

**Discovery Learning Journey (DLJ)
through
the Letters of Apostle Paul
“Rediscovering the Kingdom of God”**

DLJ TRAINER, FACILITATOR & LEARNER GUIDE

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Part 1: MY PERSONAL JOURNEY FROM “CHURCHIANITY TO KINGDOM

At the age of 18, I had a tremendous encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ through a camp organized by a Cru. I fell in love with Jesus and gave much time to studying His words. I was continually encountering Christ on a daily basis through the Bible and experiencing for the first time many things that were described in it. His word was not just a great source of peace, comfort, and joy, but provided much guidance and wisdom for my daily life.

By 19, I was so gripped with a fire and passion for God that I wanted to quit law school to serve God and His kingdom. I was then attending a charismatic church (which believes in speaking in tongues and moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit) in Singapore. And my parents and the pastor of the church urged me to continue with my studies and to complete it. So I did, for another 5 years.

During my university years, I served in Varsity Christian Fellowship as a small group leader and was also quickly given the position and role of a cell leader in the church at the same time.

I started some endeavours for the Lord in the university hostels and saw handfuls of students come to Christ, with the groups I was leading beginning to grow in numbers which went on to raise and release more leaders.

After graduating from law school, while juggling work and ministry on campus, I spent a lot of my time encouraging university students on campus to reach out and disciple others for Christ and headed up the campus ministry in the church. During that time, I was leading and multiplying cell groups as we saw a move of God amongst the unreached students.

Not long after graduating and practicing as a lawyer for about 2 years, I felt the strong call from God to leave my job to obey His call to the nations. For the next 10 years, I served as the Regional Director of Christ for all Nations offices (CfaN founded by Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke) and pioneered ministry offices in Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong, reaching more than 30,000 prayer partners and networking with churches all over Asia for harvest events in the Asia-Pacific and Africa.

In 2004-2005, a hostel housing 1500 international tertiary students from all over the world also opened its doors for me to conduct programs for their students. There were students from Mongolia, Nigeria, Bhutan, China, India, Vietnam etc. in this hostel. With favour from the hostel management, I launched a 3-day, 3-night church camp for the campus students from 4 different universities in Singapore and also held two night rallies at the hostel's open-air carpark, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many as 300 who turned up for one night. We saw the students respond to the gospel being preached on both nights.

But more than the preaching, it was the one-on-one efforts in connecting with the students after the event that paid off and really bore fruit. I was able to connect with many of the foreign students there and also encouraged the student leaders from the church to befriend them and disciple them, because there were so many of them and there was that much that I alone could do.

However, the greatest setback was that there were insufficient labourers. The lament of Jesus two thousand years ago, “the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few” held true even then. Many of the student leaders were having to spend a lot of time on activities, programs and “ministries” within the church, and as the cell groups were made “compulsory” for attendance, they were not able to avail themselves for the work at the hostel, juggling school and church activities at the same time.

With such a great harvest at the doorstep of the church (the hostel was a stone's throw to the building where the church met), it was such a pity the pastors and cell leaders in the church could not see that and did not release the students as labourers into the harvest fields! The harvest at the hostel was lost as we were not able to continue with the blessings and support of the church pastors and leadership.

That same year, I prayed to the Lord and felt to resign from all positions of ministry within the church and move towards ministry beyond the four walls of church. God opened doors for me to preach and teach in pastors, leaders, women conferences various nations shortly after, in Brunei, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, India, Singapore and the USA; in churches; at youth, pastors', women's conferences and gospel campaigns. And I have never looked back since.

Between 2005 and 2010, my husband was hired as a salaried “full-time” staff in the church for pastoral work, and subsequently placed in charge of the IT, sound and lighting within the church building auditorium. He had then been serving as a “worship leader” having “led worship” since he was 18 years of age at Sunday services and in many large conferences the church started organizing. He also held the “position” of a “deacon” within the church, which had meant “serving the pastors on Sunday” and “doing whatever job he was told to do by the Senior Pastor and his wife to do.

In 2010, he resigned as a “church staff” and joined me as a director in the ministry of Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke (CfaN), which I had been with as their director since 2002 after I left my job as a lawyer. The ministry at CfaN gave me huge exposure to life beyond “local church” to the body of Christ and to different churches, leaders, pastors in nations, across different denominations, all across the world.

By 2011, we had both gotten more involved in other movements (4-14 global missions movement) and various networks within the body of Christ. We also started our own non-profit (Youth TransformNations) focusing on helping young people engage in different spheres of society bringing positive transformation.

Along our bumpy journey, Jason and I have realised how humanistic “church-ianity” is, in the name of God! And what a religious rut it has been to us and to many others!

As we went through seasons of “detox” from “church-ianity”, we realised we were not alone in this. Along the journey, God has continued to connect us to many others who were former pastors, missionaries and church leaders who are also kingdom-minded and have also ventured beyond the “four walls of church” to discover a whole lot more to God and His kingdom!

From 2011 onwards, we pioneered and released organic church communities (organic=life-giving, creative nature of God vs inorganic, synthetic, man-made religiosity); committed to walking in obedience to (D)ivine Truth, (N)urturing authentic strong relationships in community & an (A)postolic heart of going and being the church where the lost are. (DNA is adapted from our dear friend, Neil Cole, who’s author of organic church, church 3.0 etc).

Free from endless programs, flashy events, worldly marketing ploys, and the encumbrances of lifeless legal structures and man-made systems to manage people in a weekly performance, we were able to experience and be the “church” the way it’s described in the God’s word.

In 2013, we also founded Missional Church Communities Network (MCCN), a relational network of like-minded organic/missional/house church communities focused on “multiplying disciples who make disciples” seeking to create disciple-making movements (DMM) in the Body of Christ.

Gripped by a passion to see the Body of Christ come to maturity and fullness, we are currently conducting “411 Ministries through Kingdom Perspectives” to equip the priesthood of all believers, to move in organic kingdom ways for ministry through the discovery/development of gifts of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd, teacher.

We also tailor make “Kingdom” trainings for different groups in various countries, to equip God’s people, church leaders to be free from the religion of “church-ianity” and practically engage the world to become kingdom communities advancing God’s kingdom.

We are currently based in the city of Perth, Australia.

Part 2: PREFACE

During the COVID19 lockdown period, I spent considerable time in a short period of a few weeks re-reading the New Testament which I have already known very well. I chose to read in particular the epistles/letters of Paul, with some groups of followers of Christ in 2 different countries, and served to facilitate the studies online using some simple questions which I came up with and had thought through.

The first group of believers have been going to church for umpteen years, and are good Christians. They attended a training session with me and I continued after the training, journeying with them during the lockdown of about 2 months, to help them discover more of God and His kingdom beyond Sunday church!

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, I saw how “locked down” they were as good Sunday Christians going from attending a Sunday Church service to now attending an online version of that.

They knew something was amiss, and that there was so much more to God and His kingdom, but did not know how else because they have been in that routine of church, cell group and a religious rut for decades now.

I was amazed at how most of them in the group, young and old varying from students ages 18-25, adults in their 40s, grandparents in their 60s. ALL of them could read a book of the Bible in a week and some reading it multiple times in different versions too! Of course, being locked down at home with nowhere else to go and fewer distractions did help.

The outcome was very positive with most of them having a real desire to read the Bible and a rekindled love and hunger for truth, as well as a fresh understanding and perspective of it beyond a “brand” of church! By the time the lockdown was over in that country, after about 8 weeks, ALL of them had finished reading Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1Tim, 2Tim and Acts! It was the first time I have seen such a phenomena in decades of ministry that a group of 8-10 persons from different walks of life and ages, have completed reading 7 books of the bible together, confessing old ways with one another and repenting!

The following guide is a simple framework I have put together which can be easily replicated by followers of Christ anywhere desiring to read the bible together with their community of believers, and with a renewed perspective beyond “church-as-we-know-it”

I call it: **Discovery Learning Journey (DLJ). Welcome to this Journey where you and your small group will discover a lot of things to unlearn, to relearn and to learn!**

Part 3: DISCOVERY LEARNING JOURNEY (DLJ) TRAINER'S GUIDE

Using the Bible, particularly Paul's letters to followers of Christ, you and your small group can also journey out of a religious rut of "Church-ianity" into rediscovering the Kingdom of God to serve and advance His kingdom together!

TRAINING FACILITATORS

1) Understanding Why

In raising and training facilitators, it is important to help them to understand WHY. The WHY question is very key in any learning journey. The "Why" determines the "How". If we understand why, we will know how.

King Solomon says in Proverbs 24:3-4
 "Through wisdom a house is built,
 And by understanding it is established;
 4 By knowledge the rooms are filled
 With all precious and pleasant riches."

2) Understanding Clear Patterns of Paul's writings

Paul's letters consists of very clear patterns. (He told Timothy to "follow in the pattern of his wholesome teachings" in his letter to him – 2Tim1:13)

3) Growing in How to Draw Out Others

In order to facilitate the understanding and a sound approach to Paul's letters and the patterns of his writings, it is crucial to help facilitators to be able to draw out the others in the group.

Prov 20:5 (AMPC)

"Counsel in the heart of man is like water in a deep well, but a man of understanding draws it out."

i) Learn to Formulate Questions Beyond Discussion's Sake

You can formulate simple questions like the above that will help you and your group to go beyond the head knowledge of knowing what had happened or what is written.

ii) Learn to Listen in Order to Ask Questions

iii) Learn to Be Intentional towards God's Purpose and Mission

I hope the following will help you bring others on this Discovery Learning Journey with you. Have fun on this adventure with them!

Background of Paul and his letters in a Chronological Timeline

(? Disputable dates) (source: blueletterbible.org)

Introduction of Paul (Saul of Tarsus) as Persecutor, Murderer of Followers of Christ	Acts 7,8,9	A.D. 36
Saul's Encounter with Christ on the Way to Damascus	Acts 9	A.D. 36
Paul's Call and New Mission	Acts 13:1-3	A.D. 47
His First Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 13:4-14:28	A.D. 48
Paul Writes letter to church in Galatia?	Galatians	A.D. 49 or 57?
Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:6-35	A.D. 50
Second Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 15:39-18:22	A.D. 51
Paul Writes 1 st letter to Church in Thessalonica	1Thessalonians	A.D. 52
Paul Writes 2 nd letter to Church in Thessalonica	2Thessalonians	A.D. 53
Third Missionary Journey Begun	Acts 18:23-21:17	A.D. 54
Paul writes 1 st letter to Church in Corinth	1Corinthians	A.D. 57
Paul Writes Letter to Church in Galatia?	Galatians	A.D. 49 or 57?
Paul Writes 2 nd letter to Church in Corinth	2 Corinthians	A.D. 58
Paul Writes to the Church in Rome	Romans	A.D. 58
Paul Writes letter to Church in Ephesus	Ephesians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes letter to Church in Philippi	Philippians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes letter to Church in Colosse	Colossians	A.D. 62
Paul Writes to Philemon	Philemon	A.D. 62

Understanding how The New Testament of the Bible is structured will help us gain insight as to how to read the Bible. The New Testament comprise of 27 books and they can be classified into these genres:

1) Narratives: *The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; Acts of the Apostles*

2) Letters:

i) letters by Paul to churches - *Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians*

ii) letters by Paul to individuals - *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon,*

iii) letters by others - *Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude*

3) Prophetic/Apocalyptic Literature: *Revelation of John*

Apostle Paul's Background

(You CAN SKIP READING this as this can be a spoiler for your own discovery journey, and you can get these from reading Acts yourselves if you wish to!)

Paul, previously called Saul of Tarsus (his birthplace), was heading to Damascus on a mission, with letters requested from the high priest addressed to the synagogues of Damascus, to seek cooperation for the arrest of disciples of Christ and bring these followers of the Way chained back to Jerusalem. He was on the way to Damascus with this mission when He heard the voice of Jesus Christ from heaven asking Him "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?". Saul fell down to the ground and was blinded by the bright light during this encounter with Christ and did what Jesus said to him to do. For the next 3 days, he was led by hand to Damascus, during which he neither ate or drank for 3 days!

While he was blind, He saw a vision! He "saw" a "certain disciple"(he was simply a "disciple", follower of Christ who was willing to obey), named Ananias come and lay hands on his eyes and healing him from blindness. The Lord Jesus also gave Ananias a vision and told him to go to Straight Street, to the house where Paul was staying and what he should do. Ananias, who had heard the reputation of Paul being a murderer and persecutor of followers of Christ, was afraid of going to Paul. But nevertheless, Ananias obeyed and laid hands on Paul. Right at that moment, he laid his hands, something like "scales" fell off Paul's eyes and He could literally see again! He was also filled with the Holy Spirit and thereafter water baptized into the name of Jesus.

What a dramatic transformation! Paul was spiritually blinded by his own religiosity, but now he could see the insides of the Kingdom of God. He was born again into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3-9)!

Imagine Paul, who was previously a member of one of the most religious sects of those days, the Pharisees, which demanded the strictest obedience to Jewish laws. He was from the tribe of Benjamin, raised a Hebrew and had gone under the tutelage of one of the most recognized and expert religious teachers of those days, Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

When it came to Jewish laws and Judaism, Paul knew everything there was to know. After Paul met Christ on the way to Damascus, He was a changed man, and who renounced his past religion.

The very synagogues in Damascus he wanted to go into and bind new followers of Christ, hand and foot to bring them to Jerusalem to be imprisoned, he went now to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 9:20)!

Paul was a changed man, who had gone from being a persecutor to being the persecuted. He also bore the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ on himself with several of his later letters being written from prison.

Let's understand that Paul was, at the time of writing those letters, a new creation in Christ and a true follower of Christ, not a follower of Judaism. So Paul for sure did not come to establish Christianity as another religion and neither did Paul recommend for church buildings to be built.

If that is the case, then what was the focus and emphasis of Paul's letters? What perspectives did he write from?

He was never trying to be a Pharisee to the churches he wrote to again. He was blind but now he could see! He was transformed from a legalistic, persecutor of Christ's followers, a circumcised Pharisee, a learned Hebrew, into an Apostle (in Greek -apostolos - "sent one", Latin - "missio" - root word for missions and missionary) of Christ, with a kingdom mission to fulfil - to bring the gospel of the kingdom of God to the Jews, Gentiles and kings. (Acts 9:15). Paul had aborted his original mission, and was now deployed in his new mission.

Religion Blinds Us!

"But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" – John 9:25

Religiosity and religion blinds people. Up till today, many Jews are still spiritually blinded and cannot see that their Messiah has already come, and that Jesus is the Son of God sent by God as the Saviour of the world.

More than 2000 years after Jesus's death on the cross, resurrection and ascension, ask yourselves: how far removed are we from the original design and intent of being true followers and disciples of Christ? Have we formed for ourselves another religion and religious system called Catholicism or Christianity?

I firmly believe these letters which Paul wrote would have great relevance again to help many rediscover the kingdom of God afresh and to really know God for themselves, desiring a new life that can only be found in Christ; not in the form of religion, religious practices or traditions of what we might know to be Christianity.

If Jesus wanted to start a new religion, He would have given His disciples including Paul the mission to build temples and buildings everywhere. Jesus did not come to establish another religious order. Instead He commanded them to make disciples who make disciples and to baptise them into His name, teaching them to obey (not just teaching) all that He has commanded. (Matt 28:18-20). And that was exactly what Paul did and tried to do. Much of Paul's letters have been misunderstood and misapplied. We have used Paul to justify what we do in the name of our religion and religious practices.

I would like to bring you on a discovery learning **journey from Religion into the Kingdom of God, and also equip you to help others "see again"**.

Discover, Learn and Journey (DLJ) with Kingdom Lenses - through the 9 letters of Paul to churches and Acts of the Apostles

These are the **9 letters Paul wrote to the churches in:**

Rome (Romans),
Corinth (1, 2 Cor),
Galatia (Galatians),
Ephesus (Ephesians),
Philipi (Philippians),
Colosse (Colossians),
Thessalonica (1, 2 Thessalonians).

Hebrews is not included in this list, as it is disputed as to whether he was the author.

- Since each letter is written to groups of followers of Christ in a certain locality, these should NOT be read for our own selves, but to be *done together with your spiritual community*.
- You could go through the letters in chronological order. But there are disputes as to the chronology of the letters written as well. The fact is, it does not matter which of Paul's letters you start off with, the outcome will be pretty much the same.
- You will start to notice *certain patterns in Paul's writings* to help us know and read the Bible with better understanding and application.
- **At any point or alongside a letter**, you can start on **the Narratives - Acts of the Apostles. 3/4s of the narrative (21 out of 28 chapters!) in the Acts of the Apostles throws the spotlight onto one man Paul**. Reading Acts will help one navigate through Paul's life before He encountered Christ, what happened when he encountered Jesus, and Paul's life after His encounter including his missionary journeys to the places and people he later wrote the letters to.
- On a side note, as you read Acts, discover for yourselves what the *messages of the apostles like Peter, and Paul and also Stephen the martyr, are like in these narratives too.

WHO You Can Go on This DLJ with

This is especially designed to be helpful for:

- Those who have been followers of Christ for quite some years "attending church" but desiring to be more kingdom-minded, or
- Pastors and leaders who have been in ministry for many years and
- Anyone who thinks they know the Bible well.

You will be amazed at how much you don't know or how narrow an understanding and perspective you have had! There is much to be discovered when you read the bible with a group of believers.

For an optimum outcome, ***you and your group of believers should:***

- 1) desire and be open to changes in the current situation***
- 2) be humble and receptive of each other's sharings***
- 3) have 1 or 2 facilitators to facilitate sessions and encourage mutual learning, not dominate and teach.***

A GOOD APPROACH to Read the Letters of Paul in the New Testament

Here's some things I have discovered which will be helpful in approaching these writings:

a) Read a DIFFERENT VERSION of the Bible from the one which you usually read

Reading the bible in 2-3 versions (NLT, AMPC, ESV) other than the ones that you commonly use (NKJV, NIV) will help you gain new clearer perspectives.

You can particularly enjoy the fresh perspectives arising from the versions other than the usual NKJV/NIV which you might have become over familiar with.

The mind has an unusual behaviour called "mindset" which means to be set in a certain way of thinking and perspective after years of repetition. It has a tendency to go to the highlighted and underlined parts, and tend to gloss over those parts that are not. Hence reading the same version might not be helpful but can cause you to miss out on new things you can learn.

Have you read a book you understood and it makes you want to continue reading to find out more till you get to the end of the book?

And have you also read a book you don't understand, with such convoluted writings and concepts that you don't want to read on? (Perhaps this is another reason why young people nowadays do not like to read the Bible because it is written in such difficult language that no normal person can relate with)

In 20 over years of preaching, teaching, leading bible studies, and small groups etc., I have come to realize one thing: People don't want to read something they don't understand. Or they lose the desire to read something they don't find interesting or relevant, or they think they already know.

This is a common problem amongst Christians.

Take time whether pandemic lockdown or not, to get a fresh look at the bible and rekindle a fresh love for the Word.

b) Read one book/letter in AT ONE GO, and read past chapter numbers, and ignore sub-headings!

"Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble.
Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find that you have crossed the mountain." – Unknown

Read one letter at one go, to gain an understanding of what the letter is trying to communicate. When you come across a sentence that is particularly baffling, don't stop. Read on until you reach the end of the letter. I have never come across anyone who does not want to finish reading a letter which they receive, and instead try to stop at every sentence or even read a few sentences of a letter or book once a week. By the time you come back round next week, you probably would have forgotten the previous sentence you read last week.

Get past the small pebbles so that you can cross the mountain once or twice first. Then you will understand how to navigate the terrain.

The original text did not have chapters, headings, sub-headings and verse numbers. They were broken down into that to help us make references. Otherwise, we would be saying something like "the letter of Paul (written by Tertius – Ah... if you read this letter, you will realize Tertius wrote for Paul, although Paul was the creator of the content of the letter! Most Christians would have simply assumed Paul wrote it) to the church in Rome, paragraph 7, 2nd part of the sentence" instead of Rom 1:25!

Reading those headers and sub-headers provided in your bible are NOT the most helpful at all. They were inserted there by publishers and bible translator committees from a certain perspective. Reading them can create a misperception of what the letter is truly saying. Instead, jot down a statement of you think Paul is communicating as you read along. You will also be surprised that those headers are quite off sometimes!

Viewing the epistles as letters without chapters and verses, written to churches in different cities helps one to read it once through at one go! Try it!

When I receive a letter, especially if it is important, I will read through it from the beginning to the end, to find out what the letter is trying to communicate and whether there is any action point to be taken. And if it is so important, I will read through it again to make sure that there is nothing I had missed!

In the same way we don't usually stop when we read a letter that we have received, and would normally go right through it to the end in a single sitting. In fact, if the letter is particularly important, you would read it again and again.

We do that with important letters we receive in life. But why is it that we do not do that with these letters in the Bible?

Sadly, most Christians simply pick out one favourite verse/s out of the whole letter or only listen to sporadic parts being put together by someone else (a sermon). How then can it be possible that they know what the author is trying to communicate?

Worse still, there are believers and church leaders/pastors who fuss over 1 part of a sentence they cannot understand or some passage regarding women and make a whole doctrine and denominational practice out of it! We should simply read a book/letter once through first. It is only common sense to do that!

We must not become lazy and rely on professionals to do the reading and understanding for us, letting them tell us what they want us to hear or think. In our day and age, with widespread literacy, no person has an excuse. Every person has the capacity to do that for themselves!

The truth is we do not need to rely on paid professionals or Bible schools to do the reading and understanding for you and then teach you. We have the Holy Spirit who is the best teacher. (Jesus told us that "The Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into ALL truth" (John14:26).

c) Listen to the Audio Version of the Bible

Try a new refreshing way of approaching the Bible by listening instead of reading it. Some of you might discover that you are audio learners, i.e. that you learn through listening. There are times when I listen to something, I pick up different things that I have missed compared to when I am reading.

This approach is very suitable when approaching the Narratives like Acts and the Gospels.

Every facilitator should be a learner. And every learner can be a facilitator.

Let's teach one another. A facilitator can be taught by others and learn from others too.

Role of a Facilitator in a DLJ Small Group:

There should be 1 facilitator to ask the questions. You can have 2 co-facilitators if you are new to it, so you can help one another facilitate.

- 1) If you are asking the questions, you should not answer the questions first.
- 2) Always give others a chance to share, and don't turn it into your teaching session.
- 3) A facilitator should be open to the Holy Spirit, and be open and humble to unlearn old things and learn new things.
- 4) A facilitator's role is not to give all the answers (by the way he/she could be wrong!) but to encourage learning and discovery.
- 5) Everyone should answer. A facilitator should ask questions and encourage everyone to participate in the discussion, beyond giving info/teaching. If you know the people well, try to start with the one who talks the least to the one who talks the most. If you start with the one who talks the most, there will be no time left for anyone else.
- 6) A group size should be kept small. It takes about 40 min with with 3-5 persons and longer with a bigger group. Therefore, I do not encourage too big a group beyond 8 to 12. It might take a longer time and someone in the group might not get to answer the questions which defeats the DLJ.
- 7) If someone detracts from answering the questions and starts talking about something else that is not relevant, gently bring the focus back using the guided questions below.

Part 5: GUIDED QUESTIONS TO ASK IN a DLJ

Guided Questions to Ask in a DLJ:

When you are reading a letter to a church, these are **3-4 simple questions to ask your small group:**

- 1) **Who** is Paul/author of letter addressing the letter to?
- 2) Since this letter was specific to this group of believers in this place, **what is the main thing** that Paul/author of letter is trying to communicate to his recipients/church in that city?
You can prompt them in this way:
 - Describe in your own words what Paul is trying to communicate.
 - Is there a main theme in the letter? And if so, can you describe what is it?
- 3) **Why** do you think Paul is writing in this manner or focusing on those topics or communicating that main point?
- 4) **What** do you think God is saying to you **to do differently** now than before? **Is there something you can do to apply** what you have learnt and understood into your current context?
- 5) When you finish the above, **choose the next letter to read** by the next time you meet or come together, or ask someone to suggest which letter to read next.
- 6) **Repeat the above in the next DLJ** together until you have finished all the 9 letters to the churches.
- 7) **Release those who desire to start DLJs with others.**

In 3-9 weeks, depending on how often your church community/group gathers, you would have covered 9 letters (which is 1/3 of the New Testament with a sound understanding and a better big picture of how the Kingdom of God should be like!)

NOTE:

The above framework and questions are meant for small group discussion of the letters in the New Testament only. And they are designed in a way to help one get to the essence and gist of these letters. They serve the purpose to help us shake off our dependence on religion and religious systems, to learn to depend on Christ through His Spirit and faith in Christ alone.

After you are finished with the letters to the churches, you can start on **4 more letters Paul wrote to specific persons:** Timothy (1Tim, 2 Tim), Titus & Philemon or the **Narratives:**

Acts which narrate the acts of the Holy Spirit with the early apostles and disciples; and the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John which narrate the life of Jesus Christ.

I hope this equips you and your community to start advancing God's kingdom and make disciples for Christ wherever you are. If you are interested to learn how to disciple a pre-believer into the Kingdom of God or start a disciple-making movement, please visit www.mccnresources.org or email me at mccnresources@gmail.com.