

Story. Some new believers have started gathering to help each other obey Jesus. They have no ordained clergy. In order to celebrate the Lord's Table, they pass some bread and a cup from one to another. Each one breaks off some bread, dips it in the cup, and partakes.

Reflect. 'Was this an authentic communion?' 'Could they possibly sense the Lord's Presence in their midst?'

Apply. Do the following.

1. Draw up a list of basic commandments of Jesus from Acts 2 that new churches should learn to implement.
2. Pray for church and cell members, that God give them grace to become obedient to basic commandments of Jesus.
3. Think about each church and cell that they oversee, and identify which commandments that those gathering ought to start obeying or to obey better.
4. Lay plans to coach all leaders in how to lead their churches and cells in obedience to Jesus commandments.

Test. Tick the best answer to each query.

A. What does God himself hold to be of first importance?

- ☐ Believe sound teaching about important doctrines.
- ☐ Obey Jesus' commandments.
- ☐ Belong to an historic, Christian church.

B. What is the source of authority for what believers are to say and do?

- ☐ The accumulated teachings, traditions and rules of Christian churches.
- ☐ Anything that a believers hears in dreams, visions or loud preaching.
- ☐ The teaching of Jesus and of his apostles from the New Testament.

C. How does one make true disciples for Jesus Christ?

- ☐ Teaching them sound doctrine through sermons and bible study.
- ☐ Teaching them to obey all the Jesus commanded.
- ☐ Getting them to join a church in your denomination.

D. What does God promise to those who obey him?

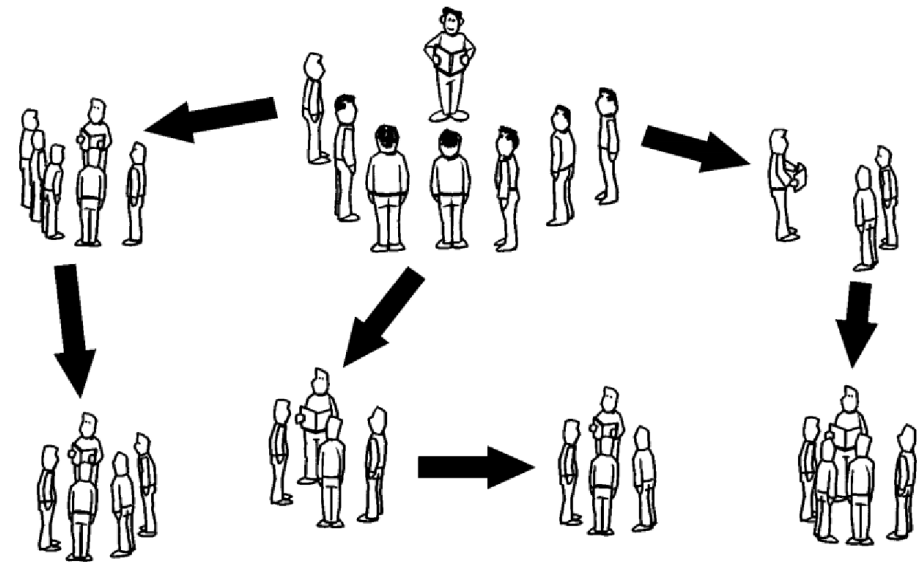
- ☐ The Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Wealth and riches.
- ☐ A spouse and children.
- ☐ Power to perform miracles.

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Module 5 of 12

T&M coaches empower labourers to obey Jesus' commandments

January 2014



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Module 5

T&M coaches empower labourers to obey Jesus' commandments

Module objective: Discover basic commandments of Jesus

Learning objective: Learners lay plans to teach others to obey Jesus' commandments.

Outcome objective: Labourers and churches implement Jesus' commandments, freely.

Read T&M study 7, *Following the Lord*

Key scriptures: John 14.15-15, 15.14-17, Acts 5.32, Hebrews 5.7-10

Story. Mister (or Miss) Humble has come to see Reverend Boss about Humble's cell group.

Humble. Rev. Boss, another family has trusted Jesus, and we wanted to ask about baptism for them.

Boss. Bring them to my chapel where I shall baptise them properly in an official baptismal tank.

Humble. We also wanted to ask about how to study the Bible in our cell.

Boss. That would pose a danger of false doctrine. Better, come listen to my sermons.

Humble. We would also like to start celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Boss. No one in your cell has authority to serve the sacraments, so you must come to my chapel.

Humble. Well, is it alright for us to meet and pray?

Boss. Ignorant folk insult the Most High God when they pray wrongly, so only a leader should pray.

Humble. So, then, is there anything we can do in our cell group?

Boss. Actually, cell groups can cause division in the real church. Better, just attend my chapel services.

Reflect. How would you reply to each of Reverend Boss' fears?

Discover. Read the key scriptures, and reply to this query: 'What is the importance of empowering others to obey Jesus' commandments?'

Summary.

- (1) Jesus himself said that those who love him obey his commandments.
- (2) God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him.

(3) Jesus himself learned obedience during his life on earth.

(4) God answers the prayers of those who obey Jesus' commandments.

(5) It is those who obey Jesus that he saves.

(6) When we coach others to obey Jesus' commandments, they become spiritually powerful.

Discover. Read **Acts 2:37-47**, and reply to this query: 'In what ways did the first church obey Jesus' commandments?' There are at least 21 commandments of Jesus that the first church was obeying. For example, Repent (Mark 1:15). List other commandments here:

Apply. Learn a list of Jesus' basic commandments. For examples, Love God and each other, Witness, Repent, Baptise, Learn the Word of God, Pray in Jesus' name, Break bread, Pray, Give to meet needs. Learn to say these with hand motions. If compose a song about them.

Reflect. Which of these commandments to your churches or cells need to learn to obey better?

Summary.

- (1) The apostles taught new believers to obey Jesus' commandments, from the start.
- (2) Coaches' main task is to strengthen others to obey Jesus commandments, helping them to teach others to do the same.
- (3) Base your coaching work on commandments of Jesus that you help new leaders implement in new cells and churches.
- (4) No church is fully planted until it has become obedient to Jesus' commandments.
- (5) No church, no clergy, no denomination has greater authority than Jesus, so empower others to obey Jesus before every human tradition.

