

Almost Engaged



Just as agriculture is a cycle, the “Cycle of Evangelism” involves sequential steps that are each essential for true success in reaching people.



Step 1: Prepare the Soil of the Heart



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Step 2: Sow the Seed of Truth.



Step 1: Prepare the Soil of the Heart



Step 2: Sow the Seed of Truth.



Step 3: Cultivate with Bible study.

Step 4: Harvest decisions for baptism



After cultivating interests with Bible studies, lead those embracing the truth to make decisions for baptism.

Step 4: Harvest decisions for baptism



Decisions for Christ are most often made in personal Bible studies or public evangelistic meetings.

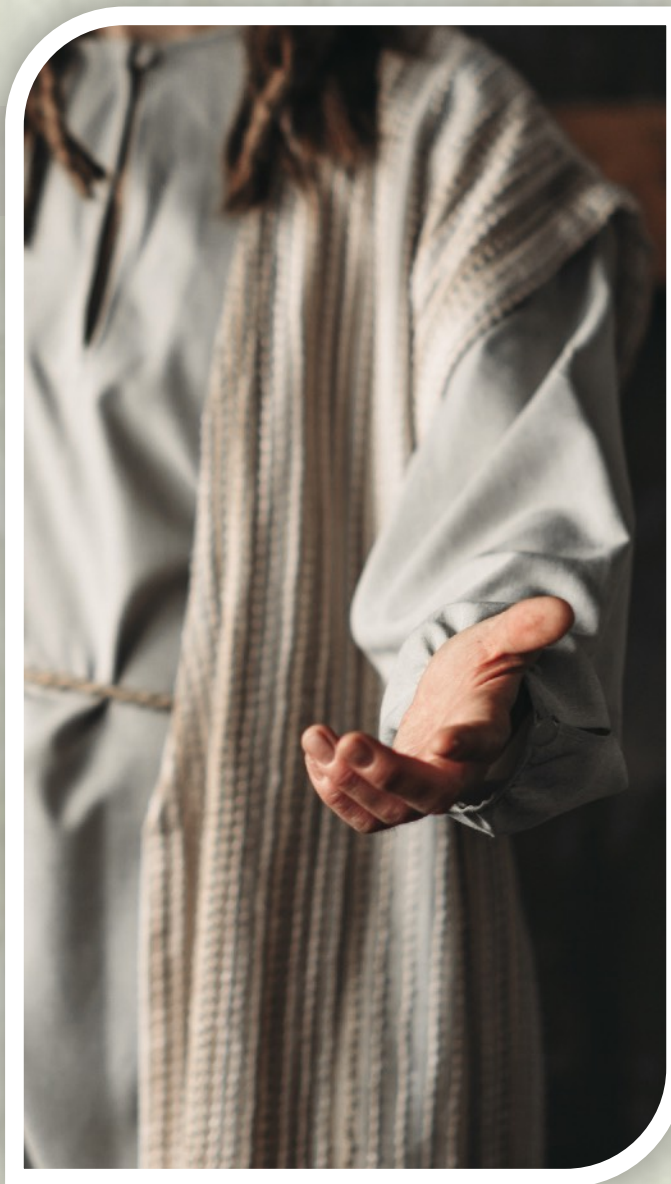
Crops never
harvest
themselves.



Matthew 4:18-20



And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.



Matthew 4:18-20



Then He said to them, “**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him.



Matthew 4:18-20



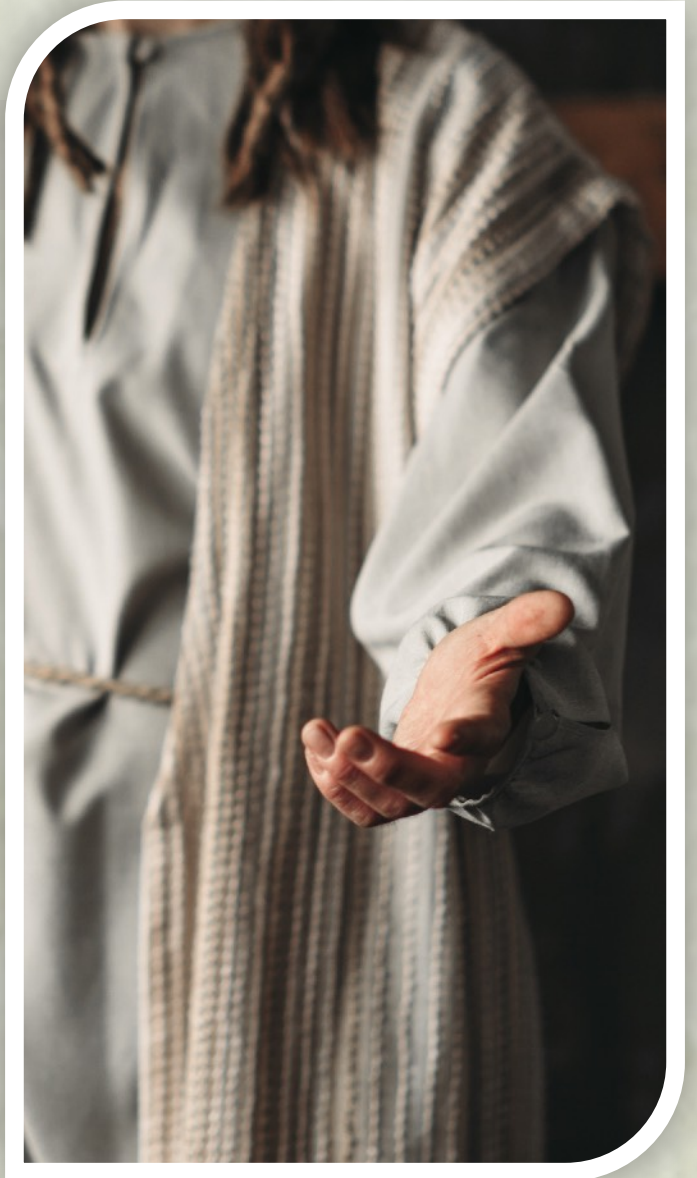
Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” **They immediately left their nets and followed Him.**



John 3:5-7



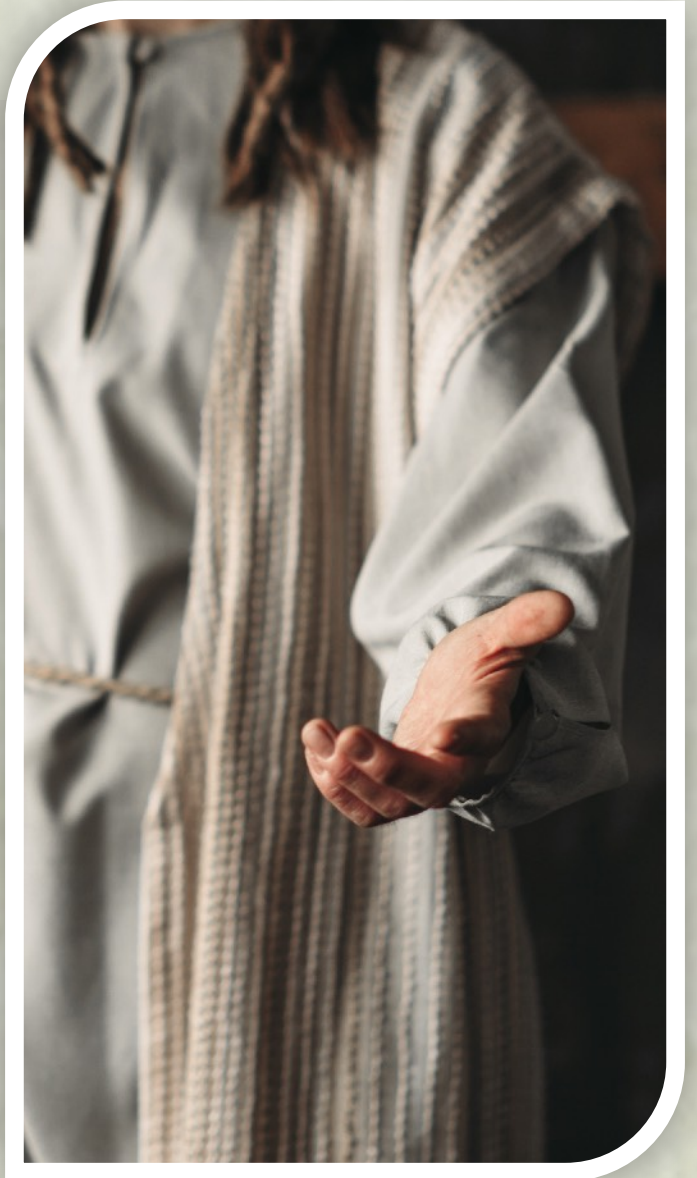
Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God... Do not marvel that I said to you, **‘You must be born again.’**”





Acts of the Apostles, p. 104

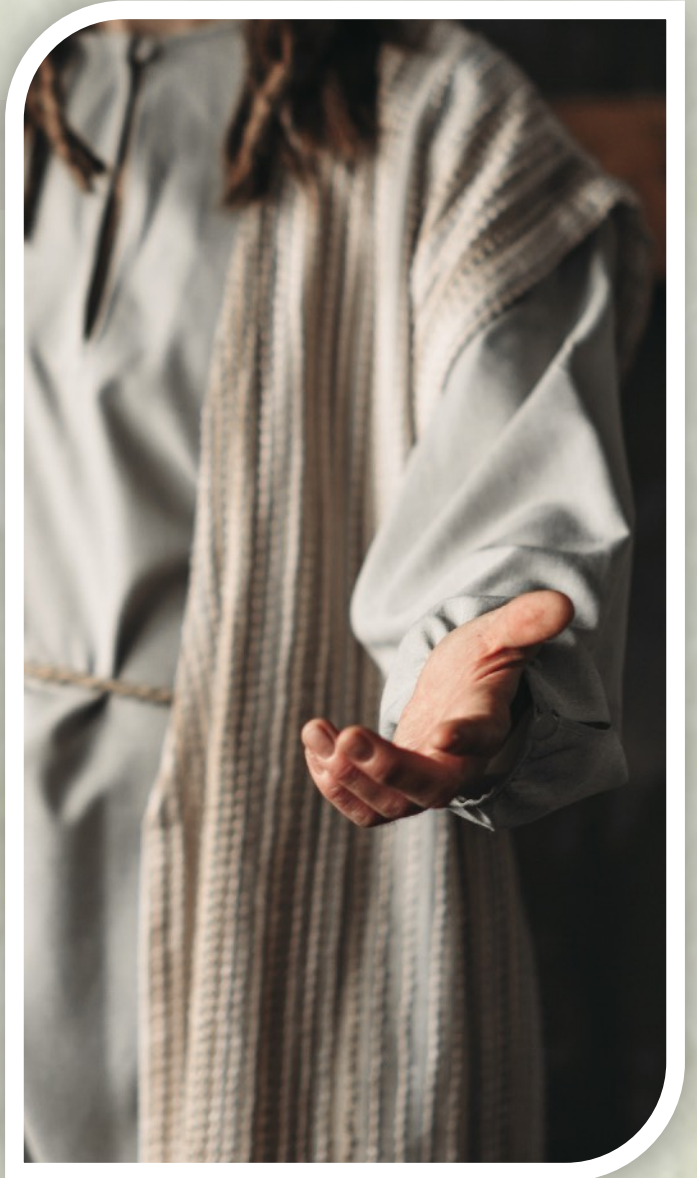
Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin and with others had been stirred by the teaching of Jesus. As he had witnessed Christ's wonderful works, the conviction had fastened itself upon his mind that this was the Sent of God.





Acts of the Apostles, p. 104

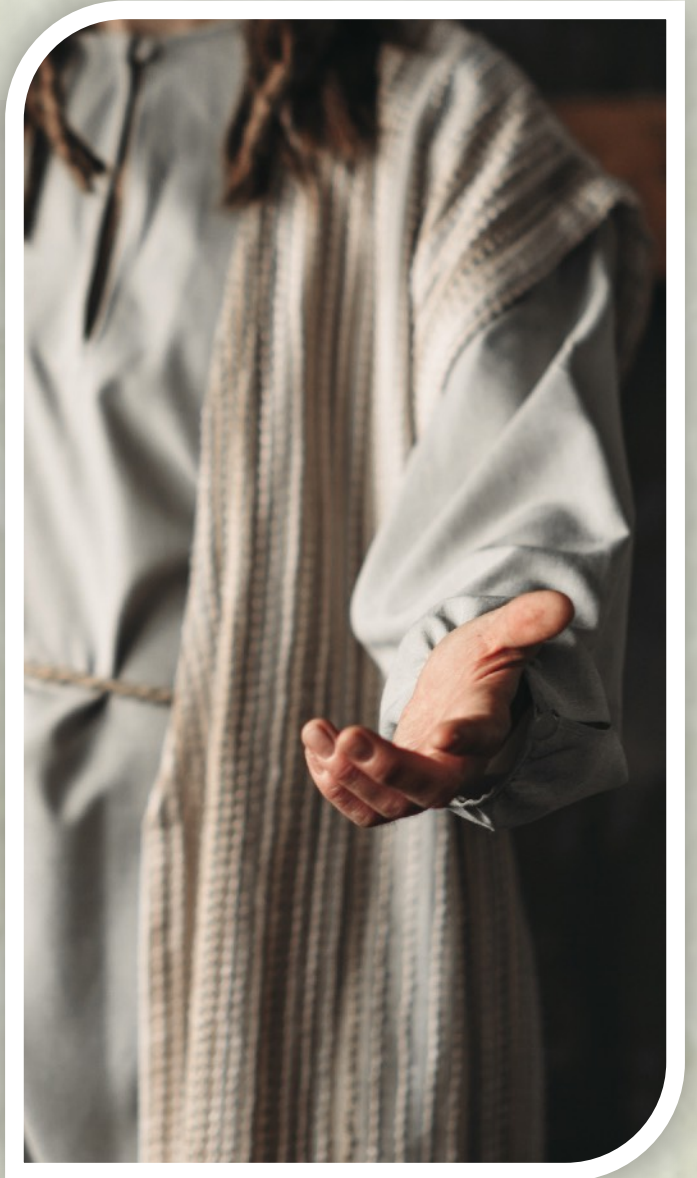
Too proud openly to acknowledge himself in sympathy with the Galilean Teacher, he had sought a secret interview. In this interview Jesus had unfolded to him the plan of salvation and His mission to the world, **yet still Nicodemus had hesitated.**





Acts of the Apostles, p. 104

He hid the truth in his heart, and **for three years there was little apparent fruit...** When at last Christ had been lifted up on the cross, Nicodemus remembered the words that He had spoken to him in the night interview on the Mount of Olives... and he saw in Jesus the world's Redeemer.



Matthew 19:16, 17



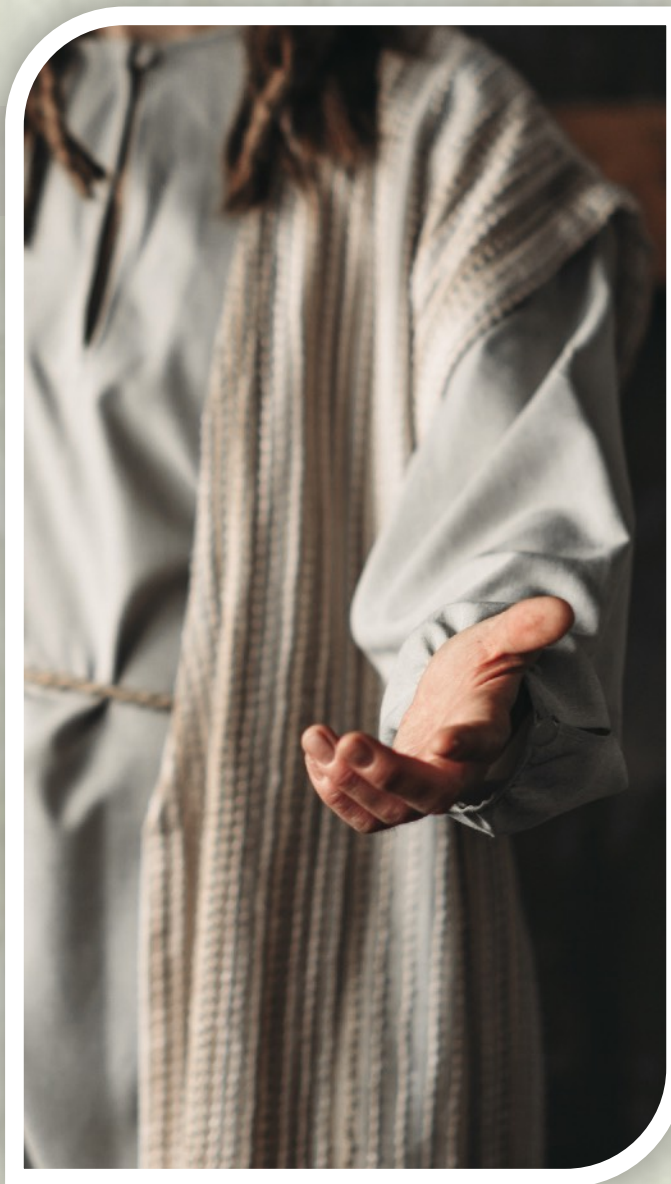
Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him...
“if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”



Matthew 19:20-22



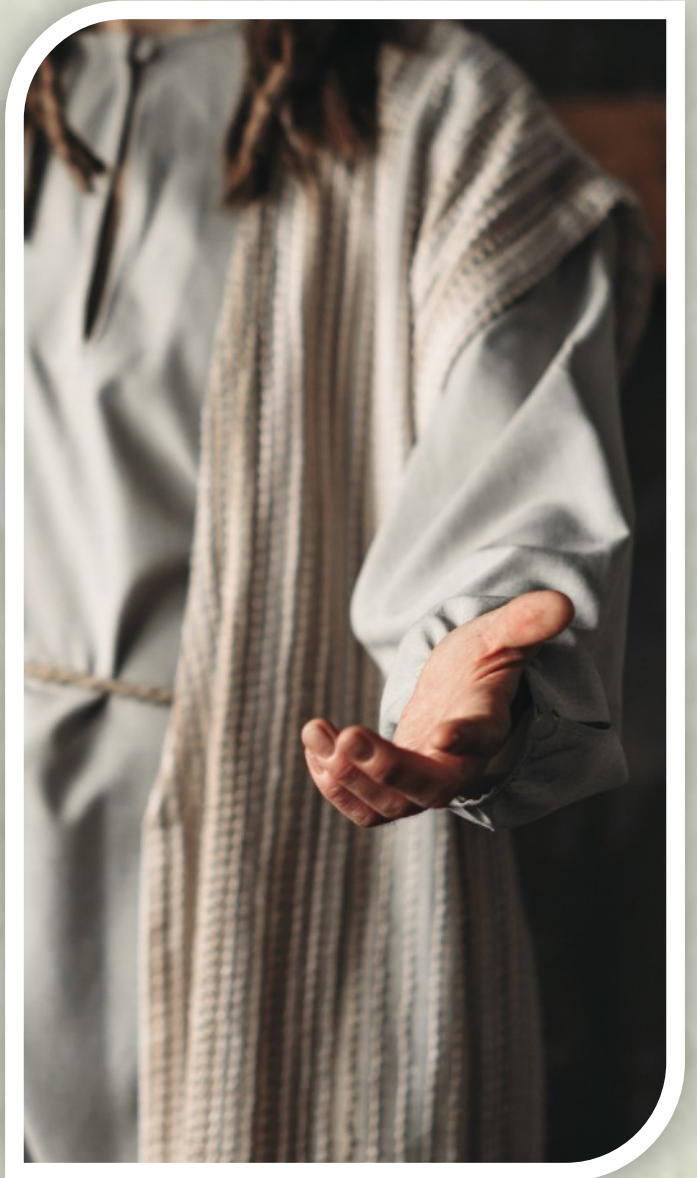
The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; **and come, follow Me.**”



John 3:5-7



But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.





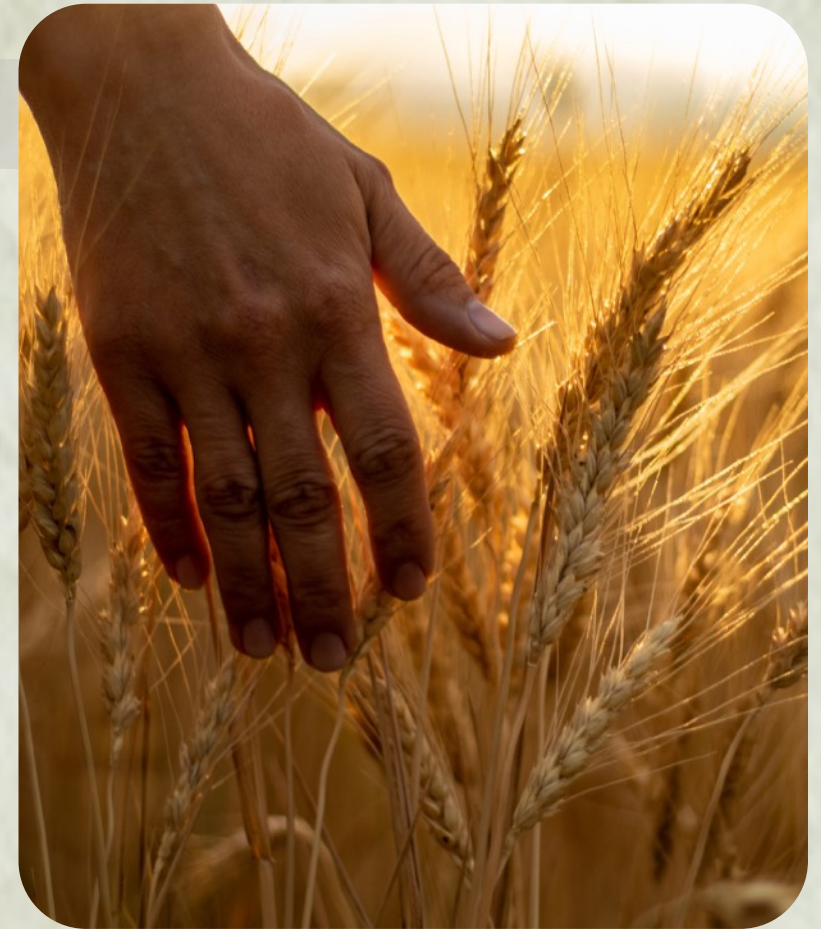
Though the responses varied, **Christ's appeals were always clear.**





Evangelism, p. 283

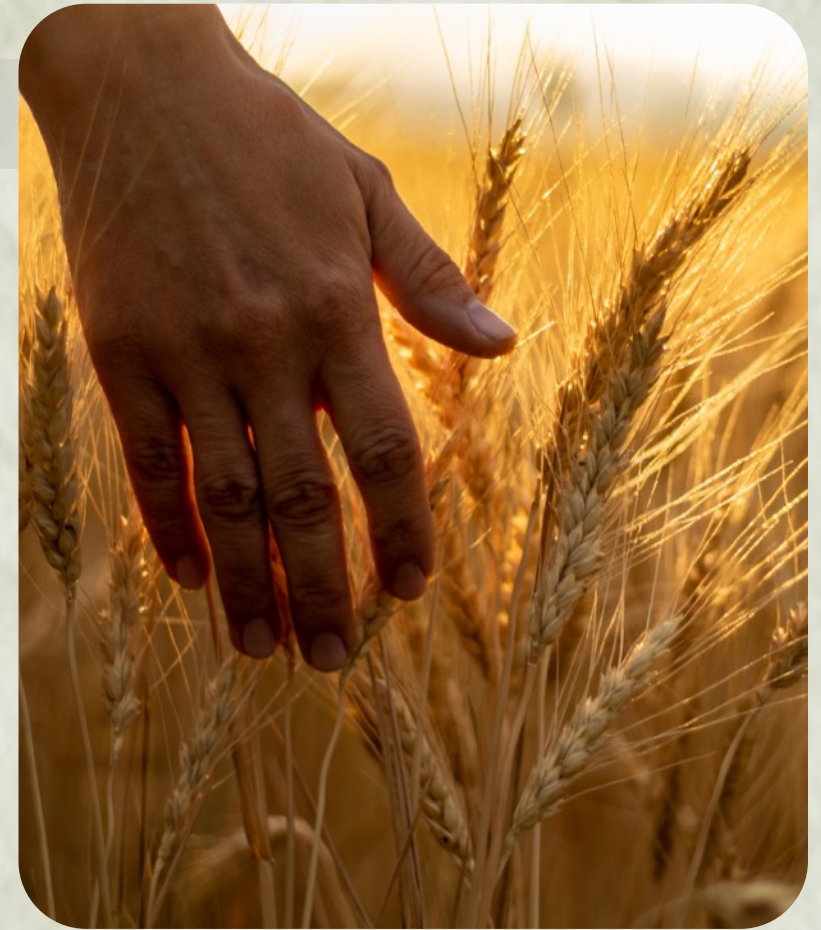
If there is not a decided application of the truth to their hearts, if words are not spoken at the right moment, calling for decision from the weight of evidence already presented, the convicted ones pass on without identifying themselves with Christ,





Evangelism, p. 283

the golden opportunity passes, and they have not yielded, and they go farther and farther away from the truth, farther away from Jesus and never take their stand on the Lord's side.





Public evangelism is vital.

Which is more important—
personal evangelism or public evangelism?



Christian Service, p. 121

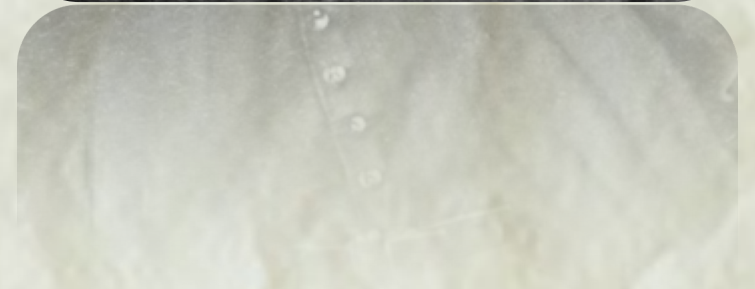
Your work may accomplish more real good than the more extensive meetings, **if they lack in personal effort.** When both are combined, with the blessing of God, a more perfect and thorough work may be wrought;





Christian Service, p. 121

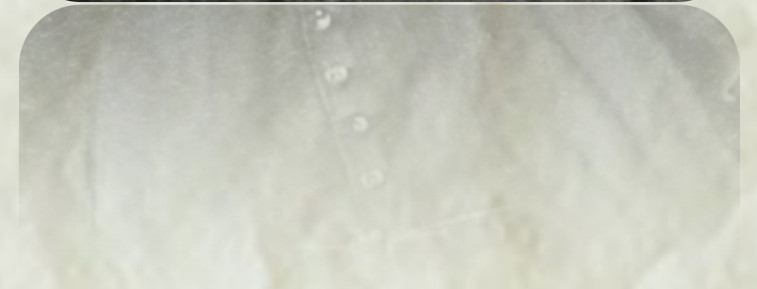
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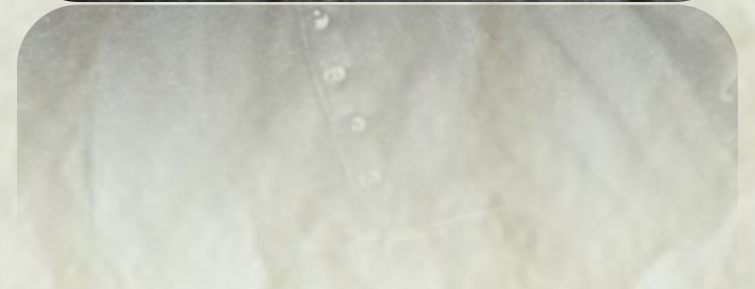
but if we can have but one part done, let it be the individual labor of opening the Scriptures in households, making personal appeals, and talking familiarly with the members of the family,



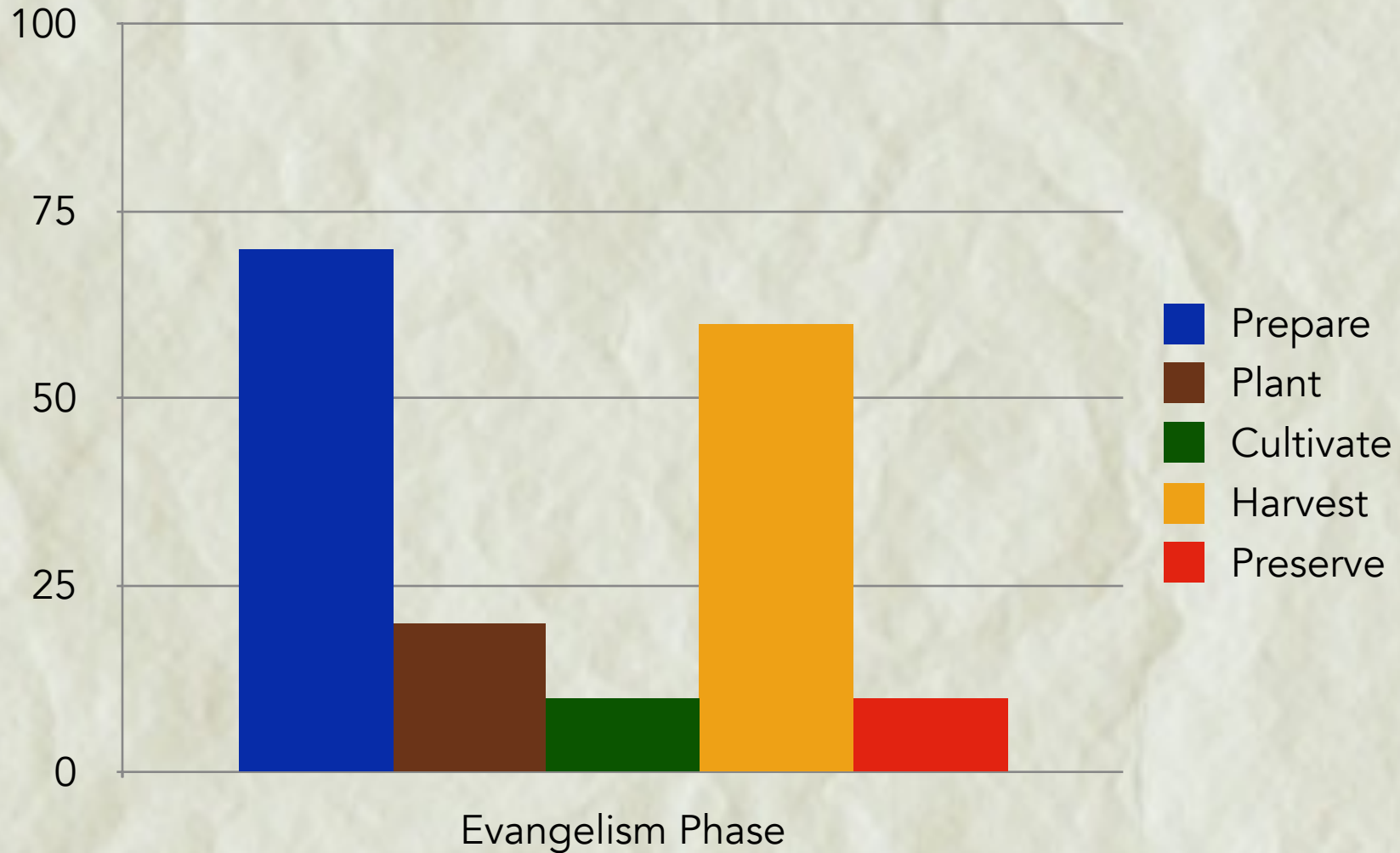


Christian Service, p. 121

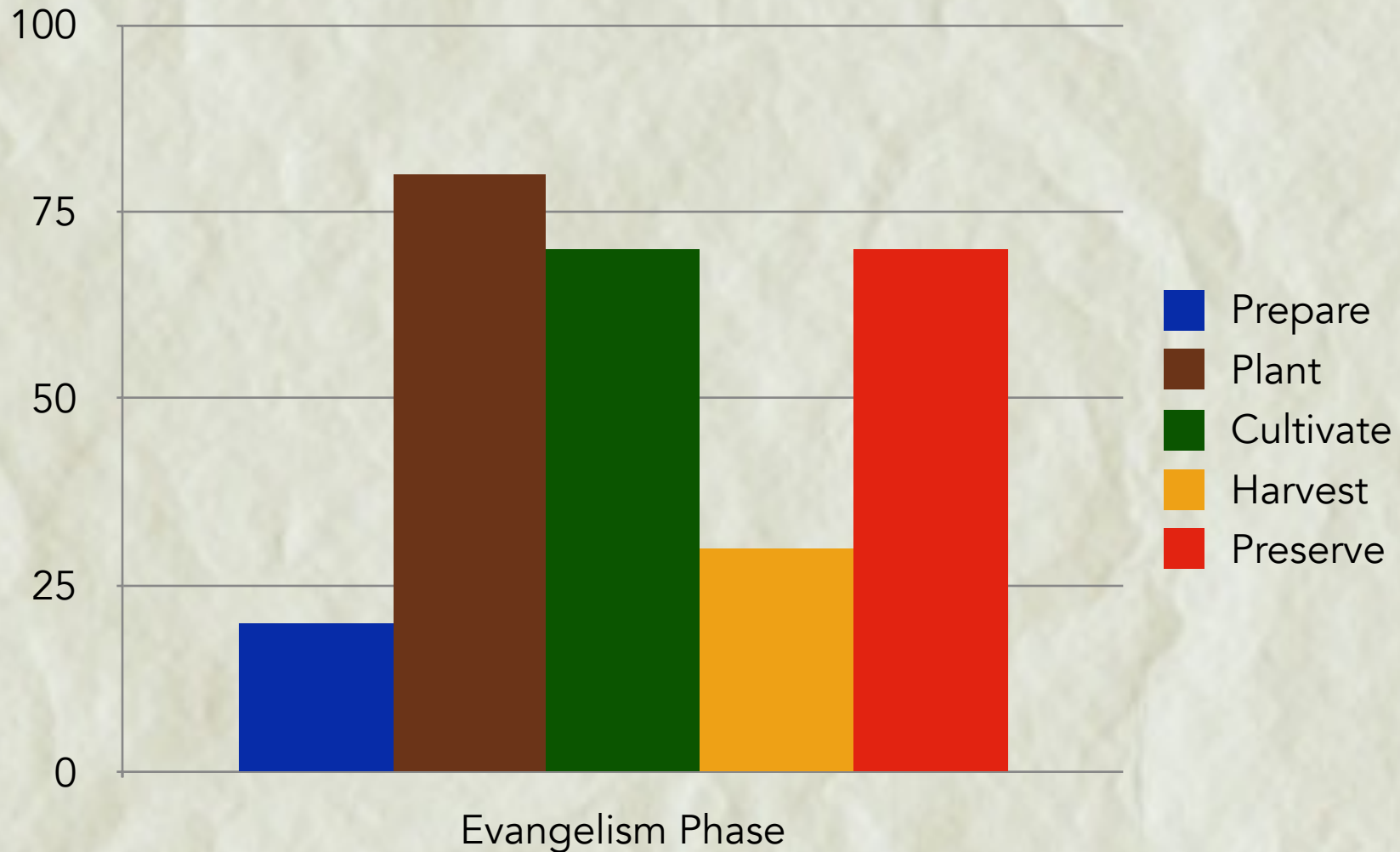
not about things of little importance, but of the great themes of redemption. Let them see that your heart is burdened for the salvation of souls.



Local Church Growth Potential



Local Church Growth Potential



Which is more important—
personal evangelism or public evangelism?

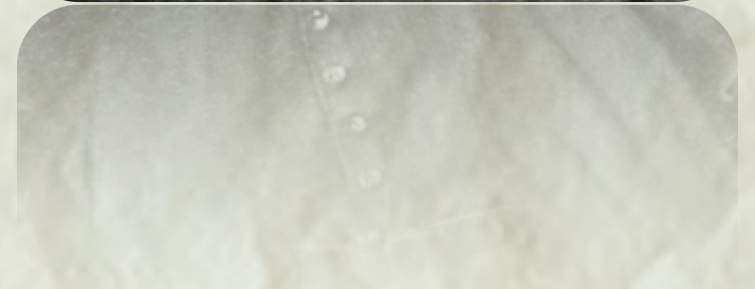
Which is more important—
personal evangelism or public evangelism?

Yes.



Christian Service, p. 69

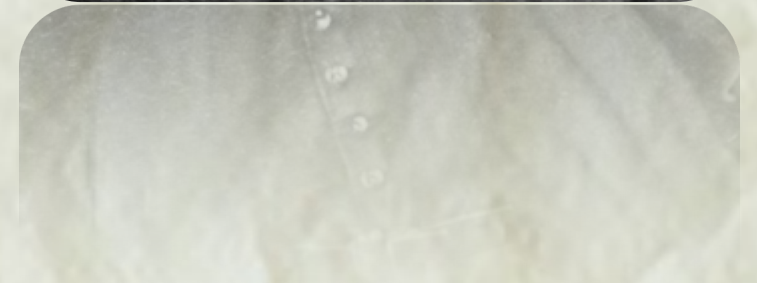
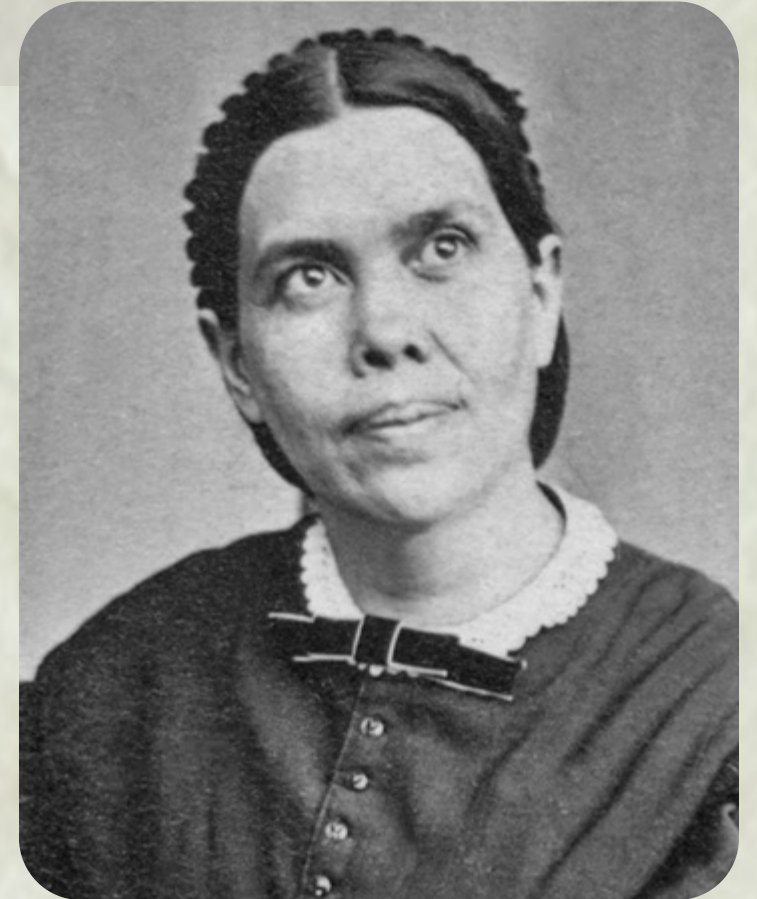
It is a **fatal mistake** to suppose that the work of soulsaving depends alone upon the ministry.





Christian Service, p. 69

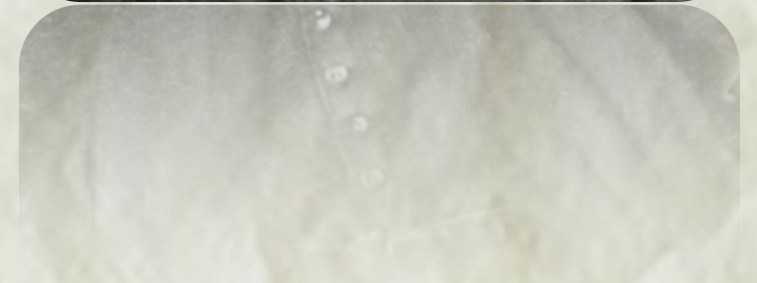
When an effort is made to present our faith to unbelievers, the members of the church too often stand back, as if they were not an interested party, and let all the burden rest upon the minister. **For this reason the labor of our most able ministers has been at times productive of little good.**





Christian Service, p. 68

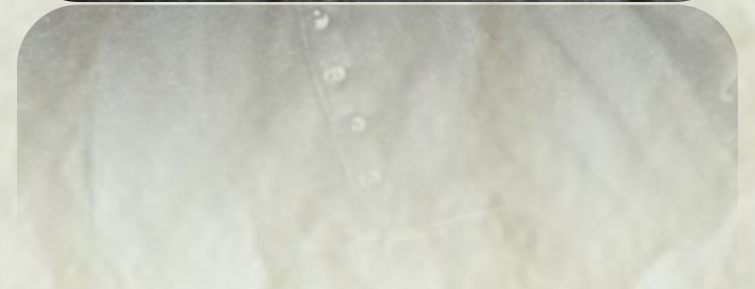
Preaching is a small part of the work to be done for the salvation of souls. God's Spirit convicts sinners of the truth, and He places them in the arms of the church. **The ministers may do their part, but they can never perform the work that the church should do.**





Christian Service, p. 68

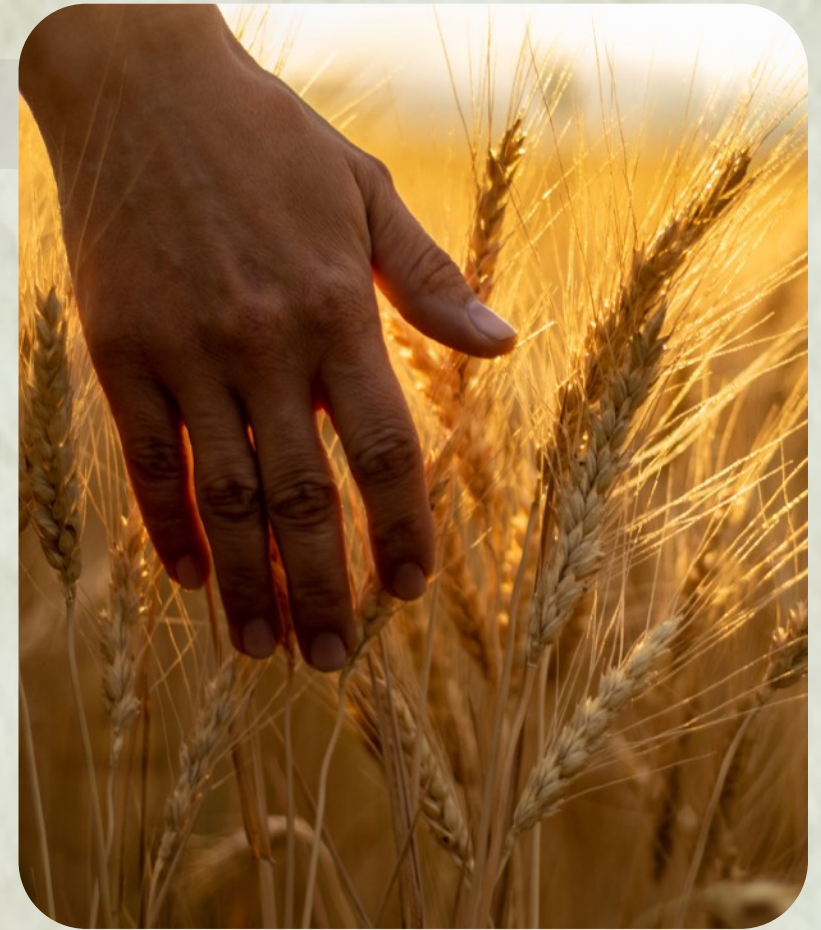
The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.



Ephesians 4:11, 12



And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**



Luke 10:2



**“The harvest truly is great,
but the laborers are few;
therefore pray the Lord of the
harvest to send out laborers
into His harvest.”**



Step 5: Preserve new members through systematic discipleship.



After baptism, new members should be led through a systematic discipleship plan. It is here that the disciple is trained to make other disciples, thus adding to the growth of the church.



While we rightly reject “once saved, always saved,” we too often practice “once learned, always learned.”

Acts 2:41, 42



Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.



Acts 2:41, 42



And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.



Acts 2:46, 47



So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,



Acts 2:46, 47



praising God and having favor with all the people.
And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.





It is little wonder that retention rates of newly baptized church members is so poor. If the excitement of a public campaign fades and the truth has only been accepted in theory but not in practice—what else should we expect?



Evangelism, p. 351

After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after. The zeal of many ministers seems to fail as soon as a measure of success attends their efforts.





Evangelism, p. 351



They do not realize that these newly converted ones need nursing,—watchful attention, help, and encouragement.





Evangelism, p. 351

These should not be left alone, a prey to Satan's most powerful temptations; **they need to be educated in regard to their duties, to be kindly dealt with, to be led along, and to be visited and prayed with.**





Evangelism, p. 351

No wonder that some become discouraged, linger by the way, and are left for wolves to devour. Satan is upon the track of all. He sends his agents forth to gather back to his ranks the souls he has lost.





Evangelism, p. 351

There should be more fathers and mothers to take these babes in the truth to their hearts, and to encourage them and pray for them, that their faith be not confused.



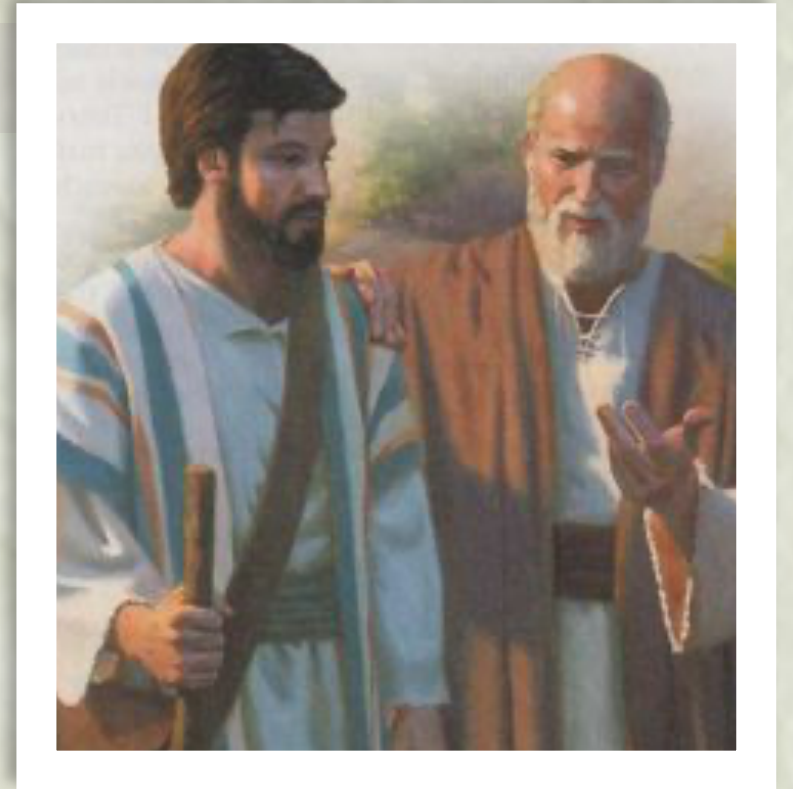


One of the most important tools to new member discipleship is your personal influence and example.

1 Corinthians 11:1



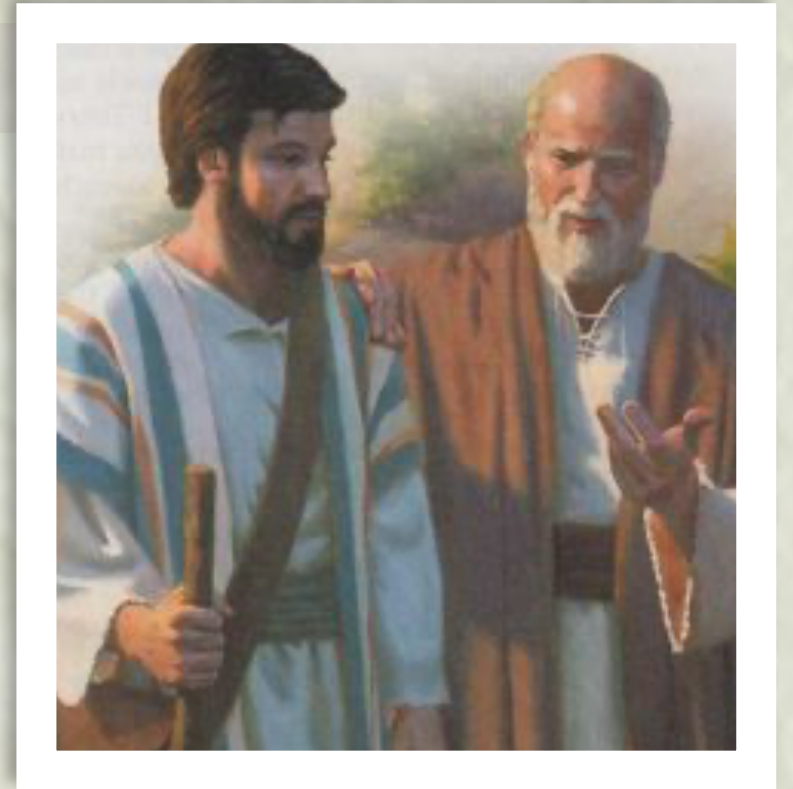
**“Imitate me, just as I
also imitate Christ.”**



Philippians 3:17



“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”



Isaiah 55:10, 11



“For as the rain comes down,
and the snow from heaven,
and do not return there, but
water the earth, and make it
bring forth and bud, **that it
may give seed to the sower
and bread to the eater,**



Isaiah 55:10, 11



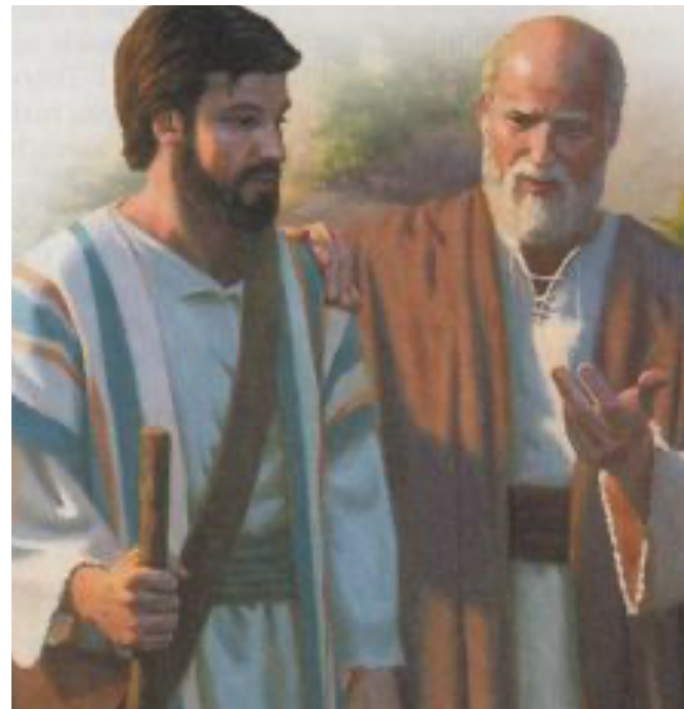
so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”



1 Thessalonians 1:5-7



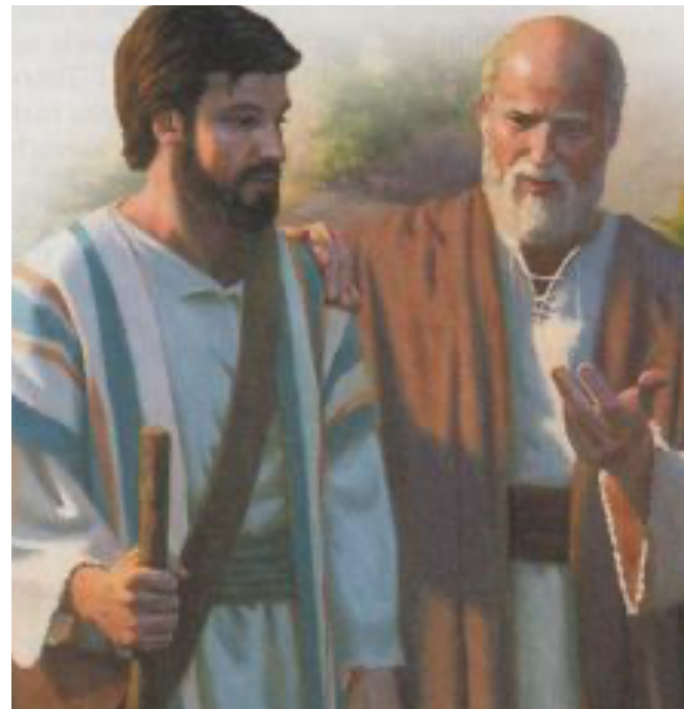
For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as **you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.**



1 Thessalonians 1:5-7



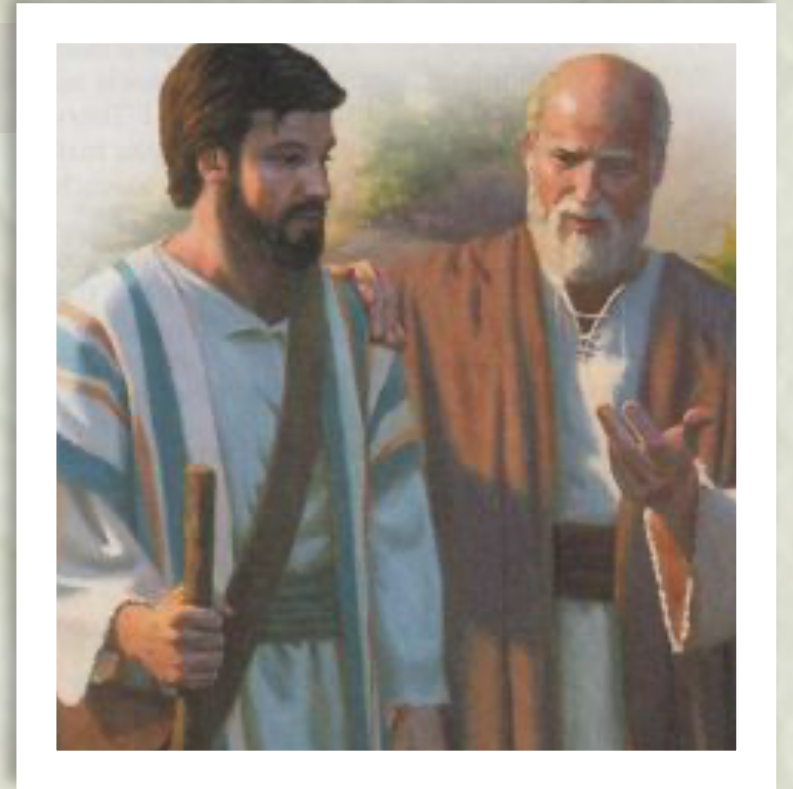
And **you became followers of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, **so that you became examples to all** in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.





Christian Service, p. 59

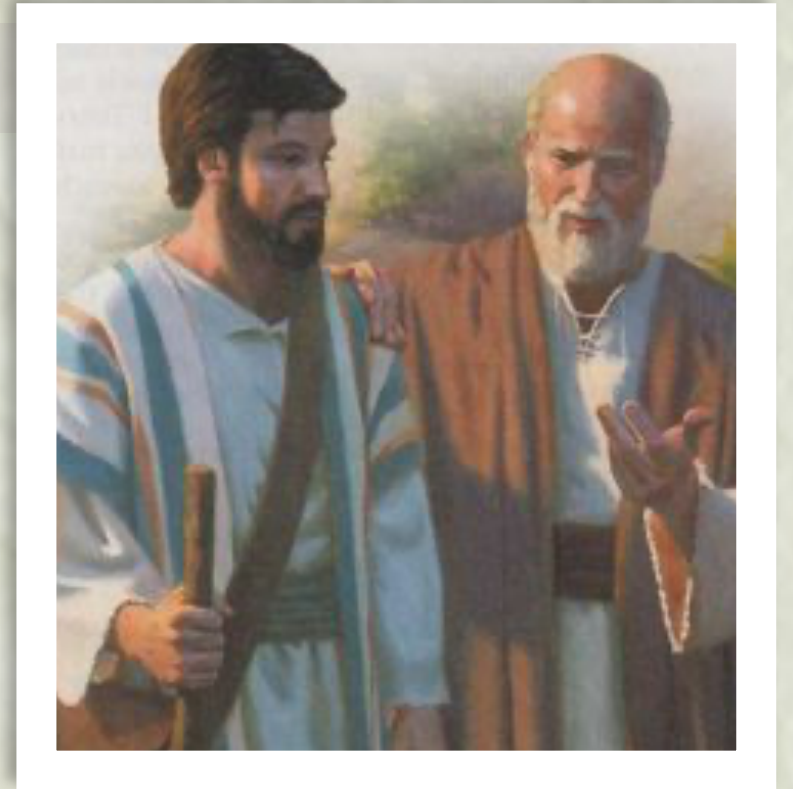
Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged. **Every church should be a training school for Christian workers.**





Christian Service, p. 59

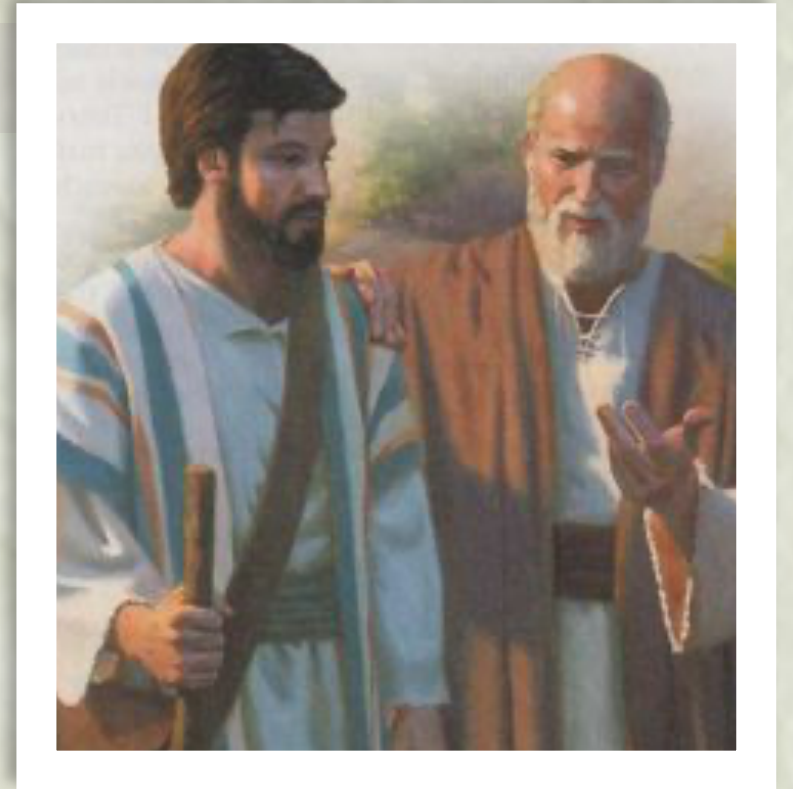
Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted.





Christian Service, p. 59

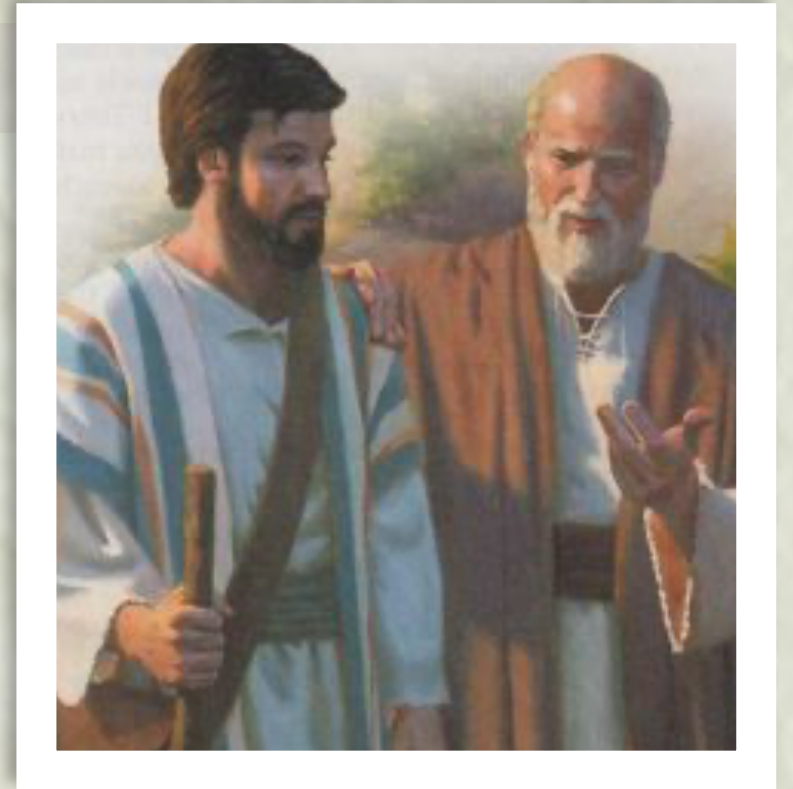
There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. **There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors.**

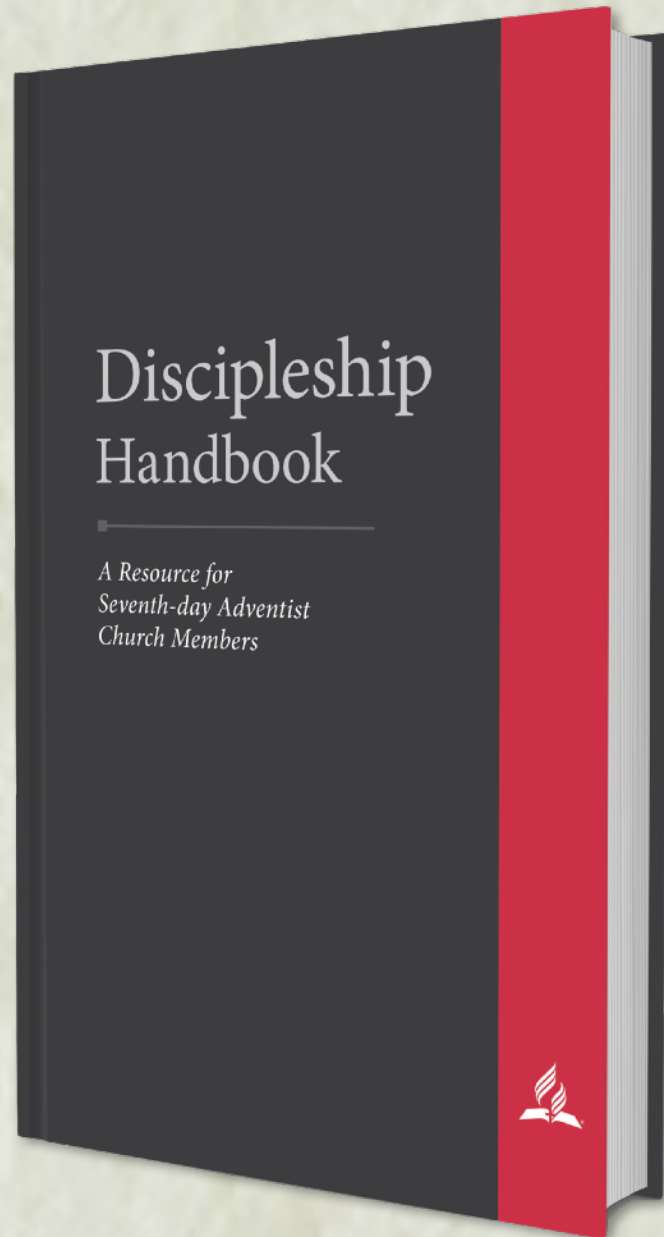




Christian Service, p. 59

Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. **One example is worth more than many precepts.**



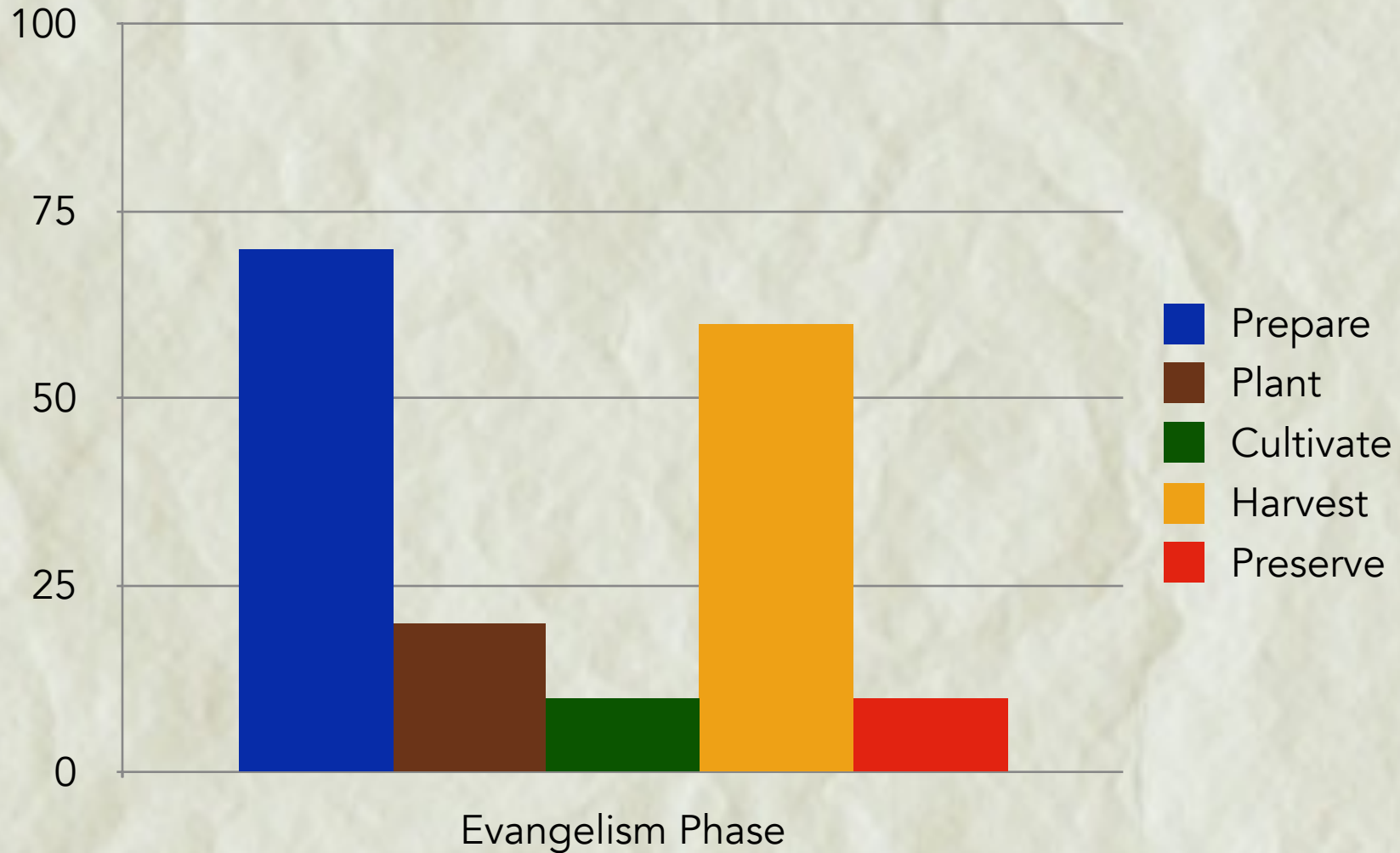


This need to more intentionally care for new members is why the *Discipleship Handbook* was written.

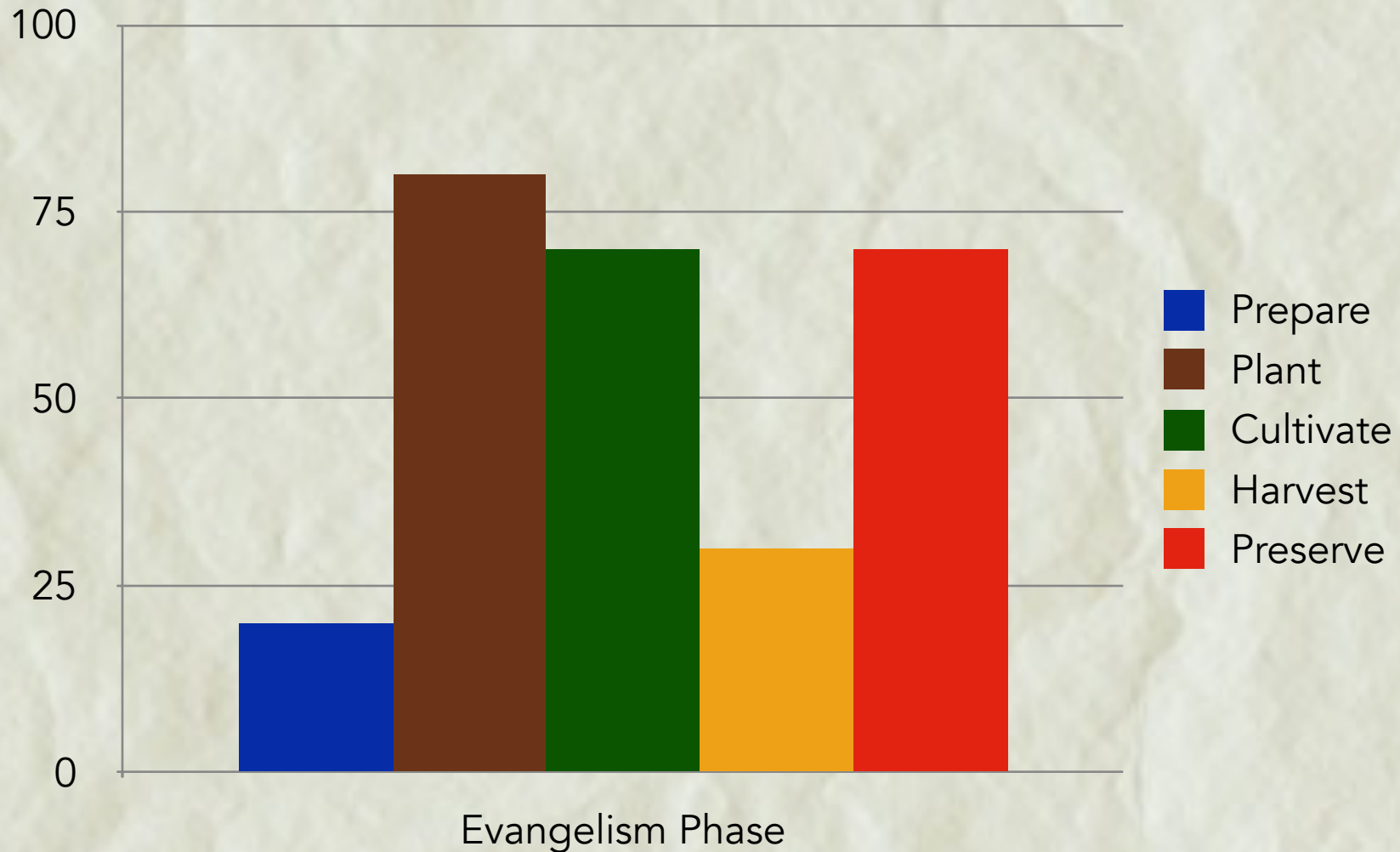


To make genuine disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to embrace the full cycle of evangelism—individually and corporately.

Local Church Growth Potential

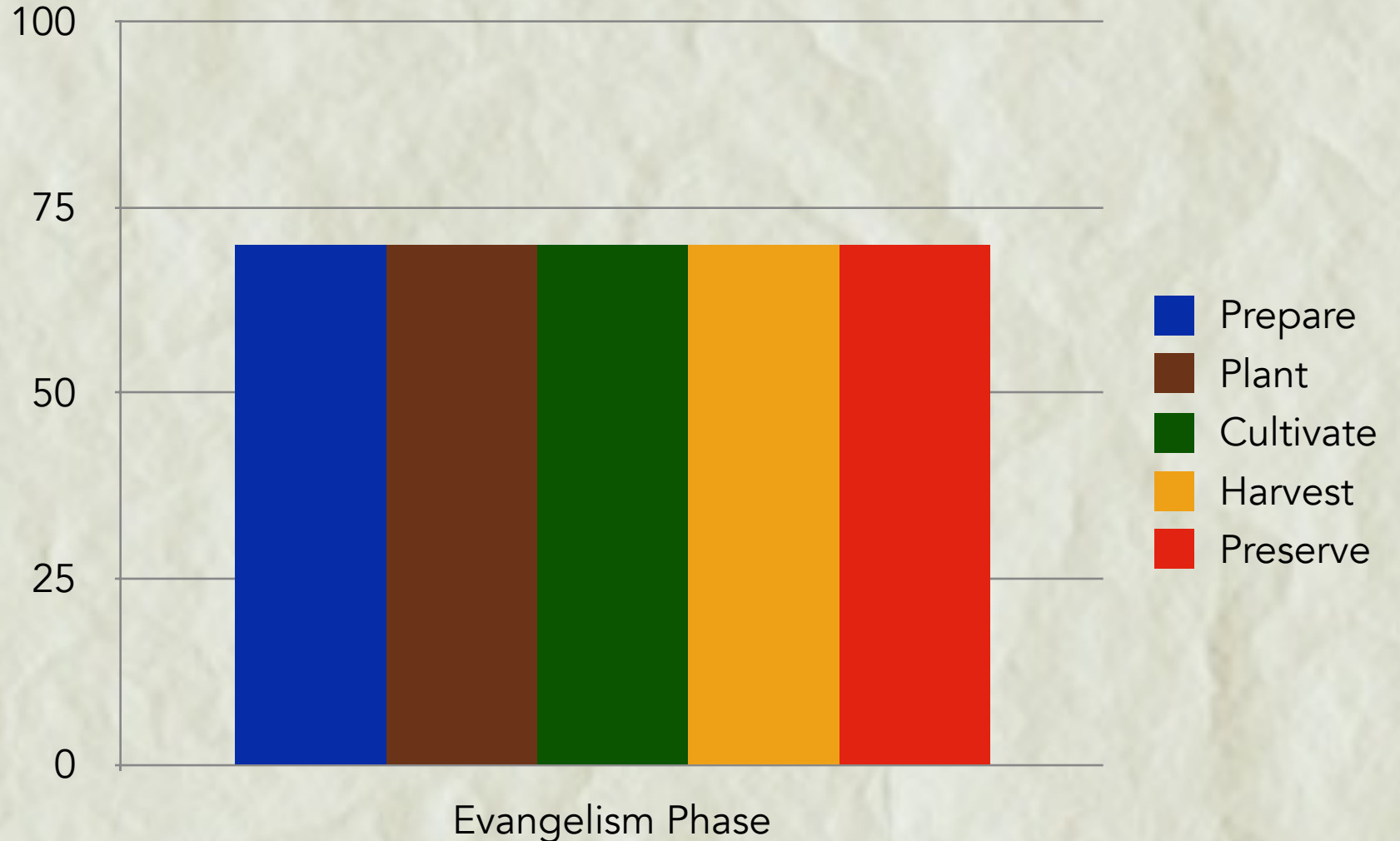


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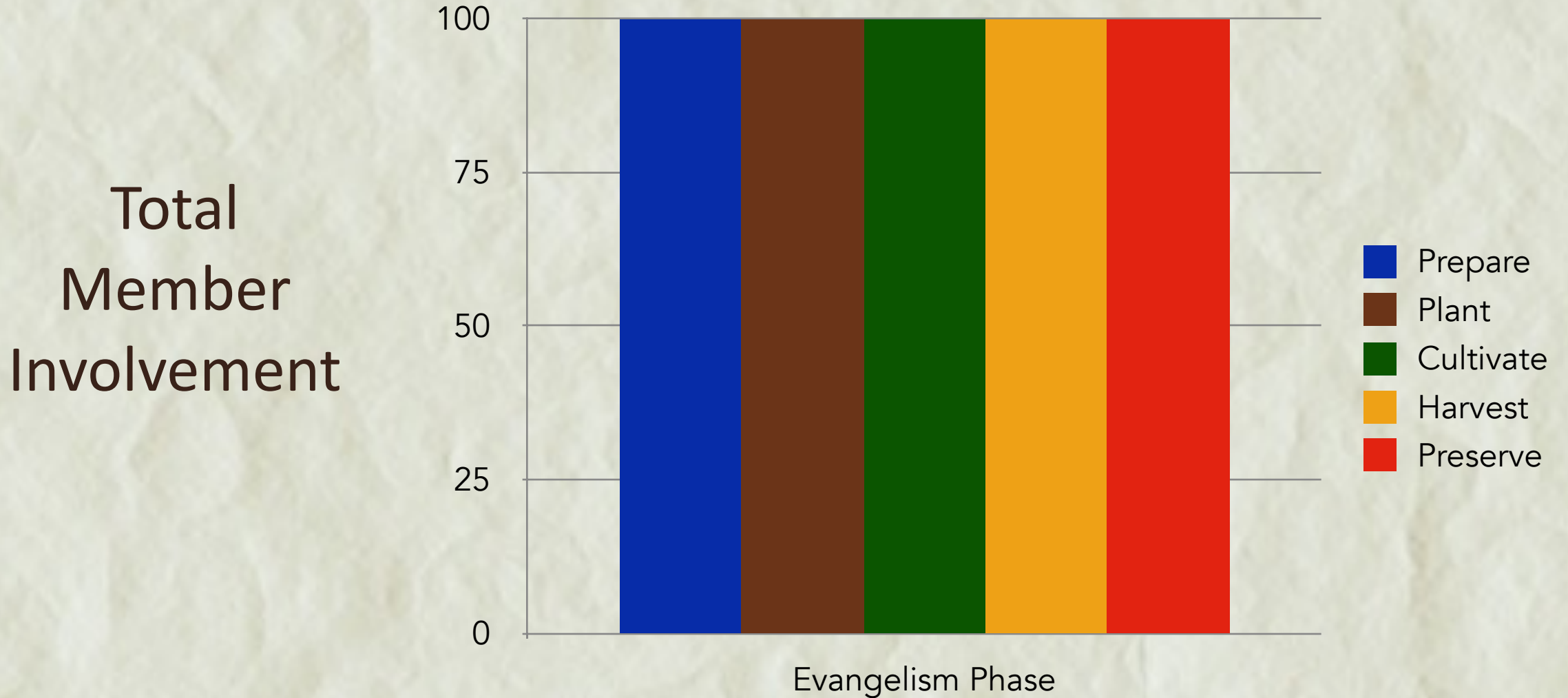


Local Church Growth Potential

We must
strengthen
every phase,
always
aiming for...



Local Church Growth Potential





- Prepare
- Plant
- Cultivate
- Harvest
- Preserve

Watch The GROW Initiative

GROW Your Church

is an evangelistic strategy based on agricultural principles...

- Prepare
- Plant
- Cultivate
- Harvest
- Preserve

