# ALL THINGS NEW A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING

Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness

WORKBOOK #3: HEALING



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All Things New: A Discipleship Ministry for Healing

Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness

Workbook 3: Healing

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### INTRODUCTION

ALL THINGS NEW: A DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY FOR HEALING is a Bible Study and Discipleship Ministry for people who experience same-sex attraction (SSA). It is designed to be facilitated by lay leaders and assisted by volunteer prayer/Accountability Partners. The purpose of the All Things New Ministry is to aid in the spiritual healing and growth of people who have in the past, or are currently experiencing SSA. This ministry is designed to help release people from the bondage of SSA and to allow them to experience healing from the effects of their exposure to SSA and sexual brokenness.

Each lesson contains five days of homework to be completed by the ministry participants prior to meeting as a group to discuss the lesson and complete the in-class exercises. Another very important aspect of this ministry is the weekly memory Scripture that relates to the lesson for the week.

If you are completing this workbook on your own and not using it as a part of a facilitated weekly Bible study, you will need to purchase the companion Facilitator Guide in order to have access to all of the material you need to get the most out of this Bible Study. This is especially relevant to the in-class exercises presented in this workbook. If you don't have the Facilitator Guide, or someone who is facilitating this Bible Study that is using that Facilitator Guide, some of the exercises may not make sense.

#### **ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERS**

We grow spiritually as Christians by sharing our lives with other Christians. One important aspect of this Ministry is for you to have a trusted Christian Accountability Partner to share your journey with as you work through the homework assignments and weekly lessons. There will be times as you work through this material that you may feel like giving up or giving in to temptations that have been gripping you for years. Having an Accountability Partner who you can reach out to in times of temptation, or when you need a friend who understands what you are going through, can really help you to stay the course and experience victory over your struggles.

You may be assigned an Accountability Partner by the Ministry Facilitator(s) to work with you, or if you are completing this workbook on your own, please find someone who you trust; who you feel comfortable talking to; and who you can contact when you have questions or are struggling to complete an assignment. That person's role is to encourage you and to pray for you. Stay in regular contact with your Accountability Partner – sharing the homework assignments with them and letting them know how you are feeling as you work through this material.

#### OTHER RESOURCES FOR COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE:

A Guide for Listening and Inner Healing Prayer: Meeting God in the Broken Places by Rusty Rustenbach (NavPress 2011) ISBN: 978-1-61747-086-8 – used for Lessons #18-#27

*All Things New: a Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love* by Debora Barr (True Potential Publishing 2012) ISBN: 978-1-935769-32-3 – Ministry Break Reading Assignment following Lesson #27

#### MINISTRY BREAK READING ASSIGNMENT

Read All Things New: a Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love by Debora Barr. Available at: http://www.DBarrMinistries.org/

As you read this book, notice how Debora leaned on God and on other Christians to help her walk away from her life of homosexuality. Think about your life, and how you have been leaning on God and other Christians so far in this study. What have you learned so far? What victories have you achieved so far? What do you want God to do for you as you continue in this study? Write a prayer to God below asking for what you desire from Him:

# The Power of Sharing Your Testimony



### **HOMEWORK**

There is great power in the telling and hearing of a personal testimony regarding what God is doing and has done in a person's life. Testimony is defined as a declaration by a witness under oath, as that given before a court or deliberative body; evidence in support of a fact or an assertion; or a public declaration regarding a religious experience (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language). The Bible is full of stories about what God did in the lives of His people thousands of years ago, but don't you agree that it is a bit hard to relate to some of these stories of people who lived in a far different time, place, and culture than our own?

What if you heard from someone today, who you know and who lives right where you live, about something incredible that God did in his or her life? What if someone you know was healed of an "incurable" disease? Wouldn't that have a stronger impact on you than reading about King Hezekiah being healed from the disease that was supposed to kill him around 700 years before Jesus was born? (Isaiah Chapter 38) What about the testimony of a woman in your town who was barren for years, prayed fervently and then was able to conceive and have a child? Wouldn't her story have a much more powerful impact on you than reading about Hannah in the Bible who lived approximately 1,000 years before Christ? (1 Samuel Chapter 1) What about hearing the personal testimony of a man or woman who lived for years as a gay man or lesbian, and who, through the power of God working in and through their lives, has walked away from that lifestyle, and is now living free from that bondage?

Sharing a personal testimony brings healing and encouragement not only to the person hearing the testimony, but also the person sharing it. For the person sharing, it "seals it" and makes it more real even to them. Sometimes, we can go through something incredible in an almost 'out of body' experience where it doesn't become real and tangible to us until we hear ourselves telling the story, or see a video, or hear someone else tell it. Sharing a testimony also reminds the teller of what God did in his/her life, when in the future, they may be discouraged about something. Just remembering what God has already done in your life can encourage you to hold on when the going gets rough. If He did it before, He can do it again!

Personal testimonies can reach some people for God like nothing else can. To see living tangible proof of the power of God working in a person's life today might just be the thing that leads someone to Christ. And, by the way... Satan hates it!

This Week's Memory Verse:

**Revelation 12:11** (NKJV) *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.* 

1.	Why do you think that Joshua recounted to the people the entire history of the Israelites just before he died?
2.	What is significant about your history, and what can be learned from recounting the history of your life?
3.	Do you think other people can learn from you and be encouraged by hearing your story? Yes No
	Why/why not?

4.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to reveal to you the importance of sharing your testimony, and what He will accomplish through your obedience.				
	Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation12:11).				

1.	What is revealed in Joshua 24:2-3 about what God did for Abraham and how does this relate to your salvation story?
2.	How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to leave everything he knew and go to an unknown destination led by God?
3.	How did you feel when you first accepted Jesus and began to walk in this new relationship with God?
4.	How has your life changed since you accepted Jesus and began walking with God?

5.	If you had the opportunity to share your salvation testimony with another person, and only had I minute to share, what would you say? How would you convey your story in such a way as to encourage a person who is being drawn by the Holy Spirit to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life?				
	Write your 1-minute testimony in the space below and plan to share it with the group when we reconvene.				
	Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation12:11).				

1.	What is being conveyed to the Israelites through Joshua 24:4-13 and how does the message relate to your life?
2.	Why do you think that God allows His people to experience the types of things that the Israelites experienced in the passages we just looked at?
3.	Why do you think God allowed you to experience the things that you have experienced in your life, both good and bad? What can be learned from your experiences?
4.	Names in the Bible have great significance. In Joshua 24:11 we see a list of names of the 'peoples' that came against the Israelites. The names of the seven 'peoples' that were conquered by the Israelites are seven 'spirits' that had to be conquered by the Israelites so they could acquire what God promised them. What deeper meaning is revealed in this passage about what the Israelites faced when they crossed into the promised-land?

NAME	MEANING	ATTRIBUTES
Amorites Mountain People Obsession with earthly fame/glory		Obsession with earthly fame/glory
Perizzites Belonging to a Village I		Limited vision, laziness, low self-esteem
Canaanites	Lowlands People	Addictions, perversions, people pleasing
Hittites	Sons of Terror/Break Down	Phobias, terror, depression, deceit
Girgashites	Clay dwellers	Focus on earthliness and unbelief
Hivites	Villagers	Vision limited to earthly inheritance
Jebusites	Threshers/Humiliate	Legalism, suppression of spiritual authority
Taken from http.	  //shamah-elim.info (Shamah-Elim Bible S	tudies)
5. Do you rec be? Be spe	=	course of your life that had to be conquered or still need to
	e below, write a prayer to God targer them as He did for the Israelites.	geting the remaining 'ites' in your life and ask Him to help

Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation12:11).

Re	ad Joshua 24:1-28 and answer the following questions:
1.	What is Joshua saying to the people in Joshua 24:14-15?
_	
2.	Have you determined in your heart to serve God? Yes No
	Why/why not? Be specific.
_	
3.	Part of serving God is telling others about what God has done for you, so they can grasp the real wonderworking power of God through your story in addition to reading about people in the Bible who they have never met. What is it about your personal testimony that could impact another person if you were brave enough to tell it?

4.	Who would most benefit from hearing your testimony? Think about age groups, gender, populations, people in the church, people outside the church, etc.
5.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him whom He would like to reach through you sharing your testimony. Following your prayer, write down what He tells you.
	D ( 10 12 11)
	Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation12:11).

1.	In Joshua 24:22-27, Joshua and the people sealed their covena the history of the Israelites: what God had done for them over the out of the world to follow Him, through all of the trials and trib to the promised land where He planted them. Why do you thin a promise to serve the Lord?	he years bulation	from the time s they encount	He called Abraham tered along the way,		
2.	Look back over your life (review your personal timeline that you have been working on from Lesson #6) and make notes below specifically identifying the work of God over the course of your life (even when you didn't know Him).					
	Event		God's Role			
		_				
		_				
		-				
		_				
		_				
		_				
		_				

3.	After reviewing what the Lord!"?			e course of you	r life, are you	willing to say "I	will serve
	Why/why not?						
	How would sharing	stories about	your life encourse	ge others to co	me to know a	nd trust God?	
	Tiow would sharing	stories about	your me encoura	se officia to co	The to know u	na trust God:	
<b>5.</b>	Are you fearful abo	ut sharing you	ır story with other	rs?	Yes	No	
	Why/why not?						

6.	Has someone else encouraged you to trust God through the sharing of his or her testimony? If the answer is yes, what impact did their sharing have on your life?
	Practice writing your memory verse (Revelation 12:11).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

# **NOTES**


# **Exposing the Pain and Glorifying God**

LESSON #29

### **HOMEWORK**

Part of our healing comes from exposing our hurts, pains, and embarrassments instead of burying them. Just like a wound that needs to be opened up and flushed out to purge an infection, wounds that we have experienced in our lives due to things we have done or things that have happened to us need to be opened up and dealt with for complete healing. If we keep these hurts and pains buried, they are buried alive and continue to affect us both physically and spiritually. An important part of our healing process is being able to talk about what we have experienced and how we have been affected by it.

The most effective way to begin healing from your wounds is to spend time in prayer with God, talking to Him about what happened. Like we experienced in our times of listening and healing prayer, God will help you to understand how much He loves you, that He was there when you were hurt, and He will help you to heal if you are willing to expose your pains to Him. Just like a child who falls and skins his knee, run to Abba Father and show Him your pain so He can comfort you and heal your wounds.

Another important way that we find healing from the things we have experienced in our lives is to share those experiences and their effect on us with other believers. Spiritual growth is accelerated by our relationships with other Christians. How many times have you been encouraged in your own walk with God when another believer shared with you something that they went through, and how God helped them through it? We learn about faith and experience spiritual growth by interacting with other believers.

There are many instances in the Bible where we see God enabling believers to encourage one another and be transparent with one another about their real struggles. A few of these passages follow: Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20; Romans 7:15-25; and James 5:16. If you hold on to your hurts and are not transparent about your experiences and pains, you are masking the truth and may hinder another person's spiritual growth, in addition to delaying your own healing. It is easy for a person who has buried their own pain to believe that they are the only one who has faced what they have experienced. If nobody else is talking about what they have experienced, they may feel all alone in their pain. Once it is exposed to the light, healing begins.

Won't you commit this week to experience healing in some area of your life by exposing an unhealed pain, talking to God about it, and being transparent with another Christian believer about what you have gone through?

This Week's Memory Verse:

<u>James 5:16</u> (NKJV) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Read Psalm 107:1-7 and answer the following questions:

1.	Write this passage of Scripture in the space below and personalize it. Make this passage your personal prayer to God.
2.	What stood out to you most in this passage as you personalized it and made it your prayer to God?
3.	What painful/embarrassing/difficult part of your life comes to mind when you pray this portion of Scripture?

4.	difficult situation that you have been through and overcome, what would you say to encourage him/her?
	Look for opportunities this week to share with another person something that God did for you – something to encourage them in their own walk with the Lord, or to help draw them to Him if they don't know Him.
	Pray and ask God to give you an opportunity this week to practice sharing your testimony one-on-one with another person. Write down anything He tells you about this assignment below:
	Practice writing your memory verse (James 5:16).

Read Psalm 107:8-14 and answer the following questions:

1.	Write this passage of Scripture in the space below and personalize it. Make this passage your personal prayer to God.
2.	What stood out to you most in this passage as you personalized it and made it your prayer to God?
3.	What painful/embarrassing/difficult part of your life comes to mind when you pray this portion of Scripture?

4.	If your best friend were to share with you that he/she is experiencing a similar painful/embarrassing/difficult situation that you have been through and overcome, what would you say to encourage him/her?
5.	Have you found an opportunity to share a portion of your testimony with someone yesterday or today?  Yes No
	How did it make you feel (whether you were obedient to share or did not share when given the opportunity)?
	Practice writing your memory verse (James 5:16).

Read Psalm 107:15-20 and answer the following questions:

1.	Write this passage of Scripture in the space below and personalize it. Make this passage your persona prayer to God.
2.	What stood out to you most in this passage as you personalized it and made it your prayer to God?
3.	What painful/embarrassing/difficult part of your life comes to mind when you pray this portion of Scripture's

4.	If your best friend were to share with you that he/she is experiencing a similar painful/embarrassing/difficult situation that you have been through and overcome, what would you say to encourage him/her?
5.	Have you found an opportunity to share a portion of your testimony with someone yesterday or today? Yes No
	How did it make you feel (whether you were obedient to share or did not share when given the opportunity)?
	Practice writing your memory verse (James 5:16)

Read Psalm 107:21-30 and answer the following questions:

1.	Write this passage of Scripture in the space below and personalize it. Make this passage your personal prayer to God.
2.	What stood out to you most in this passage as you personalized it and made it your prayer to God?
3.	What painful/embarrassing/difficult part of your life comes to mind when you pray this portion of Scripture?

4.	If your best friend were to share with you that he/she is experiencing a similar painful/embarrassing/difficult situation that you have been through and overcome, what would you say to encourage him/her?
5.	Have you found an opportunity to share a portion of your testimony with someone yesterday or today?  Yes No
	How did it make you feel (whether you were obedient to share or did not share when given the opportunity)?
	Practice writing your memory verse (James 5:16).

Read Psalm 107:31-43 and answer the following questions:

1.	Write this passage of Scripture in the space below and personalize it. Make this passage your personal prayer to God.
2.	What stood out to you most in this passage as you personalized it and made it your prayer to God?
3.	What painful/embarrassing/difficult part of your life comes to mind when you pray this portion of Scripture?

4.	If your best friend were to share with you that he/she is experiencing a similar painful/embarrassing/difficult situation that you have been through and overcome, what would you say to encourage him/her?
5.	Have you found an opportunity to share a portion of your testimony with someone yesterday or today?  Yes No
	How did it make you feel (whether you were obedient to share or did not share when given the opportunity)?
	Practice writing your memory verse (James 5:16).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

# **Exposing the Pain and Glorifying God**

LESSON #29

### **IN-CLASS EXERCISE**

Take 3-5 minutes and think about the first time you experienced physical/sexual contact with another person of the same sex, or you experienced strong feelings of same-sex attraction but did not act on those feelings.

Write down what triggered it, what he/she did, what you did, how it made you feel, and what you now know about the root cause(s) of these feelings:

After knowing all you know now about what that experience opened up in your life, how would you warn a friend who reveals to you that he/she is experiencing same-sex attraction?

Pair up with a partner and share your testimony (5 minutes for each person to share).

# **NOTES**


# **Tailoring Your Message for the Listener**



#### **HOMEWORK**

God uses people and their stories to draw others to Himself. Think about it: has anyone in your life ever shared his or her faith with you? If you are like most people, you heard the Gospel message more than once from several different people before you responded and accepted Jesus Christ for yourself.

In addition to drawing people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through the sharing of the Gospel, God uses the stories of His impact on ordinary everyday people to give others hope, to increase their faith, and to bring them comfort. When we hear about what God miraculously did for someone else when we are in the midst of a struggle, or in the midst of pain and suffering, it may be just what we need to hold on a little longer and to actually believe it could happen for us, too!

God is working in the lives of his children – all of them – including you. He does not want you to keep to yourself what He has done in your life. He wants you to share it with others. He loves to hear His children talking about what an incredible God He is and what He has done for them. Think about how good it feels to hear someone talking to someone else about what a good friend you are, what a good parent you are, and what great things you have done for them.

When we share what God has done in our lives, we need to tailor the message to the listener. What I mean is the story of what God did for you doesn't change, but in order to communicate that well, you need to modify the story a bit to get the message across in the most powerful and effective way to various audiences.

Here is an example. When sharing your salvation testimony with someone who has never been in a church before, it would be ineffective to use "church" words like salvation, saved, blood of the Lamb, etc. because they won't know what you are talking about and may think you are a little crazy. It is much more effective to just tell the story using everyday words that they can understand, like "I used to live a self-centered life. I was never satisfied and always wondered why I was even here. I discovered that I was a sinner and that my sins were separating me from God. That is when I met Jesus. He died to take away my sins and to restore my relationship with God. I asked Jesus for forgiveness and He restored me to God and my whole life has changed! I now have a peace that I never knew before…" You get the idea?

We also need to be careful to tailor our testimony to listeners based on their age, their maturity level, etc. This is especially important when sharing your deliverance testimony. Only include the details that are appropriate

for the listener. This week, we will study various instances where Paul shared his testimony to get some insight on how to do this.

This Week's Memory Verse:

<u>1 Corinthians 9:22</u> (NKJV) to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Read Acts 9:1-31 and answer the following questions:

1.	Verses 1-19 tell the story of Saul's conversion from a man who hated Christians (followers of "The Way") so much he was plotting to imprison and kill them after obtaining permission from the Jewish High Priest – to Paul (God changed his name from Saul to Paul), a man who God would use to reach thousands of people for Christ in his time, and millions more over the generations that followed through his writing of much of the New Testament.			
	What stands out most to you in verses 1-19? Do you see any parallels with your own life? Write your observations below.			
2.	Did you notice that at the same time God was working powerfully in Saul/Paul's life, he was also working in Ananias' life to bring these men together supernaturally to fulfill God's will in both of their lives? When and how have you experienced something like this in your own life?			

**3.** In verse 15, God reveals to Ananias what He was about to do in Saul/Paul's life. Paul's commission (assignment) would include speaking to Gentiles (non-Jews), kings (government leaders), and the Children of Israel (Jews). Every child of God has an assignment that he/she is uniquely equipped to accomplish for God. He has been preparing you for this assignment your whole life.

	What has God been revealing to you about how He wants to use your life and your Testimony (story) to bring Glory and Honor to Him?
4.	What do you notice about how Saul (Paul) responded to his assignment in verses 20-22? Do you think God was pleased with his response?
5.	What did Saul (Paul) have to overcome when he encountered the disciples in Jerusalem (verses 26-31), and who stood up for him?
6.	Have you thought about how people you used to hang out with, and new people you will meet might respond to your testimony? In the space below, write out possible responses to your testimony and how you think you will react.

Read Acts 21:37 – Acts 22:22 and answer the following questions:

1.	Just prior to this passage of Scripture (in Acts 21:26-35), Paul was falsely accused and arrested. What did he choose to do in this difficult situation? Think about the crowd listening to his testimony. Do you think his testimony was having a powerful impact on these people? Where do you think Paul got his strength of character – not to shy away from proclaiming the Gospel?
2.	What do you notice about what Paul said to the crowd in Acts 22:3-5? How did he help them to see that he could understand their desire to beat and kill him?

<b>3.</b>	about one person you know who is not a Christian and has not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. What could you say about your life as part of your own salvation testimony that would help that person to connect with you and your amazing story of salvation?
4.	What does 1 Peter 3:15 say? Write that passage of Scripture below:
5.	Do you feel comfortable sharing your salvation testimony? If you are fearful or reluctant to share your testimony with some people (or with everybody), use the space below to write a prayer asking God to help you overcome this fear. Tell Him why you are fearful and ask Him to give you a boldness to share the Good News with everyone He places on your heart to share it with.
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Read Acts 26:1-29 and answer the following questions:

1.	What do you notice about how Paul shared his testimony with King Festus Agrippa that was different from the passages we studied on Day 1 and Day 2 this week?
2.	Do you think Paul was doing more than just sharing the story of his conversion with King Agrippa? If so, what was he doing? Identify the verse(s) in this passage that support your theory.
3.	What do you think is the most important purpose of sharing your testimony? Why does Jesus want you to tell your story?

4.	Beyond your salvation testimony, what other areas of your life does Jesus want you to become transparent about so He can draw other people to Himself? Pray and ask Him to reveal this to you. In the space below write your prayer of response to God.
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and answer the following questions:

1.	In this passage of Scripture, Paul is speaking to the Corinthian church, which was a seriously troubled church infected with sexual immorality, wrought with people suing each other, and crippled by the abuse of their spiritual gifts.
	Does Paul write to them in this passage as a person who is spiritually superior to them and is now qualified to rebuke them? Explain.
2.	What role does humility play in the sharing of your testimony and speaking to others about spiritual things? To what did Paul attribute his worth?
3.	Read Ephesians 3:8-9 and 1 Timothy 1:15-16.
	What is Paul reiterating in these passages?

4.	must always acknowledge what God did in your life and that it was not your own willpower or your own strength that enabled you to overcome what you have overcome in your life. In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to reveal to you what He wants you to say about your life that will have a powerful impact on others.
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Corinthians 9.22)

Read Galatians 1:11-24 and answer the following questions:

1.	Why do you think it was so important for Paul to tell the Galatian church where he got his information from regarding the Gospel?
_	
_	
2.	Why does Paul continually tell people about his persecution of the early church? Don't you think that would be embarrassing and he might want to leave out that part of his story?
3.	What part of your story would you rather leave out when telling about what God did in and through you? Why?

4.	Do you think other people may have the same things in their lives that you once did? Do you think if one of them were to hear your story, it might give them hope?
5.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking him to strengthen you so that you can tell your story (all of it) so that others might be free.
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Corinthians 9:22).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

# **Tailoring Your Message for the Listener**



## **IN-CLASS EXERCISE**

Identify one family member or friend who you know is not saved (has not accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior):
Suppose that person walks up to you and asks you why you believe in Jesus? What difference has it made in your life? What would you say to them? Jot down some notes below:
We will have an opportunity to share with someone else in the group who will serve as a surrogate (stand-in for the person you identified above.
After sharing:
<ul> <li>How did it feel to share your testimony in this way?</li> <li>Do you feel you could do this if that person came up to you and asked you the question tomorrow?</li> </ul>

What can you do to strengthen your testimony?

## **NOTES**


# **Spiritual Gifts and Calling**



#### **HOMEWORK**

There are a variety of Spiritual Gifts listed in the Bible. Some are considered supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirits' work through a believer; others are motivational gifts; and still others are considered ministry gifts. Regardless of what you call them or how they are displayed in a believer's life, they are all given to us by God and are to be used in service to other people and to bring glory and honor to the One who gave them to us.

The church is sometimes described in terms of the people who make up the various parts of the body. (See 1 Corinthians Chapter 12.) Each person in the body of Christ has a role to play using the gifts that God has equipped him or her with. No gift is more important than any other. Just as every part of the physical body is important, and the body doesn't function well when a part is missing or is not operating to its full potential, the Body of Christ needs each and every member operating in the gift that has been given by God to be healthy and whole.

This week, you will take a Spiritual Gifts Survey to determine what gifts you have been equipped with so you can begin to learn about your gifts and how you can use them to serve others. If you are not already using your Spiritual Gifts in service to the Body of Christ, make a commitment this week to learn more about your gifts and to use them as God intended. You will be blessed when you are operating in the center of God's will – and that includes operating and functioning in the unique gifting that has been given to you in service to others.

#### This Week's Memory Verse:

<u>1 Peter 4:10</u> (NKJV) As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Take the assessment provided by your facilitator, or if you are doing this study on your own, try searching the Internet for "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" or "Spiritual Gifts Assessment". You can also find different Spiritual Gifts assessment tools at most Christian bookstores.

After you complete the survey, read over the results and be sure to print out your results to bring to the next class.

1.	Were you surprised with the results of your Spiritual Gifts Analysis? Explain.
2.	If you have completed a Spiritual Gifts Survey in the past, are your gifts the same or different? Explain why you think that might be.

Practice writing your memory verse (1 Peter 4:10).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and answer the following questions:

	manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit through the life of a believer.	
	List the manifestation gifts below:	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
2.	What does verse 7 say is the purpose of these gifts?	
3.	What is the source of these gifts? How do you know?	

4.	What can a believer do to obtain one of these gifts? Explain. (See verse 11.)

Practice writing your memory verse (1 Peter 4:10).

Read Romans 12:3-8 and answer the following questions:

1.	The gifts in this passage of Scripture are considered Motivational Gifts. List the seven below:	Motivational Gifts
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	
2.	Why do you think these gifts are considered "motivational" gifts? Explain.	
3.	The motivational gifts are gifts that we possess. You may recognize yourself in one or and know that you have been that way your whole life. List your primary motivationa and briefly describe how these gifts from God have been prevalent in your life even b Christian.	al gift or gifts below
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Peter 4:10).	

Re	ead Ephesians 4:7-16 and answer the following questions:	
1.	The gifts in this passage of Scripture are the Ministry Gifts. List the five Ministry Gifts below.  •	
	•	
	• •	
2.	• Who gives these gifts to people? What verse tells you this?	
	who gives these girts to people. What verse tens you this:	
3.	What is the purpose of the Ministry Gifts? What verses tell you this?	

1	s every believer equipped with one or more of these five Ministry Gifts? Explain.
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Read 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 and answer the following questions:

1. In this passage of Scripture, Paul uses examples of gifts from the three categories of gifts we have identified over the past three days. Try filling in the chart below with the nine gifts identified in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

Motivational Gifts	Ministry Gifts	Manifestation Gifts
2. What combination of gifts has G	God uniquely equipped you with?	
3. Are you currently using your gif	ets in service to others? Why or why	not?
or the you currently using your gir	to in service to outers. Why or why	

4.	What practical steps will you take to begin learning more about your spiritual gifts and how God wants you to use them to bring glory and honor to Him?
5.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking him to teach you more about the gifts He has given to you and how He wants you to use your gifts for His service.
	Practice writing your memory verse (1 Peter 4:10).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

## **NOTES**

# Witnessing – The Great Commission



#### **HOMEWORK**

After Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to his disciples, He commissioned them to make disciples of all the nations. He told them to baptize believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching believers to observe all of the things He had commanded them.

Jesus also calls us to make disciples by sharing the great news of the Gospel with unbelievers. Every believer is commanded by Jesus to share the Gospel with unbelievers (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; and John 20:21). This is not just a job for Pastors and Ministers. You and I are to share the Gospel as well, and the Holy Spirit will enable you to share it with His power (Acts 1:8).

Do you remember who led you to Christ? Perhaps you heard a sermon or read a book that pricked your heart, or maybe someone shared the good news with you one-on-one. One way to lead a person to Christ is to follow a series of Scriptures known as the "Romans Road." The book of Romans lays out the Gospel message in an easy to understand story.

The Romans Road story begins by revealing the current state of the unsaved. We are all born into sin as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The story goes on to reveal the demonstration of the amazing love of Jesus Christ for all men, that while we were still living in sin, Jesus Christ died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. The only requirement for a man to be saved is to accept the free gift of salvation offered by God. There is absolutely nothing man can do to earn a right to be called a child of God and to earn salvation and eternal life. This is a free gift offered by God to any person who recognizes the sacrificial death of Jesus, and who believes by faith alone that Jesus died for them. When that person calls on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, he/she WILL be saved.

This is the great news of the Gospel. Every child of God is commanded to share this Good News with others. This week, we will study the Scriptures associated with the Romans Road and learn to share the Gospel as God commands us.

#### This Week's Memory Verse:

<u>Matthew 28:19-20</u> (NKJV) <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Re	Read Matthew Chapter 28 and answer the following questions:		
1.	What did Jesus command the disciples to do?		
2.	Did Jesus commission them to share the good news (Gospel) on their own? How do you know?		
3.	Do you believe this passage of Scripture applies to you today? Explain.		

5. In the space below, write a prayer asking God to give you the courage and ability to share the Gospel wit every person He sends your way for the purpose of drawing them to Him.	<b>4.</b> '	What did Jesus promise for those who obey Him by sharing the Gospel?
5. In the space below, write a prayer asking God to give you the courage and ability to share the Gospel wit every person He sends your way for the purpose of drawing them to Him.		
Practice writing your memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20).		Practice writing your memory yerse (Matthew 28:10-20)

Re	Read Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23; and Romans 5:12 complete the following:		
1.	Write out Romans 3:10 below.		
2.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 3:10 in your own words.		
3.	Write out Romans 3:23 below.		
4.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 3:23 in your own words.		

5.	Write out Romans 5:12 below.
	The "one man" through whom sin entered the world is Adam (see Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis Chapter 3; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
6.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 5:12 in your own words.
7.	In the space below, write in your own words the entire message of Romans 3:10, 3:23, and 5:12.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20)

Practice writing your memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20)

Read Romans 5.6 and Romans 6.25 and complete the following:			
1.	Write out Romans 5:8 below.		
2.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 5:8 in your own words.		
3.	Write out Romans 6:23 below.		

In the space	e below, rewrite Romans 6:	23 in your own w	ords.		
In the space	e below, write in your own	words the entire r	nessage of Rom	ans 5:8 and Roma	ns 6:23.
Practice wr	iting your memory verse (N	Matthew 28:19-20	).		

Read Romans 10:9-10 and Romans 10:13 and complete the following:				
1.	Write out Romans 10:9-10 below.			
2.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 10:9-10 in your own words.			
3.	Write out Romans 10:13 below.			

4.	In the space below, rewrite Romans 10:13 in your own words.
5.	In the space below, write in your own words the entire message of Romans 10:9-10 and Romans 10:13.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20).

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and answer the following questions:

1.	What effect has the obedience of whoever shared the Gospel with you and led you to Christ, had on you and your life?
2.	Without looking back over your notes for the lesson this week, try writing out what you would say (in your own words) to share the Gospel with someone using the Scriptures of Romans Road. Don't worry if you get things out of order or don't remember the exact Scripture references. Just give it a try to see where you are now in your knowledge.
3.	Now look back over the Scriptures of Romans Road in order to see how well you did. (Romans 3:10; 3:23 5:12; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10: and 10:13). Where did you get things out of order or forget something important?

4.	command of Jesus Christ to lead others to Him?
<u> </u>	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to increase your knowledge of Him and your boldness
	to share the Gospel with your family, friends, and acquaintances. Ask Him to give you opportunities to share the Gospel.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Matthew 28:19-20).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

## **NOTES**

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## Your Life's Purpose



#### **HOMEWORK**

God has a plan and a purpose for your life. In addition to your personal deliverance and healing from the wounds associated with same-sex attraction, God wants to use you and your testimony to bring other people to the saving knowledge of Him. He created you, loves you, and has been preparing you for your Mission your whole life (Ephesians 2:10).

Just like Paul and many others in the Bible, God will use the story of your life to bring glory and honor to Him as you are obedient to do what He reveals to you. When we look outside our own lives and see our circumstances from God's eye view, we can see that He has been preparing us all of our lives to come to know and serve Him. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." God sees the big picture and knows exactly how He wants you to serve Him.

This week, you will write your personal Mission and Vision Statements. You will also revisit your personal timeline (Lesson #6), and instead of focusing on the past, you will project your timeline into the future to show the steps necessary to achieve the Vision God will reveal to you. There is power in writing down what God reveals to you. Just like the power of the written Word in the Bible, writing down the truth that God reveals to you as you pray and ask Him to show you how He wants to use your life, is the first step to seeing those plans displayed in your life.

Writing and continuously reviewing your personal Mission and Vision statements also helps you to stay focused on the things that God has uniquely gifted and equipped you to contribute as part of the Body of Christ. There are numerous 'good things' that you can be doing, but if they distract from the Mission and Vision that God has revealed to you, you will be less effective, and may get burned out. After you have your clear Mission and Vision from God, evaluate every opportunity that comes your way and see if it will advance or detract from what He has assigned you to do. Only participate in activities that move you closer to your Mission and Vision.

Please know that we are not saved by the works that we do for God. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Our salvation comes from the finished work of Jesus Christ and our faith in Him alone. The works that we do are a natural response to the amazing gift of salvation given to us by Jesus Christ, and the Word tells us that our faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).

It is important that you don't miss a single day of the homework this week. You will be producing a personal Mission and Vision statement that you will bring to class to share with the others at the conclusion of this lesson, along with the new things God has revealed for you to add to your timeline.

#### This Week's Memory Verse:

**Ephesians 2:10** (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Re	Read James 1.21-27 and answer the following questions:		
1.	What jumped out at you most in this Scripture? What is God saying to you?		
2.	Read the Scripture out loud – this time personalizing it. Are you a doer of the word, or have you been a hearer only? What areas of your life have you been a hearer only?		
3.	Pray and ask God to reveal areas of your life where He wants you to apply His Word to your life. Record what He is telling you in the space below.		

4.	This week we will develop our personal Mission and Vision Statements. God has a plan and a purpose for the life of each one of His children.
	What has He been revealing to you over the course of the past 32 weeks that He wants you to do as a result of how He has been revealing Himself to you and His purposes for your life?
	Take some time to pray and ask God to begin to speak to you about your future. In the space below, jot down what He is showing you, as well as any associated Scripture references He brings to mind.
	Practice writing your memory yerse (Enhagiens 2:10)

Read James 1:16-18 and answer the following questions:

1.	What gifts has God given you for advancing His Kingdom? Think of your Spiritual Gifts as well as the other gifts He has bestowed on you (material, physical, time, talents, etc.). Write in the space below all of the gifts that you have been given by God that He wants you to use to bring glory and honor to Him.
2.	Where does the Scripture say that the gifts come from?
3.	When the Bible speaks of first fruits, it is always in relation to giving an offering or sacrifice to God. What is God revealing to you that He wants you to present to Him as your first fruits offering?

<b>1.</b>	Pray and ask God to reveal to you the Vision He has for your life (what He desires to see manifest in your life as a result of what He has done for you). This is a forward-looking statement that is not attainable yet. It is the desired result of your obedience to use what God has gifted you for to advance His Kingdom here on earth.
	I will share my Vision statement with you to give you an idea of what I am talking about:
	<b>Vision:</b> To see people delivered and healed from the bondage of sin through an intimate personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
	<b>My Scripture Reference:</b> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
	In the space below, draft your Vision Statement along with Scripture reference(s) that support your Vision.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Ephesians 2:10).

Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 and answer the following questions:

1.	What verses stood out to you the most in this passage? What is God revealing to you through this Scripture?
2.	What does verse 15 say about how God wants us to live our lives?
3.	Verses 19-26 exhort us to live our lives in such a way as to bear witness to others about God. What are some of the things this passage says we should do and avoid doing to help others escape the snare of the enemy?

4.	Pray and ask God to reveal to you the specific Mission He has for you to attain the Vision He has revealed to you. This, too, is a forward-looking statement. A Mission Statement essentially answers the question "How will I attain my Vision?"		
	I will share my Mission statement with you to give you an idea of what I am talking about:		
	<b>Mission:</b> To draw unrepentant sinners and lukewarm Christians into an intimate life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ by sharing my testimony and proclaiming the Gospel.		
	<b>My Scripture Reference:</b> <sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, "[Debora, Debora]! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:31-32)		
	In the space below, draft your Mission Statement along with Scripture reference(s) that support your Mission.		
	Practice writing your memory verse (Ephesians 2:10).		

Read 1 John 2:3-11 and answer the following questions: 1. What verse(s) stood out to you the most? What is God saying to you in this passage? 2. Since we who believe and are saved by Jesus Christ are in the light, He wants us to live our lives in such a way as to demonstrate the light and love of Christ towards others. How will this be manifest in the Vision and Mission that God has given to you? 3. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. Everything you have experienced in your life up to this point has been preparation for the Mission and Vision God has for you. Read Romans 8:28 and write down what God is saying to you in that Scripture passage.

4.	Pull out your personal timeline (Lesson #6). Pray and ask God to show you how your past relates to your future. Review your timeline to see all that God has taken you through and how your past relates to the Mission and Vision He has revealed to you. Write down your observations below.
5.	Review your Mission and Vision statements and the Scripture(s) associated with each. Begin to write the future on your timeline (Lesson #6) – practical steps you can take to begin fulfilling your Mission with an eye towards the Vision God revealed to you. List the practical steps you will take in the space below:
	Practice writing your memory verse (Ephesians 2:10).

Read 1 John 2:15-17 and answer the following questions:			
1.	What part of this passage stands out to you the most? What is God revealing to you through this Scripture?		
2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to serve Him. How is God specifically revealing to you that He wants you to "do His will"?		
3.	Review and refine (if necessary) your Mission and Vision Statements. Write both statements on one page along with your Scripture references in such a way that you can frame it and keep it on your desk or wall, in a place you where you will see it frequently.		
	Bring your Mission/Vision statement to class to share with the other participants.		

**4.** Pray and review your personal timeline (Lesson #6). Add additional practical steps you will take to begin fulfilling your Mission with an eye towards the Vision God has revealed to you. Plan to bring your

timeline to class and to share with the group what God has revealed about your future.

5.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you fulfill the Mission and Vision He has revealed to you this week.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Ephesians 2:10).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

# **NOTES**


# **Testimony Development – Part I**



#### **HOMEWORK**

We explored the power of sharing your testimony in Lesson 28, and learned from the Apostle Paul how he tailored his message for the various audiences that he spoke to while sharing his testimony in Lesson 30. Once again, "Testimony" is defined as a declaration by a witness under oath, as that given before a court or deliberative body; evidence in support of a fact or an assertion; or a public declaration regarding a religious experience (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language).

This week, we will focus on developing our own testimonies related to our healing from same-sex attraction (SSA). Over the course of this study, you have been developing your personal timeline (Lesson #6), which is essentially a record of where you have been over the course of your life, and the influences on your life that contributed to your same-sex attraction. You have also participated in this study for approximately 8 months now, and God has been healing areas of your life as you have worked through the exercises and completed the homework assignments.

Every person will be at a different place on the journey towards healing. Some have already experienced complete deliverance from SSA, and have reached some level of healing from the effects of their SSA. Others are still struggling, but can identify definite milestones along their path to healing. *There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.* (Romans 8:1) Every person has a testimony to share! When we share what God has done for us, He draws people to Himself through our obedience.

You can use your personal timeline (Lesson #6), along with the Mission and Vision Statements you developed last week to focus the content of your testimony, or use whatever method God shows you to develop the Testimony that He wants you to share. We will share our testimonies when we convene as a group at the completion of this week's homework assignment.

See the Testimony Development and Sharing Guidelines on page 140 of this workbook.

This Week's Memory Verse:

<u>**2 Chronicles 16:9a**</u> (NKJV) For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Read all of Psalm 91 aloud and complete the following:		
1.	Meditate on verses 1-3. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?	
2.	Pray and ask God what part(s) of your testimony relating to healing from your Same-Sex Attraction He wants you to develop for this lesson. Remember, your testimony is nothing more than the story of what God has done for you. Write what He reveals to you below.	
3.	Look back over your homework lessons for the past 32 weeks and see how far God has brought you! In the space below, write down notes regarding things you have learned and experienced during the course of this study that God wants you to share as part of your testimony.	
	Practice writing your memory verse (2 Chronicles 16:9a).	

Read all of Psalm 91 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 4-6. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	It is natural to have some level of fear and uncertainty when deciding to obey the will of God by exposing your life and telling others how God has dealt with you. In the space below, write a prayer asking God to help you overcome this fear.		
3.	Do you sense that God will answer your prayer and help you as you requested? Why or why not?		
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4.	what additional things has God revealed to you since you completed yesterday's homework that He wants you to share as part of your testimony? Write those things in the space below so you won't forget to include them.
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Practice writing your memory verse (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

Read all of Psalm 91 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 7-9. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	In the space below, begin to write out your testimony using the work you completed on Day 1 and Day 2 Homework. Develop your testimony related to your healing from Same-Sex Attraction. Plan on your testimony being about 3 minutes in length.		
	Note: If you have not yet experienced complete deliverance and healing, please don't let that discourage you from completing this assignment. Develop your testimony around what He has done for you so far Perhaps you were able to forgive someone you never thought possible; or you have made great strides in improving your sexual integrity; or maybe God spoke to you clearly and healed some area of deep pain in your heart during the Inner Healing Prayer lessons.		
	Develop your testimony around what God has done for you during the course of this study. God works or each one of us in His perfect timing. He loves you so much and He never moves too fast for His children.		

Practice writing your memory verse (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

Read all of Psalm 91 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 10-12. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony		
2.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you to strengthen and refine your testimony Ask Him to give you a boldness to share the broken parts of your life, and what He has done to deliver and heal you with others to give them hope and draw them to Him.		
3.	What do you sense God is saying to you as a result of the prayer you wrote above? Write in the space below His answer to your prayer.		

1.	you to refine it because He knows what He wants you to say to reach the particular person or people He will bring your way to hear it. Remember, your life is not your own. God bought you with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and your life's purpose is to bring glory and honor to Him.

Practice writing your memory verse (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

Read all of Psalm 91 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 13-16. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	Practice saying your testimony out loud.		
	It should be about 3 minutes in length, so adjust what you plan to say accordingly. You will share your testimony in class when we meet next.		
	Practice writing your memory verse (2 Chronicles 16:9a).		
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:		

# **NOTES**


# **Testimony Development – Part II**



#### **HOMEWORK**

Last week, you developed and shared your testimony about your healing from the effects of same-sex attraction. That may have been the first time you ever shared such personal information aloud. Know that God is proud of you! He loves to hear his son or daughter sharing with others what He has done in his/her life. The purpose for sharing our testimonies is ultimately to draw other people closer to God as a result of what He has done in our lives. Sharing our testimonies helps to strengthen their faith and to give them hope that if He did it for you, He can do it for them!

Sharing our testimony benefits us as well. It makes what God has done for us so much more real. Thinking and talking about where I came from and how far God has brought me encourages me like nothing else can! Speaking it into the atmosphere seals the healing. It puts Satan on notice that he no longer rules my life. I am now a child of the Most High God and He alone is sanctifying me day by day.

This week, we will continue to practice developing and sharing our testimonies, this time with a particular audience in mind. Your message needs to be targeted for a particular audience that God will reveal to you. For example, I would use different terminology, and different illustrations when sharing my testimony with a group of adult prison inmates than I would when sharing the same basic story with pre-teens. Develop your testimony this week so that it takes approximately 3 minutes to deliver orally.

#### This Week's Memory Verse:

**Zephaniah 3:17** (NKJV) The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Read all of Psalm 103 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 1-4. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	Pray and ask God what new/different part(s) of your testimony relating to healing from your Same-Sex Attraction He wants you to develop for this lesson. Write what He reveals to you below.		
3.	Pray and ask God what audience He would like for you to share with (whether a single person, a small group, or a large audience). Remember how Paul changed what he said depending on the audience? Write in the space below what audience you will be practicing for this week.		

4.	Begin to develop your testimony with this particular audience in mind. In the space below, jot down an outline and specific points you want to convey to this audience. Also note specific illustrations (examples) from your life that will convey the message most powerfully. People remember best when they are engaged in a story. Use the space below to write out your testimony.

Practice writing your memory	v verse (Zenhaniah	3·17)	

Re	ad all of Psalm 103 aloud and complete the following:
1.	Meditate on verses 5-8. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?
2.	Write down in the space below some of the constructive comments you received during the feedback from sharing your testimony last week in class. Especially note areas of improvement that were brought to your attention as well as what practical things you can do this week to make improvements in these areas

3.	5-7 minutes for the sharing of your testimony. Use the space below to write out your testimony.

Describe a varietie a vaccum mannama vacca (Zambania	1 2 17)	

Practice writing your memory verse (Zephaniah 3:17).

Read all of Psalm 103 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 9-12. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	Think about ways you can incorporate one or more of the verses from Psalm 103:9-12 into your testimony. Write in the space below, where you would insert the great truth of this Scripture passage into your testimony.		

3.	In the space below, write out your testimony again. Remember you are going to share for 3 minutes. Each time you write it, you will notice that God is leading you to refine it because He knows what He wants you to say to reach the particular person or group of people He will bring your way to hear it. Use the space below to write out your testimony.

<b>D</b>	(7. 1. : 1.2.17)	

Practice writing your memory verse (Zephaniah 3:17).

Re	Read all of Psalm 103 aloud and complete the following:			
1.	Meditate on verses 13-18. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony			
2.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you to develop and refine your testimony for the particular audience He has placed on your heart to prepare for this week.			
3.	What do you sense God is saying to you as a result of the prayer you wrote above? Write in the space below His answer to your prayer.			

4.	Practice saying your testimony out loud and time yourself. You may even find it helpful to stand before a mirror when sharing your testimony so you can see how you look when you tell it. Note any comments you received as a part of the constructive criticism in class last week and work on improving your message and delivery accordingly.			
	It should be approximately 3 minutes in length, so adjust what you plan to say accordingly. Use the space below to write out your testimony.			

(7. 1 : 1.2.17)	

Practice writing your memory verse (Zephaniah 3:17).

Re	Read all of Psalm 103 aloud and complete the following:		
1.	Meditate on verses 19-22. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
	Practice saying your testimony out loud several times until you are comfortable.		
2.	It should be approximately 3 minutes in length, so adjust what you plan to say accordingly. Use the space below to write out your testimony.		

Practice writing your memory verse (Zephaniah 3:17)
Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

## **NOTES**


# **Testimony Development – Part III**



#### **HOMEWORK**

For the past two weeks you have developed and shared two different versions of your testimony about your healing from the effects of same-sex attraction. Each time you do this, you will get a little more comfortable sharing. God will use your unique testimony to reach those He has prepared in advance to hear from you. When you submit and yield your life to God, He is able to use you and your stories to advance His kingdom here on earth.

This week, we will continue to practice developing and sharing our testimonies, with yet a different audience in mind. Your message needs to be adjusted and targeted for a new audience that God will reveal to you this week. Develop and practice your testimony so that it takes approximately 3 minutes to deliver orally.

This Week's Memory Verse:

Mark 9:23 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Re	Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and complete the following:		
1.	Meditate on verses 3-4. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	Pray and ask God what new/different part(s) of your testimony relating to healing from your Same-Sex Attraction He wants you to develop for this lesson. You will be revising your testimony for an audience you have not yet prepared for and shared it with. Write what He reveals to you below.		

	person, a small group, or a large audience). Write in the space below what new audience you will be practicing for this week.
4.	Begin to develop your testimony with this particular audience in mind. In the space below, jot down ar outline and specific points you want to convey to this audience. Also note specific illustrations (examples) from your life that will convey the message most powerfully. Use the space below to write out your testimony.


### Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and complete the following:

1.	Meditate on verses 5-7. Look up any words that you don't know so you get the full meaning of the text. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?
2.	Write down in the space below some of the constructive comments you received during the feedback from sharing your testimony last week in class. Especially note areas of improvement that were brought to your attention as well as what practical things you can do this week to make improvements in these areas.

3 minutes for the sharing of your testimony.


Practice writing your memory verse (Mark 9:23).

Re	Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and complete the following:		
1.	Meditate on verses 8-9. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	Think about ways you can incorporate one or more of the verses from 2 Peter 1:3-11 into your testimony. Write in the space below, where you would insert the great truth of this Scripture passage into you testimony.		

<i>J</i> .	time you write it, you will notice that God is leading you to refine it because He knows what He wants you to say to reach the particular person or people He will bring your way to hear it.

Practice writing your memory verse (Mark 0:22)	

Re	Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and complete the following:		
1.	Meditate on verses 10-11. How do these verses relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?		
2.	In the space below, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you to develop and refine your testimony for the particular audience He has placed on your heart to prepare for this week.		

3.	What do you sense God is saying to you as a result of the prayer you wrote above? Write in the space below His answer to your prayer.
4.	Practice saying your testimony out loud and time yourself. Note any comments you received as a part of the constructive criticism in class last week and work on improving your message and delivery accordingly.
	It should be approximately 3 minutes in length, so adjust what you plan to say accordingly.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Mark 9:23).

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and complete the following:
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1.	How does the entirety of the message of this passage of Scripture relate to the development and sharing of your testimony?
2.	Practice saying your testimony out loud several times until you are comfortable.
	It should be approximately 3 minutes in length, so adjust what you plan to say accordingly.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Mark 9:23).
	Notes/Questions to bring to the next Group Session:

## **NOTES**


# Personal Plan to Continue Daily Devotional



#### **HOMEWORK**

You have been on quite a journey! Look at how far you have come in your spiritual growth and in your healing from the effects of your same-sex attraction. This is just the beginning of the rest of your life, and I know that God has a great plan and purpose for your life.

You have been disciplined in studying the Word of God, as you have completed the homework and in-class exercises over the course of this series. Now, it is time for you to develop your own plan to continue abiding in Jesus Christ and His Word for continual growth and healing. God's Word is powerful and it heals and changes lives. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Continued spiritual growth requires discipline. God wants to maintain an intimate and personal relationship with you. He has so much more for your life, and in order for Him to continue to heal your wounds and produce fruit in your life, you have to continue to abide in Him. Jesus says, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." (John 15:4) He also promises that if you abide in His Word and meditate on what it teaches, you will be rooted, productive to the Kingdom of God, and prosperous, "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3)

God will continue to transform your life as He sanctifies you day by day if you remain in His Word, stay connected to Jesus and to other believers. No matter how far you have come over the course of this study or how far you have yet to go in your healing from the effects of your same-sex attraction, the Word of God promises change and newness in your life, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17) Walk in the newness of your life in Christ!

May God bless you as you continue your intimate walk with Him. I pray "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)

This Week's Memory Verse:

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV) Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Sc	Scripture God placed on my heart to meditate on today:		
1.	Write down what God revealed to you in the Scripture He placed on your heart.		
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2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to stay connected to Him in the upcoming days and weeks. Write what He reveals to you in the space below as you develop your personal plan to continue to abide in Him.		
3.	What are some practical steps you will take to make sure you stay connected to God every day and remain connected to your brothers/sisters in Christ who have been such an important part of your life over the past 36 weeks?		
	Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 119:105).		

Sc	Scripture God placed on my heart to meditate on today:		
1.	Write down what God revealed to you in the Scripture He placed on your heart.		
2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to stay connected to Him in the upcoming days and weeks. Write what He reveals to you in the space below as you develop your personal plan to continue to abide in Him		
3.	Begin drafting a personal plan in the space below. List practical things you can do to continue to abide in God's Word and to learn more about him. Write down specific things and dates/frequency. For example I might commit to take one Bible Study Class offered by my church each semester. Write down the name of the classes you want to take and the dates when they start and end.		

4.	How will you keep yourself accountable to do what you planned? Write down specific things you will do to make sure you keep your commitment to God. For example, you might share your plan with a trusted brother/sister in Christ and give them permission to ask you about it at any time.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 119:105)

Scripture God placed on my heart to meditate on today:		
1.	Write down what God revealed to you in the Scripture He placed on your heart.	
2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to stay connected to Him in the upcoming days and weeks. Write what He reveals to you in the space below as you develop your personal plan to continue to abide in Him	

3.	Continue drafting your personal plan in the space below. List practical things you can do to continue to abide in God's Word and to learn more about him. Write down specific things and dates/frequency. For example, I might sign up for daily email devotionals. That way, the Word of God gets delivered to my email account each and every day.
	Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 110:105)

Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 119:105).

Scripture God placed on my heart to meditate on today:		
1.	Write down what God revealed to you in the Scripture He placed on your heart.	
2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to stay connected to Him in the upcoming days and weeks. Write what He reveals to you in the space below as you develop your personal plan to continue to abide in Him	

3.	abide in God's Word and stay connected to the Body of Christ. For example, I might commit to join a specific Ministry where I can exercise my Spiritual Gift(s). I would write down when that Ministry meets when I will get connected, and what I will do to serve.			
	Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 119:105).			

Sc	ripture God placed on my heart to meditate on today:
1.	Write down what God revealed to you in the Scripture He placed on your heart.
2.	Pray and ask God how He wants you to stay connected to Him in the upcoming days and weeks. Write what He reveals to you in the space below as you develop your personal plan to continue to abide in Him

3.	Continue drafting your personal plan in the space below. List practical things you can do to continue to abide in God's Word and stay connected to the Body of Christ. For example, I might ask someone to be my prayer partner. I would write down that person's name, and when I plan to connect with them frequency of prayer, etc.			
	Practice writing your memory verse (Psalm 119:105).			

## **NOTES**


## TESTIMONY DEVELOPMENT AND SHARING

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of our testimony development is to practice sharing our testimonies of deliverance and healing and of what God has done in our lives so far. Don't worry or feel discouraged if you have not reached a point in your journey where you feel like you are completely free from same-sex attraction! We are all at different stages of our healing. Focus on what God has done in your life to bring you to where you are right now. Something has occurred in your life that has brought you to the point to seek out this ministry – and kept you coming back...that is your testimony.

#### GUIDELINES FOR TESTIMONY DEVELOPMENT/DELIVERY

Each person will have three (3) minutes to share their testimony, which should follow this general outline:

- **1.** How was your life before what happened?
- **2.** How did God impact your life for change, deliverance, healing?
- **3.** What is different about your life now?

It is best to write out your testimony, considering who your audience is (helps determine what parts of your story to tell and what parts to leave out). Don't worry about length on the first draft. After you finish, read it out loud, and time yourself from start to finish. You will then know how much needs to be cut out to bring it down to 3 minutes. The finished written transcript should be about 350 words for a 3-minute testimony.

Once you have it down on paper – practice – practice – practice (with a timer – like the free one available at: http://www.online-stopwatch.com/) and refine it until you are satisfied.

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Congratulations for staying on course and completing this Discipleship Program! I know it hasn't been easy, and there were many difficult assignments to complete along your journey. Sanctification is a life-long process and we continually need to surrender our lives to Jesus and allow His Spirit to guide and direct our lives.

If you have completed this course with other Christian brothers and/or sisters, you have others with similar backgrounds to help keep you accountable and to help you to continue to grow spiritually. If you had one or more Accountability Partners to support you during the course of this study, stay in contact with them as you continue your spiritual growth without the structure of this weekly Bible study.

Connect with a Bible-teaching/Bible-believing church if you aren't already a part of such a church so you can continue to experience healing and wholeness through application of the Truth of God's Word to your life. Remember, if you are in Christ, you are a new creation; old things have passed away and all things have become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17) Walk in the newness of your life in Christ!

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



The All Things New Ministry was born out of my transition out of nearly two decades of homosexuality through the love and support of a women's ministry Bible study group and the leadership of a church that was not willing to compromise their convictions while continuing to welcome and embrace me. When I first began attending this church, I had not yet accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and I was happy living my life as a lesbian. I knew 'about' Jesus and what He did for me, and even labeled myself as a Christian, but I had not yet surrendered my whole life to Him. I had also been involved in a gay church for many years where I was indoctrinated in gay-theology, which affirmed my lifestyle as a part of the gay community. I was still living my life the way I wanted to, and that included being in a committed lesbian relationship with the woman I loved.

Once I fully surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, I began to regularly read the Bible and pray that God would reveal areas of sin in my life that I needed to repent of and turn away from. It was through my study of the Word of

God that I realized that many areas of my life did not line up with His Word. As God revealed areas of sin, I repented and asked for his forgiveness, and He began to change me from the inside out. When I finally realized that God did not approve of my choice to live as a lesbian, I decided to turn away from homosexuality and live a life in a way that was pleasing to Him. The transition was not easy, and I relied heavily on the women in my Bible study that supported me with unconditional love and prayed for me as I turned away from the gay community, which had been my support structure for many years. I had to walk away from a relationship with the woman that I loved and we had to unravel our lives that we had previously intertwined together.

This Bible Study/Discipleship Ministry is modeled after my own transition out of years of homosexuality and the healing I received along the way, and has been proven to help both men and women who want to break free from life choices that are not pleasing to God. My prayer is that every person who experiences same-sex attraction will find the same freedom in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ that I did. His love is everlasting and completely satisfying – it is unlike anything we can ever experience in human relationships. I never knew that I wasn't living my best life until I was able to experience His love as I aligned my life with His Word. Jesus makes all things new!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

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#### OTHER BOOKS BY DEBORA BARR



Debora Barr is the author of All Things New: a Discipleship Ministry for Healing - Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction (SSA) and Sexual Brokenness. This is a 37-week Bible Study comprised of a Facilitator Guide and three Participant Workbooks. This Discipleship Ministry is designed to be facilitated by lay leaders in the church who have a heart for hurting people - to help people with unwanted SSA experience healing and hope through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the unconditional loving support of fellow Christians.

All Things New – A Former Lesbian's Lifelong Search for Love

All Things New – A Discipleship Ministry For Healing: Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness: Facilitator Guide

All Things New – A Discipleship Ministry For Healing: Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness: **Workbook** #1: **Basic Training** 

All Things New – A Discipleship Ministry For Healing: Overcoming the Effects of Same-Sex Attraction and Sexual Brokenness: Workbook #2: Homosexuality, Sexual Integrity and Spiritual Warfare

All Things New – A Discipleship Ministry for Life Transformation: Facilitator Guide

All Things New – A Discipleship Ministry for Life Transformation: Workbook

Life Transformation Day by Day: A 31-Day Devotional