Week 1

**Strand of Pearls**

**Introduction**

Welcome to week one! Today we will be giving you an overview of what we are all about. To begin, the first thing we want to learn is to imitate Luke, the writer of two books of the Bible. Luke was a note taker. Not for his own scholarship, but for one man named Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4). He hadn’t a clue that his personal letters to Theophilus would make it into the cannon of the Bible. Heaven only knows who might benefit from the truths you hear and record. So, always come prepared to take notes.

If we endeavor to obey Jesus last command, found in Matthew 28:18-20, we must define what it means to make disciples of all nations. Jesus invested all three years of His public ministry into 12 ordinary uneducated men (Acts 4:13). That’s approximately 26,000 hours! As wonderful as that would be, it’s not realistic to think we could accomplish such a feat. However, we do aim to commit one-year of our lives covering the content of Strand of Pearls booklet. Knowing that our busy lives will not afford us the luxury of 52 weeks of meetings, we have divided this booklet into 34 weeks of lessons.

**Eight Essential Elements**

Please note the following alliterated words highlighted. They comprise the eight essential elements that Catalyst Missions Women’s Discipleship employs in the disciple-making process. In the **contextes** of accountable relationships, we share two things. God’s timeless Truth and our lives. The best scenario is a group of 3 to 12 women who **connect** on a weekly basis.

To develop this kind of relationships we must get to know one another. Hence, the purpose of the Spiritual Survey. Fill out the form this week and discuss your results with your group next time you meet. This requires mutual commitment on the part of all involved. At the end of this session, if you are ready, fill out the **Commitment** to Discipling Relationship form.

The Lord Jesus and Paul employed the most fundamental learning tools in their disciple-making. That is, reiteration and repetition. By following their lead, through **consistent** **communication** of the same **curriculum** (i.e. “Strand of Pearls), not only are we learning to hide God’s Word in our hearts and apply it to our everyday lives, but in due course, we’ll become like them and make disciples (**2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Corinthians 4:16-17**).

On the part of the disciple-maker as well as those they disciple, this requires a degree of humility, also imitating Jesus. Let’s stop andread **Luke 6:39-40; Matthew 10:33-45; Galatians 5:13.** As Jesus loved and **cared** deeply for His disciples, so it is in this kind of relationship (John 13:1-35).

Think of your group as a strand of pearls united in One Pearl of Great Price… Jesus. Each member is a vital link in the strand that includes many nations and spans the globe (**John** **15:16**; **Matthew** **13**:**31**-**32**). We have not fulfilled the Great **Commission** by discipling a person. Always keeping in mind, the imperative word in Matthew 28:18-20. The true test of making-disciples is multiplication. The kind of multiplication that will ultimately bring **Revelation** **5**:**8**-**10** tofruition. That is the scope of our mission (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

**Laying the Gospel Foundation**

The foundation that we build upon is the gospel message. That is what phase one is all about. So, now laying the ground work, here is a simple acronym that encapsulates the big gospel story of the Bible.

* **Anticipation** - Genesis 3:15 -Malachi
* **Manifestation** – Matthew, Mark Luke and John
* **Proclamation** – Acts
* **Explanation** -Romans -Jude
* **Consummation** and **Coronation** - Revelation

In conclusion, after we have discussed the results of the Spiritual Survey and gotten better acquainted, the Gospel of the Three Crosses will be our first “pearl of wisdom” and gospel account. That is your home work for the upcoming week and when we meet next time, we will discuss your answers to the questions and practice reciting our memory verse for that lesson: Luke 23:42-43. We suggest that you print out write your memory verse on a card and carry it with you. Then you can share this good news by asking anyone who is willing if they will to look at the card as you “practice” saying it. That’s *Proclamation.*

Anticipating our time together next week and hearing all that the Lord has taught you through His Word and how He used it in your life!