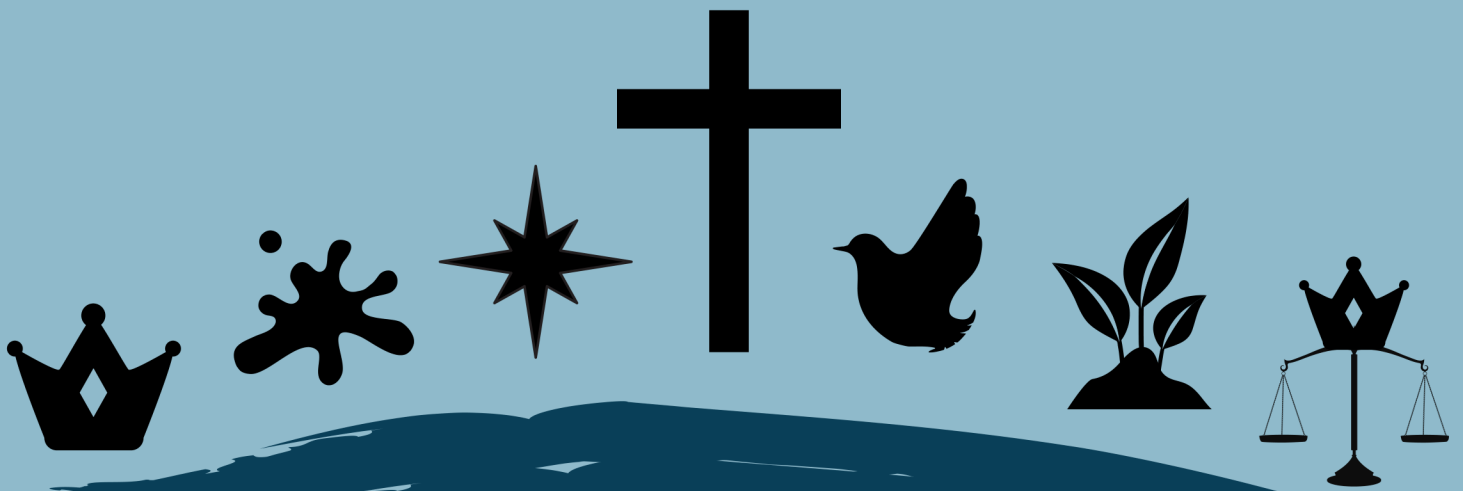


The Gospel Tool Bible Study



Introduction to
The Gospel Tool



Growing Disciples to Advance the Kingdom of God

Dear Church or Ministry Leader,

We're glad you are considering the use of the Gospel Tool (GT) as a means to grow disciples who make disciples in your church. This is not a discipleship curriculum...at least, not as that is commonly understood today. Most discipleship programs don't aim to change the culture of the church; this one does. The GT is specifically aimed at equipping your church to grow disciples who embody, proclaim, and advance the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

For an in depth look at the tools that are used on this journey, please check out "How to Use This Manual" in the Gospel Tool Bible Study Manual. These are: **The Visual Gospel, The Gospel Tool, 40 Bible Study Lessons, Self-Assessment Tool, General Discipleship Conversation Guide, and Discussion Guides** (found in the Discussion Guide manual).

This robust Bible curriculum and discipleship tools will help all who long to:

Mature as a Beloved Disciple

Understand the Gospel of the Kingdom

Grow Passion for Making Disciples

Is the Gospel Tool Right For You?

Here are two key questions to help you to determine whether the GT will be helpful for your church or group:

1. Do the people in your church or group desire to become more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ? The GT seeks to deepen participants' maturity in the Christian faith. This means growing in their knowledge and love for the Word of God, practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer and scripture memorization, and more. As participants grow in maturity, they will be more fully equipped to warmly relate with those who don't yet know Christ.
2. Would the leaders in your church or group appreciate learning to better cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He grows your church? We believe that the Holy Spirit grows the Church of Jesus Christ. As a group and as individuals, participants will spend time actively learning to listen for and discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture and song. Participants will deepen their trust in the Holy Spirit to direct all aspects of their lives.

We want to set the table with grace as you determine if the GT is right for you. Wherever you may find yourself right now, there is room for you in the GT! Jesus' arms are open wide, and he's inviting you to join him in a new season of discovery and growth.

Practical Expectations

To embark on the Gospel Tool journey is a bold endeavor, which will require an intentional investment. GT participants should be ready to fully invest their time and energy in both of the following ways:

- Complete the weekly GT lessons for 40 weeks (approximately 2 hours of individual work each week).
- Participate in GT-Group meetings, which are normally held every-other week (approximately 2 hours each time).

GT participants who fully engage in this journey can expect to experience significant and transformative growth as disciples of Jesus after 40 weeks!

Leadership Involvement

In order to grow a culture of discipleship in your congregation, it is ideal for the following things to happen at the leadership level.

- **Leadership Participation:** Ideally, 50% of your church leaders (including elders, deacons, and staff) should participate in a GT-Group. Leaders set the culture and atmosphere of the church.
- **Weekly Preaching:** While the GT-Groups are meeting, consider aligning the weekly preaching texts with the GT Lesson for that week. We have included a Sermon Series Planner with this guide for your convenience. Connecting your preaching with the GT Lessons will reinforce what the participants are learning and foster greater enthusiasm for the journey.
- **Intercessory Prayer:** Engage the church's prayer team (or create one) to pray regularly for the GT-Groups and facilitators. The GT curriculum can help to build an altar, but only the Holy Spirit can light the flame. Your prayer team plays a critical role in shaping a culture of discipleship in your church. We have created a prayer team resource which gives ways to pray for GT-Groups and their participants, which is available for download on the gospeltool.org website.
- **Intentional Promotion:** Emphasize the importance of discipleship in a variety of ways to your congregation. Momentum will build quickly if there are many participants involved in GT-Groups. Promotional materials are available on the website.

The more fully your leaders are invested in the GT, the more fruit you can expect to see from it. We invite you to pray with the leaders of your church, asking the Lord how deeply he is inviting you to engage in this journey of discipleship.

Values and Goals

The following are the Values which shape the culture of the GT, and the Goals that we hope to see fulfilled in each GT Participant. Participants in GT-Groups will monitor their growth in these areas by using the Self-Assessment tool which is included in the GT Manuals. As the Holy Spirit continues to work through the participants, who are growing as disciples, a culture of discipleship will begin to take root in your church.

Values	Goals
1. Abiding in Jesus Christ	1. Grow in relationship with God a. Intimacy b. Submission & humility
2. Rooted in God's Word	2. Grow in knowledge and obedience to God's Word a. Bible study b. Scripture meditation/memorization
3. Christ-centered relationships	3. Grow in relationship with Others a. Caring for one another b. Welcoming diversity
4. Vibrant and Growing Prayer Life	4. Grow in engaging in various prayer formats a. Comfortable praying alone and with others b. Ministering in prayer & listening to God
5. Transformation through the Spirit of Christ	5. Grow in cooperation with the Holy Spirit a. Engaging in the internal work for character transformation b. Practicing gifts and discernment together
6. Spirit-led Missional life	6. Grow in life on mission a. Sharing the Gospel in obedience to the Great Commission b. Stepping into opportunities to share God's love with people

As participants embrace these Values and Goals, they will grow in their ability to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to embody, proclaim, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Diverse Christian Traditions

The GT aims to be helpful to people from *any* Christian background, because we're all on the same team! We expect that any followers of Jesus Christ who believe the Holy Bible is the Word of God will find themselves at home in the GT. The important thing is that we all experience meaningful growth as followers of King Jesus!

Facilitator Resources

To ensure successful implementation of GT-Groups in your context, we have created a Facilitator's Handbook and will offer training and ongoing support to the facilitators of your GT-Groups. The handbook covers the following topics:

- **Beginning a Year of Discipleship** - An introduction for GT-Group Facilitators
- **Gospel Tool Group Culture** - How to create the context to grow a culture of discipleship in the group
- **Self-Assessment Tool** - Facilitator notes on how to use this important tool in a group setting, along with the actual tool
- **Discipleship Group Covenant** - A covenant signifying commitment to healthy group participation, to be signed by all participants
- **Group Conversation Helps** - Suggestions for keeping group conversation moving, ensuring that the group remains submitted to biblical truth and focused on the material presented in the GT manual
- **Care Support** - A guide for connecting needs with the appropriate support systems within your local context

The Facilitator Handbook and all of the materials in it are available for download on the GT Website in the Resources section.

Thank you, again, for your interest in the GT. If we already have your information, we will follow up with you soon to explore this opportunity further. If not, please let us know if you are interested in using the Gospel Tool in your church, by filling out our contact form on the website. The form is directly linked below, or you can scan the QR code to navigate there.

<https://goldavenuechurch.breezechms.com/form/GTContact>



Please feel free to contact Trevor and Mark if you'd like further information about any topic addressed in the GT.

Trevor: trevorp@gospeltool.org

Mark: marke@gospeltool.org



Sermon Series Planner for The Gospel Tool Bible Study

The following chart offers suggestions for a 40 week preaching series that covers the major themes of the gospel. It is designed to accompany the discipleship curriculum: The Gospel Tool Bible Study (GT). Alternate texts for any week could be found within the Bible study lessons. The sermon can either launch or conclude the weekly lessons.

GT LESSON	PREACHING TEXT	GT LESSON	PREACHING TEXT
1	John 3:16-18; Isaiah 61:1-4	21	1 Cor. 15:20-28; Ro. 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 15:50-58
2	Matthew 28:16-20	22	1 Peter 1:3-9
3	Genesis 1:1-27; Colossians 1:15-20	23	John 20:21-23; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49; Review Mt. 28:18-20
4	Revelation 5:9-10	24	Acts 2:42-47
5	Genesis 3	25	Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:26-29
6	Genesis 11:1-9	26	Matthew 18:21-35, 6:14-15
7	Genesis 37	27	Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Corinthians 3:18
8	1 Samuel 16:14-23	28	Psalms 119:9-16
9	Rom. 3:9-24; Eph. 2:1-3 and Rom. 1:18; Heidelberg Catechism #10&11	29	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
10	Genesis 3:15; Col. 2:13-15; Romans 16:20	30	Exodus 17:8-16; Matthew 6:9-10
11	Genesis 12:1-9	31	Isaiah 58:1-12
12	Exodus 19:1-20:17	32	Ephesians 4:17-5:21
13	1 Kings 12:25-33	33	1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 14:1; Romans 12; Ephesians 4
14	Ezekiel 18:30-32; John 11:25-27	34	2 Corinthians 4
15	Isaiah 11:1-10	35	Matthew 25:1-13 primary; with Matthew 24:4-14; 36-44 as background
16	Matthew 1:18-25	36	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
17	Luke 3:21-23a; Isaiah 61	37	2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; Revelation 19:11-21 (Matthew 24:14)
18	John 14:1-14; Hebrews 1:1-3	38	Revelation 20:11-15; (Matthew 13:47-50; 25:31-46)
19	Matthew 4:18-22	39	1 Corinthians 3:10-15; (Matthew 12: 36-37; Matthew 19:28-30)
20	Isaiah 53:4-12	40	Revelation 19:6-9; 21:1-22:5; (1 Corinthians 15: 24-28)



What to Do After Completing The Gospel Tool

Congratulations! You've now (or will have in the future) completed the Gospel Tool, which is a significant milestone on your journey of discipleship with Christ. We hope that, at this point you're asking, "What's next?" Here are some suggestions for next steps:

- Continue to have GT groups meet every month or so. Group participants have developed a sense of fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ over these past few months. Continuing to meet will keep building momentum for discipleship.
- Throughout the GT journey, participants have been praying for a number of people. Encourage them to ask the Lord if He may be inviting them to lead some of those people through the GT. They should continue to pray for them, regardless!
- Have you found the GT to be helpful for your church? If so, then consider using the GT as your church's core discipleship pathway. This will be key for building in your church a culture of discipleship for years to come.
- Consider holding a celebration worship service around the completion of the GT, in which participants share testimonies of how they've grown from their engagement on the GT journey. This worship service could be followed by a meal shared by the entire congregation.
- Continue to run GT-Groups annually, so that eventually all members of your church have the opportunity to go through it. The long-term hope and vision is that there is always a desire to be obedient to Jesus and to go and make disciples. We believe that using the GT materials will light a fire in believers for evangelism, discipleship and prayer.
- If you want to be more effective in making disciples and introducing people to Jesus, then the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is essential. Are you interested in learning more about the empowering work of the Holy Spirit? The "Empowered for Witness" series of courses (online & in person) may be a fruitful next step. Visit empoweredforwitness.org for more information.

Go and Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19

Introduction

This is not a discipleship curriculum...at least, not as that is commonly understood today. Most discipleship programs don't aim to change the culture of the church; this one does. The Gospel Tool is specifically aimed at equipping your church to grow disciples who embody, proclaim, and advance the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Inside this guide you will learn what the Gospel Tool is and what kind of significant and transformative growth can be expected for all those who participate in it. You will also discover:

Is the Gospel Tool Right For You?

What are the Practical Expectations?

Leadership Involvement Required for Success

Values and Goals of a Culture of Discipleship

The Gospel Tool works in Diverse Christian Traditions

What Resources are Available for Group Facilitators

Also included are:

Sermon Series Planner for The Gospel Tool Bible Study

What to Do After Completing The Gospel Tool

FIND OUT MORE ON THE WEBSITE:



WWW.GOSPELTOOL.ORG