



A Bridge of Hope from Prison to New Life

# **Discipleship Plan**

## **Know Be Do**

### **Vision Statement**

*To see prison inmates around the world living a life of hope and freedom only found in Jesus Christ.*

### **Mission Statement**

*To equip prison inmates through biblical discipleship for a life of hope and freedom in Jesus Christ.*

### **Our Purpose**

*We exist to glorify God by sharing His love and truth that brings hope and freedom to those in prison.*

### **Our Goal**

*“To provide biblical hope to prison inmates”*

### **Discipleship Pathway**

*The overall objective of The God of Hope Ministries (TGOHM) is to form participating prison inmates into growing disciples of Jesus Christ. To that end, TGOHM aims to provide biblical discipleship through our discipleship pathway known as Know-Be-Do. This pathway is designed to help inmates grow spiritually by teaching the following spiritual growth components: “Know” (what a disciple believes), “Be” (the character a disciple exhibits), and “Do” (the life skills and spiritual disciplines a disciple practices).*

*Jesus has commanded us to make disciples. As such, we believe that discipleship changes lives and that it leads to hope and transformation.*

*We want to see two groups of people growing in Christ and living with hope:*

### **Inmates**

*The Fruit of the Ministry. We want to see inmates experience biblical hope (Christ in them, the hope of glory) as they become established in their faith and equipped for sharing their faith and hope with others.*

### **Volunteers**

*The Life Blood of the Ministry. We want to see our volunteers grow in maturity while employing their spiritual gifts as messengers of hope to those in prison. As time goes by, we believe a growing number of our volunteers will be former inmates served by us.*

### **Faith Based Dorms**

*A Faith Based Dorm seeks to unite corrections and the Faith Community to effect an inner transformation of inmates.*

*We establish and operate Faith Based Dorms where inmates are introduced to Jesus Christ and disciplined for six months. In the Faith Based Dorm, sponsored by The God of Hope Ministries, inmates also learn to follow Christ and live in biblical community.*

### **Program Summary**

*The God of Hope Ministries Faith Based Dorm program involves three focus areas:*

- *Bible Study, with a focus on the Scriptures, the Life and Character of Jesus Christ, Fundamentals of Faith, Prayer, Living by the Book, the four Gospels, Romans, Proverbs, etc.*
- *Christian Life Skills, with an emphasis on living in community, anger management, marriage, parenting, Authentic Manhood, preparing for success, overcoming addictions, etc.*
- *Spiritual Disciplines, with a focus on Bible reading, study habits, prayer, journaling, scripture memory, evangelism and disciple making, our identity in Christ, and serving others.*

*The overall purpose is to give the inmate a biblical frame of reference for decision making that will lead to a godly and moral life. This lifestyle will also reduce the likelihood of the inmate's tendency to commit crimes once they have been released back into society. Statistics to show that faith-based dorms have a positive impact on disciplinary reports and recidivism.*

*The Faith Based Dorm, sponsored by The God of Hope Ministries gives inmates a new direction in life. After a lifetime of dysfunctional thinking, destructive habits and bad choices, a short-term religious experience (although beneficial), is unlikely to produce lasting transformation. Following Jesus' model, inmates in our Faith Based Dorms receive daily exposure to God's word, regular interaction with mature Christians and extensive practice at developing godly habits.*

***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you overflow with hope..."***  
**Romans 15:13**

## GoHM Know-Be-Do Goals

The overall objective of The God of Hope Ministries is to form participating inmates into growing disciples of Jesus Christ. To that end, God of Hope Ministries aims to pursue the following goals in the inmate disciples of our faith based dorm programs. These goals are framed in terms of “Know” (what a disciple believes), “Be” (the character a disciple exhibits), and “Do” (the life skills and spiritual disciplines a disciple practices).

### I. KNOW – A growing disciple of Christ will know and understand certain truths concerning:

<b>Bible</b>	I believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, revealing the person and work of the Triune God and His full direction for my life.
<b>Trinity</b>	I believe that the God of the Bible is the only true God, eternally existing in three persons, and having one distinct nature.
<b>God the Father</b>	I believe that the Father is sovereign over all of creation and is personally involved in my life, guiding my daily life and caring about my daily concerns.
<b>Jesus Christ</b>	I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, providing me with His indwelling life and presence, forever interceding on my behalf at the right hand of the Father.
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	I believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son as the agent of God’s work in me, strengthening, keeping, and guiding me throughout my daily life.
<b>Human Beings</b>	I believe that all people fall short of pleasing God on their own, yet are still loved by God and who need Jesus Christ as their Savior, Lord, and Life.
<b>Salvation</b>	I believe that I have come into a right relationship and life with God through Christ, and am saved by His grace through faith in Christ alone.
<b>Spiritual Warfare</b>	I believe that, although a real Satan and his demons seek to separate me from God, God has made every provision for me to resist Satan and to accomplish His purposes for my life.
<b>God’s Community</b>	I believe that the Church is Christ’s body and is the way to accomplish His purposes on earth today. I desire to fellowship with other Christians as together we seek to fulfill Christ’s purposes in our lives and in the world.
<b>Key Books</b>	Essential books of the Old & New Testaments will be studied to anchor the above truths revealed by God.

**II. BE – A growing disciple of Christ will exhibit certain character qualities concerning:**

- Love** I trust that Christ calls me to unconditionally love others with His loving kindness in action and in truth.
- Joy** I have Christ's inner contentment, excitement, and purpose in spite of my circumstances. I experience Christ's harmony and freedom from anxiety because things are right between God and me, and between others and me.
- Faithfulness** I choose to trust what God has said and entrust myself to who God is in daily life, decisions, and perspectives so that I fulfill God's will.
- Obedience** I seek to direct my attitudes and actions in full obedience to God's commands and precepts as revealed in His Word.
- Self-Control** I have Christ's power through the Spirit to control my behavior and words. I am patient with others according to Christ's grace and forbearance. I desire to persevere through and endure the obstacles that God allows to come my way.
- Integrity** I place myself under the leadership and guidance of Christ through the Spirit as I seek His will, and then place myself under appropriate relationships in daily life.
- Kindness** I am thoughtful, considerate, and calm as I deal with others.
- Humility** I choose to esteem others above myself and meet the needs of others as I willingly die to myself and to sin.
- Forgiveness** I seek to forgive others of any actions or attitudes they have directed against me just as Christ has forgiven me. I seek to receive the forgiveness of others whom I have wronged. And I seek to forgive myself of my past actions and attitudes so that I might experience God's love for me in all its fullness.
- Hope** I seek to cope with the hardships of life and death because of the hope and assurance I have in Jesus Christ's present life and future return.

**III. DO – A growing disciple of Christ will demonstrate/experience certain practices concerning:**

- Prayer** I pray to God to know Him better, and to seek direction and intimacy for my daily life in Christ.
- Bible Study** I read and study the Bible to hear God, know Him, hold to the truth, and find direction for my daily life in Christ.
- Boundaries** With God's counsel and that of godly counselors, I seek to define and establish boundaries in my life so that I can pursue healthy and God-honoring relationships with the gifts, skills, and resources God has given me.

- Share Gospel** I seek to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity, transparency, and humility, primarily through telling my story of God's saving grace in my life as God gives me opportunity.
- Work** In my work life, I seek to labor with sincerity of heart as unto Christ, to submit to proper authority in the workplace, and to fulfill all assigned responsibilities as I am able.
- Money** I endeavor to be a good steward of the money and other resources, all of which God has entrusted to me, doing so honestly, wisely, carefully, generously, and with humility in order to carry out the responsibilities God has given me.
- Planning** I seek to formulate wise plans for major goals in my life, especially those related to reentry back into society, so that I will become a responsible, productive citizen who depends upon God.
- Anger Management** In dealing with angry, upsetting, unjust, or frustrating situations, I seek to respond in a healthy way, showing proper respect to others and accepting whatever responsibility I have in the situation, to the end that I honor God with my behavior.
- Marriage/Parenting** If single, I intend to honor God in all my relationships with men and women. If married, I intend to love, honor, and be in mutual submission and godly communication with my spouse. If I have children, I desire to love them unconditionally and to encourage them to trust Christ as their Lord and Savior. I also desire to equip them and train them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord to the end that they become loyal servants of Christ.
- Decision Making** I seek to make God-honoring decisions in every phase of my life through the counsel of God's Word, through prayer, and through trusted advisors who know me and are willing to bring honest wisdom into my life.

## KNOW/BE/DO DISCIPLESHIP GROUP QUESTIONS

(Purpose of asking for definitions is to identify faulty or inadequate understandings)

### **SUBJECT: LOVE**

How would you define love? Is it soft? Warm? Tough? When is love cheap?

How do you know when someone loves you? Describe the characteristics.

When in your life did you most feel loved?

What is the difference between the love you've known and the love God requires of you?

Why is it difficult to love others "in white"?

Does love hurt? When does it hurt? What are we to do with the pain and still love others?

Does loving others mean submitting to abuse? (Important to discuss boundaries here.)

When is the last time you felt loved? From whom and how was it expressed? How did it make you feel?

When is the last time you would say you showed/gave love to another? The occasion?

What makes it difficult for us to follow God's highest command to love Him with our heart, mind, and soul?

**1 Peter 1:22,23; 2:17; 1 Thess. 5:14,15; 1 John 4:20; 1 Corinthians 13**

### **SUBJECT: JOY** (contentment, peace, delight)

How would you define joy? Is it trouble-free? How does it differ from happiness? What are some other words for joy?

What things give you joy? What causes you to feel joy? Why these things?

Was there a time in your life when you knew joy?

What makes it difficult to "consider it all joy" when your world is falling apart?

If you are not feeling joyful what do you think you need to do?

Is joy a choice?

(Can we experience joy without having love?)

**James 1:2-4; Romans 14:17; Proverbs 17:22, 15:13**

### **SUBJECT: FAITHFULNESS** (dependable, loyal, trustworthy)

How do you define faithfulness?

Why is faithfulness so important in the Christian life?

What situations make it difficult for you to be faithful to God?

In what areas of life do you struggle with faithfulness?

How do you feel or react when someone you trusted betrays you? (doesn't show/give you faithfulness)

How have you grown in faithfulness? Cite examples. What caused the growth?

(Can we be faithful without also knowing love?)

**Matthew 5:36,37; James 2:14-17; Proverbs 14:5**

### **SUBJECT: OBEDIENCE** (submission to authority, desiring God's will, not our own)

How would you define obedience?

What are the consequences of choosing to disobey God's principles of obedience?

Why is obedience so difficult for so many people?

Are there some areas in your life where obedience is easy and others that are difficult? Which ones?

Does obedience to God equal trust?

How might your disobedience affect others in your circle of family and friends. How does this make you feel?

Can one be obedient and unloving? Is obedience submitted to love different from obedience done by will power only?

How would obedience submitted to love help in relationship to one another?

**1 John 1:5-7; 2:3-6; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess. 4:1-3a; John 14:15**

**SUBJECT: SELF CONTROL** (patience, perseverance, endurance)

What does it mean to have self-control?

In what areas of life do you tend to struggle with self-control?

How has the lack of self-control affected your life?

How would gaining self-control promote success in your life?

What are some of the triggers that cause you to lose self-control?

What can you do to maintain your self-control in any situation?

(How would love help with self-control?)

(How would self-control help with relationships in the dorm?)

**1Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:5,6**

**SUBJECT: INTEGRITY** (honesty, truthfulness)

How important is integrity to you; to have it and be shown it?

How do you view your own integrity?

At what points in your life have you been dishonest and untruthful; how did it affect your life?

What makes living with integrity a difficult thing?

Does honesty feel like a weakness? Does being truthful seem to put you in danger?

When have you been disappointed by someone's lack of integrity? How did it affect you and what did you feel?

What is the motivation to live with integrity?

(What role does love play in the area of integrity?)

(How can living with integrity help with life in the dorm?)

**Romans 2:4-7; Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32; Proverbs. 11:1-3**

**SUBJECT: KINDNESS** (gentleness, respectfulness, helpful, other-focused)

How do you define kindness?

Is kindness a weakness? Does it feel vulnerable?

Have you shown kindness to another? How did it make you feel?

How has God shown kindness to you?

What are some reasons we choose to not show kindness?

Is it reasonable to be kind to someone who is spiteful and mean? Why should we be kind to a person such as this?

(What role does love play in kindness?)

**Romans 14:14-19; Ephesians 4:31,32**

**SUBJECT: HUMILITY** (gratefulness, gentle, modest)

What is humility?

How have you witnessed people demonstrating humility? What were they doing or saying?

Has your life been touched by someone who lives with humility?

Does humility look weak? Does it make you vulnerable?

Without humility, what do we become?

What makes being humble hard for you to swallow?

(How does love help in the area of humility?)

(How could living in humility make things better for you...for the dorm?)

**Philippians 2:2-4, 5-8; 1 Peter 5:6; Ps. 22:2; Proverbs 11:2; 1 Peter 5:5**

**SUBJECT: FORGIVENESS** (repentance, confession, pardon, forgetting the past)

What does forgiveness mean to you?

What makes forgiveness so incredibly difficult at times?  
Is forgiveness a feeling or a choice?  
Is there ever a time or situation when forgiveness is not required?  
What do you see as the benefits of offering forgiveness to someone?  
What are some of the consequences of not extending forgiveness?  
What would keep you from forgiving someone?  
Does forgiveness also mean putting or keeping yourself in abusive situations?  
What is the importance of boundaries in forgiveness?  
How do humility and forgiveness go hand-in-hand?  
How might you feel if, upon extending forgiveness, it was rejected?  
What part does Satan play in us not extending forgiveness?  
(What role does love play in forgiveness?)

**Ephesians 4:32; Luke 7:41-48; Matthew 18:22-35**

**SUBJECT: HOPE** (expectation)

What is hope?  
In what do you have hope? What makes you choose to have hope in these things?  
What are some other words for hope? Why did you choose these words?  
How does one obtain or get hope?  
Have you ever felt the loss of hope in your life? What was it like?  
Has there been a time in your life when you were filled great hope? What was it like?  
What role does choice play in the ability to maintain and sustain hope?  
What role does truth play in the ability to maintain and sustain hope?  
(How much does knowing love affect one's ability to live in hope?)  
(How would hope improve life in the dorm?)

**2 Corinthians 5:2-8; Ps. 31:23,24; Ephesians 1:18,19; Hebrews 12:1-3; Hebrews 11 for examples of lives lived in hope**



Looking to the Future ...

- **How can we become more effective at making disciples of Jesus Christ through our Faith Based Dorms?**
- **How would God use our classes, discipleship groups, and coaching together to grow disciples?**
- **What does a growing, maturing disciple of Christ look like?**

**WHAT** is a disciple?

Literally, "One who is becoming like his/her Master."

Like learning to play an instrument

(But what about specifics?)

Becoming like our Master

- **Whom we grow to KNOW ...**  
"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."  
John 17:3
- **Who forms us in how to BE ...**  
"So, as those who have been chosen by God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other...; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things, put on love which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...and be thankful." Colossians 3:12-15
- **Who guides us on what to DO ...**  
"Work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure ..." Philippians 2:12-13

Framed as a disciple's personal goals ...

- I **KNOW** my God personally as I come to believe the truth concerning Him and His Word.
- I **BECOME** like Christ as my character conforms to His character.
- I **DO** that which He has called me to in all parts of my life.

Hence, *Know-Be-Do*

*"Knowing"* Goals

- **Bible** – I believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, revealing the person and work of the Triune God and His full direction for my life.
- **Jesus Christ** – I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, providing me with His indwelling life and presence, forever interceding on my behalf at the right hand of the Father.
- **Salvation** – I believe that I have come into a right relationship and life with God through Christ, and am saved by His grace through faith in Christ alone.

*"Being"* Goals

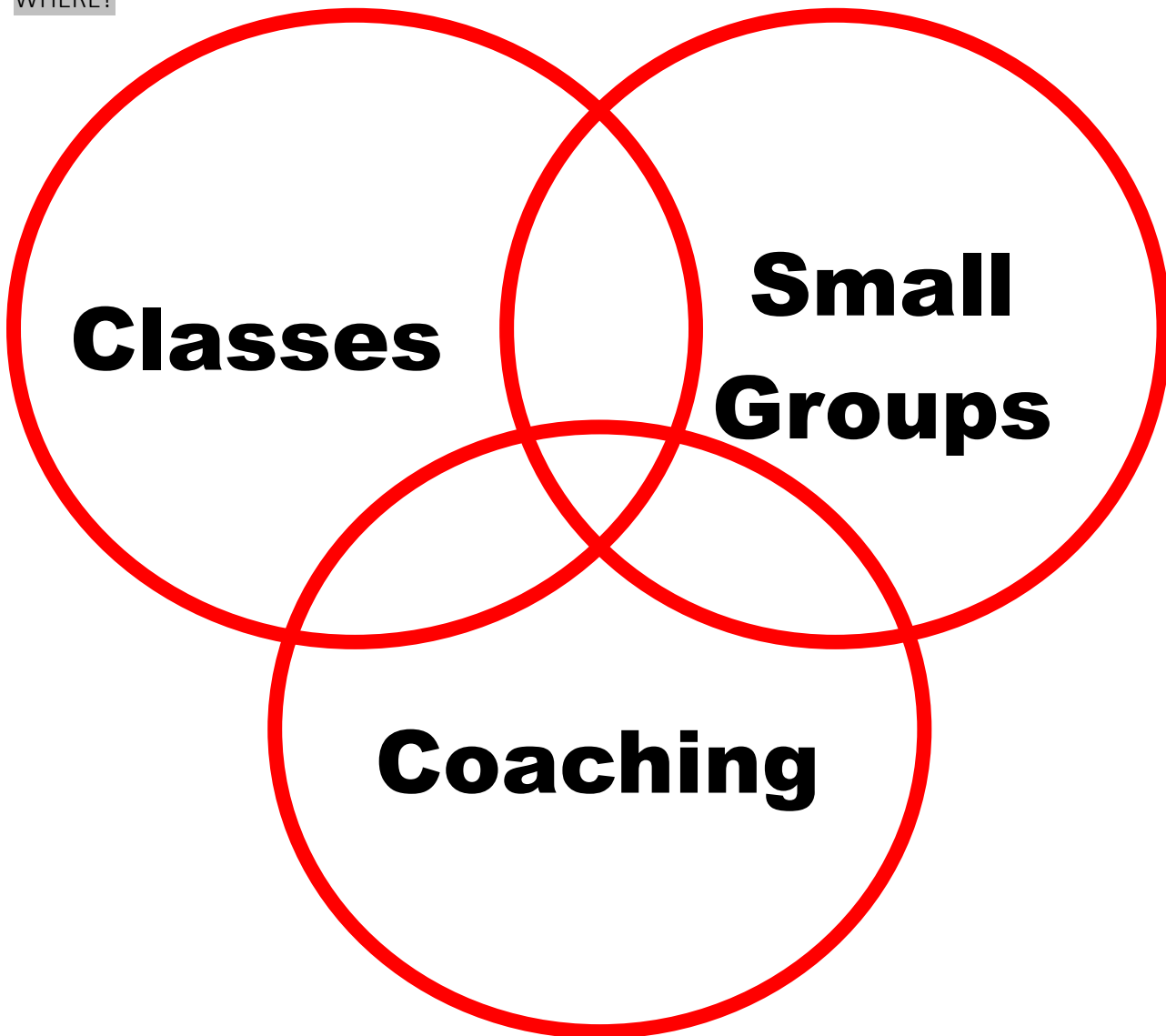
- **Love** – I trust that Christ calls me to unconditionally love others with His loving kindness in action and in truth.
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- **Hope** – I seek to cope with the hardships of life and death because of the hope and assurance I have in Jesus Christ’s present life and future return.

*“Doing”* Goals

- **Bible Study** – I read and study the Bible to hear God, know Him, hold to the truth, and find direction for my daily life in Christ.
- **Work** – In my work life, I seek to labor with sincerity of heart as unto Christ, to submit to proper authority in the workplace, and to fulfill all assigned responsibilities as I am able.
- **Decision Making** – I seek to make God-honoring decisions in every phase of my life through the counsel of God’s Word, through prayer, and through trusted advisors who know me and are willing to bring honest wisdom into my life.

WHERE?



Three Venues

- Classes – Large Group primarily to impart knowledge, understanding, skills
- Discipleship Groups – Focus on Community & character, transparency & vulnerability
- Coaching – 1-on-1 to impart character & personal application of what is being learned

## Topics for Discussion

<b>KNOW</b> (Knowledge & Understanding) (John 17:3; Jeremiah 9:23-24)		Class	Group	Coach
<b>BIBLE</b>	Revelation, Inspiration, Authority Overview Walk through the Bible	FUND WALK		
<b>GOD</b>	Creator & Sustainer Sovereignty Character & Attributes	FUND GEN PRAY		
<b>BE</b> (Character, Spiritual Affections) (Colossians 3:12-15)		Class	Group	Coach
<b>LOVE</b>	Nature & meaning, types		Topical Discussion	Personal Coaching
<b>JOY</b>	Contentment, peace		Topical Discussion	Personal Coaching
<b>DO</b> (Will, Action) (Philippians 2:12-13; 4:8-9)		Class	Group	Coach
<b>SHARE GOSPEL</b>	Personal testimony Presenting Gospel clearly, succinctly, attractively Relational Evangelism		Practice	Personal Coaching
<b>ANGER MANAGE- MENT</b>	Types of anger Controlling anger Resolving conflict	ANGER BUILD		Personal Coaching

**HOW?** Discussion Questions

**SUBJECT: JOY** (contentment, peace, delight)

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- Is joy a choice?
- Can we experience joy without having love?

**James 1:2-4; Romans 14:17; Proverbs 17:22, 15:13; Philippians 3:1, 4:1-4, 10-14**

**WHEN** will these take place?

- 10 conversations over 20 weeks
- Every other week
- Shepherding sensitivity as stuff comes up

**WHO?** Group Leader Follow-up

