, and implementation.

You aren’t just setting goals; you are building a disciple-making system.

GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies) is making discipleship materials available to enable disciple-making across cultures.

Brad Thompson recently presented the Pentecost Every Day vision to the ministers of UPC Guatemala. He commented that the vision is very practical. "We are not just giving the vision and explaining *why* we need to do this, but we are also providing *how* it can be done."

Thompson explained, "We are providing discipleship training at three levels—children, youth, and adults. For each category, there are at least three discipleship training curriculum options—one simple, one deeper but without graphics, and one more professional with graphics. The ministers loved the idea."

He stated, "The two souls per month are key. I could see the light come on in the pastors' eyes when I brought it down to their level—what they could do to make it happen. But it also tied perfectly to discipleship. I explained it was not enough to baptize two souls or see them filled with the Holy Ghost. They had to disciple them to make the harvest sustainable. So there are two key words—'discipleship' and 'sustainable.' It's not only presenting a vision, but it's giving others the goal and putting the tools in their hands to make it happen."

Conclusion:

Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, in *One Minute Manager*, teach that a goal and its performance standard should be written in 250 words or less. The shortness of the goal ensures that anyone can read it in a minute.

A small girl was drawing a picture when her proud daddy noticed. He complimented her and asked, "How do you draw so well?"

She responded, "First, I think. And then I draw my think."

Goal setting is "drawing our think." It is good to put "our think" into writing. Goal setting and vision go hand in hand.

One useful concept in goal setting is called a **MAP**: Ministry Action Plan. Work with your leaders to select three to five goals for the next year that you can work on as part of the ministry you are involved with. Remember to be accountable. This means giving your leader permission to follow up on the goals you have outlined and assess whether they have been effectively accomplished.

List these three to five goals below:

1._____
_____
_____
_____

2._____
_____
_____
_____

3._____
_____
_____
_____

4._____
_____
_____
_____

5. _____
_____
_____
_____