

CHAPTER 15

Do You Know You Have a Mission – To Make Disciples?

Foundational Review

In our last two sessions, we said that Chapter 13 and 14 are two parts of a unit. Chapter 13 demonstrated how we are to live BY FAITH in the Second Apartment of the Sanctuary, where we can stand in the presence of a Holy God. (Hebrews 10:19-23) Chapter 14 demonstrated how we are to live BY FAITH in the Third Angel's Message at the Time of the End. (Revelation 14:12) These two lessons addressed the same topic: how to live in Righteousness by Faith at the Time of the End, whether it is for worship before God or whether it is as a witness before the world.

In the next four sessions, we want to explore what this witness before the world will look like, in very practical terms. The final four studies of this seminar will cover:

- Making Disciples – your mission
- Being a Witness – how you function
- Being One of the Sheep – your practical life in relationship to others
- Building an Ark – your practical life in the final crisis

Again, the warning: read Chapter 15 before working through this study. It will make your work easier. And if you are in a seminar, it will make the classroom discussion go so much smoother.

The Illustration

In the classroom illustration we were introduced to long-range planning and the three phases of such a venture. What are those three phases?

QUESTION #1:

Draw a line between the phase in the left-hand column with the correct description of that phase in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| a. The "Why" | 1. the main task, the mission |
| b. The "What" | 2. three or four focused steps to achieve the main task |
| c. The "How" | 3. the shared values |

The "Why" – our shared values – are the ones you see listed above in the sidebar box. Those guiding principles describe who we are. They are the prime answers to the question: *Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Do You Know Who You Are?*

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/Faith Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Rom. 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Gal. 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)
- Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)
 - Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)
- Unique calling: Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)
 - To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)
 - To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)
 - To give 3 Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Christianity.
(Ephesians 3:14-19)

the great
Commission

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

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QUESTION #2:

What about the “What” for the Seventh-day Adventist Church? If we were to take a poll of Seventh-day Adventist Christians in your church, what would they say is the “main task,” the mission of the church? How would they answer this question, do you think? Write down the first three or four answers that you think THEY would say.

QUESTION #3:

From the answers you gave or perhaps your own thinking, describe what you think is the “main task” of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Remember what we are looking for: the mission; the “main task” of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian.



Part I: The “WHY” of Abraham

Let’s investigate the basis of Abraham’s Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God. This will seem simplistic, but sometimes the simplest of ideas totally escapes us as to its importance.

QUESTION #1:

READ Genesis 12:1-5. What was Abram’s response to God’s call to leave Ur?

QUESTION #2:

READ Genesis 15:6. Why did Abram respond as he did?

QUESTION #3:

What did God credit Abram with as a result of his belief? What does it say in verse 6?

■ Think It Through

Is righteousness important in your life? What does righteousness bring to you?

READ Romans 4:6-8

READ 1 Corinthians 1:30

READ Philippians 3:9-11

Back to Abraham

QUESTION #4:

READ Romans 4:18-21. Try to think in terms of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship. What is the Grace-based promise that God has promised to Abram? And what is Abram’s faith response?

What is it that Abram believes about God?

Think It Through

What is the basis of your Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship with God?

Is forgiveness, redemption, and resurrection from the dead important to you?

Do you believe that God will do what he promises?

Is this relationship and these results really that important to you? What do you think?

ONE MORE THOUGHT:

Do you remember the definition of obedience that we discussed in our study of Chapter 4? READ Romans 6:17. It says that obedience that comes from the

The heart is that place where you have CHOSEN God's way of life (Micah 6:8) instead of the enemy's way of life (1 John 2:16). The heart is the place where you have CHOSEN to abide (John 15:5) in the Holy Spirit and where you have CHOSEN to let Him change you. (Romans 12:2)



PLEASE NOTICE:

These are Abraham's values. They look remarkably like our set of values. These are the "Why" for Abraham.

PART II: The "What" of Abraham

Having gotten the "Why" in place, let's discuss Abraham's "What", the "main task" assigned to Abraham.

QUESTION #1:

READ Genesis 12:2; 17:4. What was Abraham's assigned "main task"?

"What" does it say he is to be?

In order for Abraham to be a father of many nations, what will Abraham have to start with? With at least one child!

QUESTION #2:

READ Genesis 18:19. "What" will Abraham focus on in his "obedience from the heart?" "What" is his heart focused on? "What" is upmost in his mind?

"What" is Abraham's mission; his main task? "What" all is included in this "main task?"

1. The first phrase says, "Command his children... after him". What does this mean?

2. "To keep the way of the Lord". Notice the word "keep." What does this word mean in terms of the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship?

3. "Doing righteousness and justice". What does this mean?

QUESTION #3:

Did Abraham do it – the “main task”? Give some examples from the life of Abraham, focusing on the people in his life, that shows how he carried out this “main task”.

QUESTION #4:

Abraham was focused on making a family who, by trusting in God, would do three things: Fill in the blanks from the material in the book chapter 15.

- f _____ a _____ h _____
- d _____ a _____ h _____ d _____
- c _____ o _____ w _____ h _____ w _____ g _____

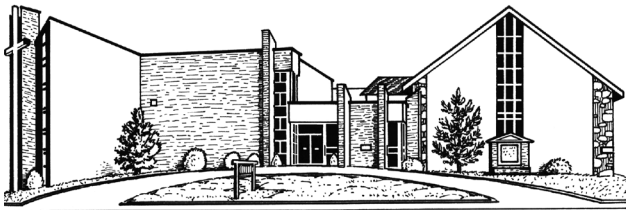
QUESTION #5:

What do we call those whom we train to do the above three things? Fill in the missing word directly from the Scripture.

READ Genesis 18:19. Abraham called them ch _____.

READ Mark 3:34-35. Jesus called them br _____.

READ Matthew 10:1a. Jesus also called them d _____.



Think It Through

READ Matt. 28:19a. What did Jesus say was the “main task” of His church?

QUESTION #5:

We will talk more about this next session, but consider: Jesus defines a disciple as one who will...

READ Matt 4:19

READ John 13:15

READ John 14:12

Think It Through

What do you think is the “main task” of the Remnant Church at the Time of the End?

Has the basic “main task” changed, just because it is the Time of the End?

Summary

QUESTION #1:

When God gives us our “main task” to do, in the Time of the End, how can we follow Abraham’s model for making disciples? Answer directly from the Scripture.

READ Romans 4:21.

READ Matthew 28:19.

READ Romans 5:3-5 (compare to Revelation 14:12a); Ephesians 2:10.

BECAUSE...

We want to make disciples who, trusting God like us will:

READ Revelation 14:4b.

READ John 13:15.

READ 2 Timothy 4:5-6.

■ **Think It Through**

What should you recommend to the church board if a particular church activity is not focused on making disciples?

Be careful. How would you know whether it is a “disciple making” program or not? What will tell you the thinking that has gone on in planning the program? What questions should you ask?

What kinds of church activities make disciples?

REMEMBER: The main purpose of the main purpose is to be the main purpose.

Take Home

Thought Question

To carry out the “main task” of being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Should you quit your job and become a Bible worker? Why or why not?

To carry out the “main task” of being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian: Should you not go to the Ladies Night Out next Thursday evening, but instead set up a Bible study? Why or why not?

As a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, what is your “main task”? Where would you start, do you think? Give the reason why you would start there.

