



DISCIPLESHIP

Small Groups



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**LESSONS
FROM
DISCIPLE
MAKING
COUPLES**

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TITLE OF THE WORK
LESSONS FROM DISCIPLE-MAKING COUPLES

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IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN, TO LIVE ALONE

1

If God said, "It is not good." Most assuredly, it is not good. God is never wrong. His plans are perfect and need no human correction. Wise and happy are the men and women who humbly obey His counsel. In this series of studies, we will see that it was never God's plan for human beings to live in isolation from one another. Much less in the Christian life, and in the fulfillment of the mission. One, it is always the level of defeat, failure, and inoperativeness. Two, it is the level of success and efficiency.

1. What did God say when He saw Adam's loneliness in Eden? Gen. 2:18

Note: God's original plan, to create a companion for Adam, was not just about the marital aspect, but also about the lifestyle. As long as Adam and Eve were together, the enemy would have no chance to bring them down. If they were separated, they would be defenseless and at the mercy of the adversary. It is the same in the Christian life. A Christian isolated from others will be easy prey to the enemy.

2. What advice did God give to the first couple so that they would not fall victim to temptation? Patriarchs and Prophets Page 53 *"The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone"*

Note: It is not God's plan for man to live alone, isolated from his brothers and sisters. That was not God's plan in Eden, and it is not God's plan today. The church needs to follow God's plan and organize its members into disciple-making couples. Christian living couples who support and help each other in the daily journey, reminding each other that one is praying for the other. People who form a discipling couple can even do the work of bringing people to Christ together. It is not essential that they do so, but they can help and encourage each other. What is important is that throughout the week one supports the other by reminding them that they are praying for them and for the people they are leading to Jesus.

3. What happens when two people walk together? Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10

Note: Two people can help each other in everything, and also in the Christian life. Both can accompany each other through the journey of this life, praying for each other, and caring for each other. Today, with the help of social media and technology, it is easy for one member of a discipling couple to send a message to the other. When two Christians share their experience together, it is more difficult for the enemy to have the opportunity to bring them down.

4. Why is it good for a human being to be always in company? Proverbs 17:17

Note: Every human being needs a friend. Man was created for communion and fellowship. As a recipient of divine love, he needs people around him with whom to share the blessings. Man was not made to be alone. God did not create him as an isolated, individualistic entity. There is something within the human heart that needs others. It is part of his constitution. People who hide from community life disfigure themselves inwardly. Remember that the worst punishment for any prisoner is to be confined in a solitary cell. Man or woman cannot stand loneliness.

5. Is it necessary for both members of the discipling couple to be together at all times and in all church meetings to help each other? Evangelism. Page 73 *" It might not be necessary for them to be together in every meeting; but they could labor in places ten, fifteen or even thirty miles apart, —near enough together, however, so that if one came to a crisis in his labors, he could call on the other for assistance. They should also come together as often as possible for prayer and consultation "*

Note: Today, with the help of technology, it is easy to cultivate Christian fellowship. It is simple to know if the brother is discouraged or happy. If he is working, or not, for the person he desires to lead to Christ. If the two-by-two Christian life was possible in times when the technology of today did not exist, it is much simpler and possible today.

6. If a Christian does not have another Christian friend to help him grow spiritually, he will look for that friend outside the church, and what is the danger of hanging out with people who do not love God? Proverbs 22:24, 25

Note: The Christian is not an island in this world. We live, work, study and exist in a world contaminated by sin, but we must be careful not to think that this world is our definitive home. We are pilgrims in the desert of this life, and we need to relate to all people but with the vision of leading them to the kingdom of heaven. "The church must be active if it wants to be a living church. It must not... be content to advance by slow steps, but must bear the yoke of Christ, and keep step by step with the Guide, enlisting new recruits along the way." Christian Service Page 14

7. How does the life of another person help to develop one's own character? Proverbs 27:17

Note: Living the Christian life by helping one another is a factor in character growth and development. In the mind of Christ there is no solitary Christianity. The Christian life is an experience that is lived in relationship.

8. What is Paul's advice for living the Christian life? Colossians 3:13,15

Note: Peace is the result of knowing how-to live-in harmony with the brethren. Paul emphasizes the idea of Christianity as relationship. First with God, and then with one another, in a community spirit. If the church is organized in pairs of life and prayer, it will be much more feasible to live the experience of peace.

MY DECISION

Having understood that God's plan is that the Christian life is to be lived in a relational environment, I decide to promote the organization of disciple-making couples in my church.

THE CONCEPT OF DISCIPLE MAKING COUPLES IN THE OT

2

Since creation, it was never God's plan that man should live alone. Isolated from others, he would be an easy victim of the enemy and would have difficulty in fulfilling his mission in life. In the beginning, he created for Adam a suitable helper. But the companionship that man needs is more than simply conjugal. He also needs a friend, someone to help him face the challenges of life and the fulfillment of his mission. This concept can be found in the OT.

1. What did God do give Moses' indecision before the mission to liberate Israel from the power of Egypt? Exodus 6:28-30 and 7:1 & 2

Note: God did not send Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt alone. The leader of the people needed a companion, and the Lord ordained that this companion should be his brother Aaron. One was to make up for the weaknesses of the other, and they would mutually confront the most powerful nation of those days. Today it is also God's plan that his children learn to live in couples to face the forces of the enemy and fulfill the mission.

2. What command did Moses receive from God before entering the Promised Land? Numbers 13:1, 2

Note: The initiative to send the spies was not human. God gave the order. The men chosen to inspect the promised land were 12, one representing each tribe. The biblical record does not say so, but the context of the story suggests that these men were organized in pairs. The proof is that, at the time of reporting, 10 gave a pessimistic report and only one pair gave a report of faith.

3. Who were the couple who gave the report of faith? Numbers 14:6-9

Note: Joshua and Caleb. In the rest of the biblical narrative, we will find them together on several occasions. Always helping each other. Even in the distribution of the conquered land.

4. How many spies did Joshua send to observe the land of Jericho? Joshua 2:1

Note: Just as Moses had sent the spies to inspect the land, organized in pairs, now Joshua follows the example of his master and sends the spies also in pairs of life, mission and prayer. These spies arrive at Rahab's house, conquer it for the kingdom of God and leave them the good news of the gospel.

5. In the prophet Amos' concept, what do two people need to do to walk together? Amos 3:3

Note: They need to live in harmony and agree on the mission they are to fulfill. When forming disciple-making couples in the church, it is not advisable to place the spouses together. Both already have a life together and there is a risk that the prayer partnership will not achieve its objectives.

6. What did Jonathan do as a token of his friendship with David? 1 Samuel 18:1,3 and 4

Note: Although by descent Jonathan was entitled to the kingdom of Israel, he was humble enough to recognize that the divine plan was otherwise and accepted his friend as the future monarch. That is sincere evidence of friendship.

7. What do Elijah and Elisha teach us? 2 Kings 2:2

Note: One was the teacher and the other, the disciple. Elijah left, but Elisha kept the mantle that was a symbol of the master's power. This is another of the benefits of disciple-making couples. If we place an experienced brother next to a new disciple, we will achieve not only that both encourage each other, but that one learns from the other.

8. Who were Deborah and Barak? Judges 4:8-10

Note: Deborah was Judge of Israel and Barak, a hardened servant in the service of God to free his people. Both show us that talents and gifts can be brought together for the glory of God and the service of his church.

MY DECISION

Having understood that the divine plan was always for human beings to live in partnerships, I wish to participate in the disciple-making couples in my church.

HOW TO JESUS | 3

SEND HIS

DISCIPLES

DFrom the beginning of his ministry, Jesus formed the group of his disciples. He first called four fishermen: the two sons of Jonah and the two sons of Zebedee. Then Levi, the tax collector. And then the others. The disciples, being with Jesus, began to identify with him, understanding the mystery of his person and enjoying the proclamation of the Kingdom. One day the Master entrusted them with a mission as a preparation for his own and as a foretaste of the mission he would entrust to them after the resurrection, but he did not do it in just any old way. He established a model that the church should never forget.

1. What was the first thing Jesus did when he began his ministry? Matthew 3:13 and 14

Note: Jesus called twelve disciples to be with Him. The first thing He did was to call them to be one with Him, to be intimate with Him, to ~~be~~ ease with Him, to have confidence in Him, to feel accepted by Him. What we learn from this is that, in order to be a disciple, the primary and indispensable thing is to be of Jesus, not just to learn the theory of things, but to identify with Jesus and to live like Him.

2. What did Jesus do after calling his disciples? Luke 9:1 and 2

Note: Jesus gave them power and entrusted them with a mission. He sent them. In Jesus, disciple and mission become one. Jesus sends. The mission is not a personal initiative of the disciples. It is not an invention of the church to increase the number of disciples, of members. Later, at the Ascension, Jesus bids

farewell to his Apostles, telling them: "Go into all the world and preach the Good News". They will proclaim what they have seen and heard from Jesus in the face of adversity.

3. How did he send the Twelve to fulfill the mission? Mark 6:7

Note: He empowered them and sent them out two by two. At the same time that He called them to identify themselves with Him before leaving, Jesus promoted a process of fraternization among them. The Master did not want twelve individuals, but twelve brothers who, like twelve new patriarchs, would be the beginning of the new Israel, which is the Church. But the unity of the Twelve would depend on the unity of two by two. Friendship with the group begins with friendship with the one next to it. Thus, the Twelve became brothers, and so strong was the brotherhood among the Apostles that in a short time people called them by the simple name of "the Twelve". This means that there is no healthy apostolate without fraternity.

4. Later, how did Jesus send the Seventy-two? Luke 10: 1

Note: He perceives that now Jesus sends seventy-two disciples, but he also sends them organized in pairs. The mission will be hard, but the Christian brotherhood will help them face the challenges of fulfilling the mission. Jesus knew that "Two are better than one, because they profit more from their labors. If one of them stumbles, the other lifts him up." Ecclesiastes 4:9 and 10

5. Besides the encouragement and strength that two people can give each other when they work together, what else did Jesus have in mind when he sent his disciples out in pairs? Deuteronomy 19:15

Note: It was part of the culture of Israel that any testimony would be valid only if it came from two witnesses. Jesus' command to his disciples was "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth." If our mission is to witness for Christ, we need to do it two by two.

6. What was the mission of the disciple-making couples sent by Jesus? Luke 10:1

Note: Jesus sent these seventy-two disciples before He went, in order that they might prepare the ground for His coming. Here we see the beginning of the evangelist's arrival in a place where the church, organized two by two, has prepared the ground for the harvest. There can be no harvest evangelism where there has been no sowing and cultivation by the church organized two by two, and in small groups.

7. How many disciples went to fetch the colt for Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem?

Note: Working two by two was not only to fulfill the mission but also for living. Only in the case of the disciples, life and mission merged into a single experience. For them, to live was to fulfill the mission and to fulfill the mission was to live. They did not understand the Christian life without mission.

8. After Christ's ascension, who went to the temple together, because of the miracle at the door of the temple?

Note: The fact that Jesus instituted the Twelve and sent them out two by two cannot be understood only as a mathematical fact. In these numbers is manifested the essence of Christian fellowship. This was the understanding of the Apostles, who almost always went out in pairs, as is shown by innumerable scenes in the book of Acts and the apostolic letters. Peter's first miracle was worked in the company of John. And many of Paul's letters are also signed by some of his apostolic companions.

9. How does Jesus want Christians to live? John 17:21

Note: The identification of those who follow Christ demands that they have a spirit of communion, for Christ, with whom they identify, lives in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Without the spirit of communion, the identification with Christ would wither and derive in individualism. On the other hand, the spirit of fellowship demands that Christians identify with Christ. Without this identification, communion with the brethren could be reduced to mere camaraderie, a simple bar of friends, which is not necessarily Christianity.

MY DECISION

Having understood that the Spirit of Christ is the spirit of Unity and that the disciples lived and fulfilled the mission organized in disciple-making pairs,
I want to do it too.

IN THE PRIMITIVE|4 CHURCH

L The primitive church followed the example of Jesus. They all lived in communion but organized two by two. That was the divine plan, and they were determined to follow him. In this study we will see that the two-by-two lifestyle was not simply a way for the apostles to fulfill the mission, but also to live the Christian experience.

1. What is the first disciple-making couple we meet in the early church?
Acts 3:1-8

Note: Peter and John went to the temple to pray together. From the beginning of the apostolic era we see the first Christians helping each other spiritually. This is the divine plan and should also be followed by the church in our days.

2. How did Paul send Titus to visit the church at Corinth? 2 Corinthians 12:18

Note: This was not just a coincidence. Nor did it happen only once. The life and work style of the disciples in the apostolic era was two by two. Observe that the fact that Titus traveled accompanied by Paul originated Paul's question: "Did we not both proceed in the same spirit and follow the same way?" When two Christians live together the result will always be the same. They will both proceed in the same spirit and follow the same way."

3. How did Paul send Timothy to Rome to prepare the ground for his arrival?
Acts of the Apostles Pg. 236 "The apostle had been planning for some time to

time another missionary journey. "Paul purposed in spirit to depart for Jerusalem, after he had gone through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, After I have been there, I must needs come also to Rome." In accordance with this plan, he sent "to Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus;" but feeling that the cause in Ephesus still demanded his presence, he decided to remain there until after Pentecost. Soon, however, an event occurred which hastened his departure."

Note: Before going to Rome, Paul sent Timothy, accompanied by Erastus, to prepare the ground for his arrival. This is significant because Timothy had been disciplined by Paul and now the young disciple was in turn discipling Erastus.

4. Who gave the order for the formation of the duo of Paul and Barnabas?

Acts 13:2 and 3

Note: Barnabas and Paul were the first missionaries sent out two by two, in the early church, by order of the Spirit. The formation of this dissipating couple was not a human initiative but an order of the Holy Spirit.

5. How was this disciple-making couple formed? Acts 11:24-26

Note: When Barnabas was already a prophet and teacher, Paul had not yet been converted. Barnabas whose name means Son of Consolation (Acts 4:36) had given good testimony of his works and was a man of faith. He had property on the island of Cyprus, but he sold it and gave the money to the apostles. Barnabas was so committed to the mission that the early church sent him to visit other congregations. So he traveled to Tarsus to find Saul and brought him to the church at Antioch, where they met for a year, and where the Spirit commanded them to go as missionaries. Barnabas and Saul, traveling together to Jerusalem, were teachers and prophets of the Church in Antioch. Several times their names are mentioned together, beginning in the middle of Acts Chapter 13.

6. What happened between Paul and Barnabas to cause them to separate? Acts

15:36-40

Note: Paul and Barnabas quarreled because of John Mark. There came a point when they could no longer work together. This can also happen today. Both will be saved, although in this life they had different points of view regarding work matters, but not doctrine. The interesting thing is that, in spite of their separation, the plan to work in pairs continued. Paul went with Silas, and Barnabas with John Mark.

7. What did God promise to brethren who pray and work together? Matthew

18:19

Note: Jesus promised that if two brothers pray together, they will have prayer answered by the Father. So, in the church each brother should pray for the people he wants to bring to Jesus, and at the same time he should pray for the people his prayer partner is evangelizing. If this becomes a reality in the church, we will see wonders that we have not seen until today.

8. What is the counsel of the Spirit of prophecy for our day? The Ministry of Kindness Pg. 652 "Calling the twelve around Himself, Jesus commanded them to go two by two through the towns and villages. No one was sent out alone, but brother went with brother, friend with friend. Thus, they could help and encourage each other, consulting and praying together, each one feeling the weakness of the other. In the same way He later sent out the seventy. It was the Savior's purpose that the messengers of the Gospel should associate in this way. In our own time the work of evangelism would be much more successful if this example were faithfully followed."

Note: The way Jesus fulfilled the mission cannot be improved by human beings, and if today we were more obedient to the divine counsels, we would have the satisfaction of seeing thousands of people accepting the gospel.

MY DECISION

I understand that it was never the divine plan for his children to live, nor to fulfill the mission alone, therefore, I decide to support the prayer partner plan in my church.

WORKING IN 5 COUPLES TODAY

The challenge before the church today is not simply to fulfill the mission, but to fulfill it in the way Jesus commanded it to be fulfilled. The Servant of God herself states that "If the ministers...would teach the brethren to work and lay the burden upon them...the people would gain spiritual strength by the effort made, and the results would be ten times greater than they are" (The Voice; Their Education and Proper Use p. 272).
attention to the way Jesus worked.

1. Read the following quote and then answer the questions below.

"Calling the twelve around him, *Jesus commanded them to go two by two* through the towns and villages. *No one was sent out alone, but brother went with brother, friend with friend. Thus, they could help and encourage each other, consulting and praying together, each making up for the weakness of the other.* In the same way He later sent seventy. *It was the Savior's purpose that the messengers of the Gospel should associate in this way.* In our own time the work of evangelism would be much more successful if this example were faithfully followed." (The Desire of Ages p. 303.)

2. Did Jesus advise, suggest or command his disciples to go two by two?

3. Were any of them sent alone? _____

4. Why did Jesus send his disciples out two by two?

5. What did the Master do by sending the seventy?

6. What was always the Savior's purpose?

7. What would happen in our days if we followed their example?

Note: Throughout history, we have taken this statement and used it to form "missionary couples. Brothers who go two by two, to do missionary work on Saturday afternoons. But what Jesus desired for his disciples was much more comprehensive. Mission is not just a "work" that only takes place in a specific period, but a way of life. When Jesus sent his disciples out on mission, he was sending them out to live. Preaching the gospel, for them, was not something they would do if they had time to spare. The disciples would preach as long as they lived. To live was to witness and to witness was to live. They lived proclaiming the gospel while taking care of their daily chores and taking care of their daily tasks while fulfilling the mission.

8. What were these three disciple-making couples doing, in the following texts? Matthew 21:1; Luke 22:8; Acts 3:1

Note: If we review the lifestyle of the disciples and the Christians of the early church, we will see that they were two by two, not only when preaching the gospel, but also in other moments of life. They were two, the disciples, who looked for the colt for the triumphal entry of Jesus to Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1); Peter and John, made the preparations for the Passover (Luke 22:8); They went together to the temple, to worship (Acts 3:1); In other words, the formation of couples was not only for the purpose of doing a specific missionary work, but to live the Christian life, helping each other, to grow.

9. What advantage is there in two people working together? Evangelism P. 60 "It is necessary for two people to work together; for one can encourage the other, and together they can counsel, pray and search the Bible."

Note: Do Christians only need encouragement and counsel to do missionary work? Of course not! Encouragement and comfort are necessary ingredients to face the struggles of life. Therefore, every church that longs to have spiritually strong members needs to organize them, two by two. Not only to seek people for Christ, but also to live everyday life.

10. What else did Jesus have in mind in associating brother with brotherhood?

hand? Evangelism Page 576 "When Jesus sent His disciples out to work... they did not feel as some do now, that they would rather work alone than be accompanied by someone who does not work exactly as they do. Our Savior understood that some must associate with others. *He did not associate with the beloved and gentle John, another person of the same temperament; but He associated with him the fiery and impulsive Peter.* These two men were not alike either in disposition or in method of work. Peter was quick and zealous in action. He was bold and would not compromise, and often wounded; John was always calm, considerate of the feelings of others, and came behind to consolidate and encourage. *Thus, the defects of one were partially covered by the virtues of the other.*"

Note: Jesus' plan was that, by associating with another, the disciple would learn to develop his own character.

11. What two other things should the pairs do? The Medical Ministry Page 329 "The workers should go out in pairs, so that they may pray and counsel with each other. They should never be sent out alone. The Lord Jesus Christ sent His disciples into the cities of Israel two by two."

Note: The prayer of the discipling couples is necessary and primordial. People are not converted by human work but by the intervention of the Holy Spirit. When brothers pray together, the promise is fulfilled that God will answer that prayer, from the heavens.

MY DECISION

Having understood that fulfilling the mission and walking the Christian life in partnership with another Christian helps me to develop my own character, I decide to participate in this plan.

THE RESULTS OF 6

WORKING IN

COUPLES

After a few hours trying to see something in the water, frustrated, the king returned to his palace and rebuked his wise old advisor: "I couldn't see anything in the lake. Stop this nonsense and at once, tell me who my worst enemy is." "It's incredible that you didn't notice," replied the wise man, "You've had it right in front of you. It is the reflection of your own image, it is yourself. You are your own worst enemy. You are a man who does not want to learn. You are hurting yourself. You are lost. You are the worst enemy you have."

This is the sad reality of those who read and do not understand and of those who refuse to learn. Life is a constant learning process and those who refuse to learn may already be dead and do not perceive their reality.

1. What does Paul say about the influence of human beings? Romans 14:7

Note: The organization of the church into discipling couples is based on the fact that no one is an unreachable island. We all have an influence on someone. Sometimes, not even words are necessary, but simply attitudes, looks and even silence. This is one of God's ways of developing the character of his children.

2. Read the following quotation and answer the questions below. Evangelism P. 581 "*God never intended that, as a rule, His servants should go to work alone. Here is an illustration: Here are two brothers. They are not of the same temperament; their minds do not run in the same channels. One is in danger of doing too much; the other fails to carry the burdens he ought to carry. If they are associated with each other, this might have a molding influence upon each of them, so that the extremes of their characters would not stand out so prominently in their labors. It would not be necessary for them to be together in every meeting, but it might be possible for them to be together.*

They should work in places that are fifteen, twenty or even forty kilometers away from each other, yet close enough so that, if one faces a crisis in his work, he can call the other to his aid. *They should also meet as often as possible for the purpose of prayer and consultation.*"

3. There may be exceptions, but as a rule, what is it that God never intended?

Note: From the very creation God knew that it would never be good for human beings to be alone. Experience has shown that when churches are organized in pairs, the rate of apostasy is minimal. Because if a Christian is discouraged, or stops coming to church on a Sabbath, his companion immediately notices and can help him.

4. In the illustration above, what is the characteristic of the two brothers who are placed to work together?

Note: Both brothers have different characteristics, but here is the secret to teach the church to live as a united family that builds each other up and develops as a body, which is the symbol of the church of God.

5. What would happen between them if they were associated?

Note: The expression "a molding influence" explains what Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron is polished by iron, and man is polished in dealing with his neighbor."

7. Would it be necessary for them to be together all the time?

Note: In the times when this quote was written, there were no social networks, no highways, no automobiles as in our days. Travel was by horse-drawn wagon, so the statement: "they could work in places fifteen, twenty or even forty kilometers from each other, and yet close enough so that, if one faced a crisis in his work, he could call the other to his aid" is understood not in terms of distance but in terms of the readiness and willingness of one brother to help the other.

8. Why should the disciple-making couple meet often?

Note: The purpose of these pairs is not necessarily to do the work together. Each brother may have his list of people for whom he is working, but both partners should meet frequently to pray together, in addition to praying daily for each other and for their respective stakeholders.

MY DECISION

By understanding that God had in mind my own development in the Christian life by establishing in his church the work of two, in two,
I decide to help my prayer partner grow in faith.

AS ARMY IN ORDER

7

God has a dream for his church. The divine dream is that when Jesus returns, he will find his church organized as an army in order and reflecting his glory. The organization of the church two by two, and the establishment of small groups as the basis for any missionary project, will help to reach that objective. These two levels of organization are not a human invention. It is God's plan to prepare His church for the encounter with Jesus. It is much easier to take a group of twelve to action than to a church of 150 members, and the Disciple-making couples are the foundation of the small group.

1. What church does Jesus' desire to find at His second coming? Ephesians 5:25-27

Note: A glorious church, without wrinkle and without blemish, like a bride in white waiting for her bridegroom. An authentic church, without formalisms, not living only concerned with appearance, "not serving the eye, as those who desire to please men, but as servants of Christ, heartily doing the will of God; willingly serving as unto the Lord, and not unto men" (Ephesians 6:6 and 7). (Ephesians 6:6 and 7) That is the church of God's dreams! The people who are part of the Father's kingdom!

2. To what does God compare his church on this earth? Song of Solomon 6:10

Note: An army in order is an organized army. In small groups, organized in pairs that help each other and take care of each other. The success of the church will be the result of the success of each disciple, helped and cared for by each other.

inspired by a prayer and mission partner or participating in an action group.

3. What challenge does God present to His church for the final days of history?
Isaiah 60:1-3

Note: A church that shines in the world will be a church that reflects the character of God. The Servant of God writes: "Pray with Moses: 'Show me your glory.' What is this glory? -the character of God." (TM p. 508), and then states that "The last message of clemency to be given to the world is a ~~revelation~~ revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their life and character, they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them." (PVGGM p. 342) The life of the church, organized in disciple-making couples and small groups, will help to achieve this objective.

4. Read the following quotation and answer the questions below. Evangelism Page 592 "Why is it that *we have departed* from the method of labor that was instituted by the great Master? Why is it that the laborers in his cause today are not sent out *two by two*? "Oh," you say, "we have not laborers enough to occupy the field. Then occupy less territory. Send the workers to the places where the way seems open and teach the precious truth for this time. Can we not see wisdom in *two going together* to preach the Gospel?"

5. What did the church do with the church's method of work?

Note: If we human beings were humbler and more obeyed the divine instructions for the fulfillment of the mission, we would have been in our eternal home a long time ago. But we often live by inventing human plans and methods, and we do not achieve what we desire so much.

6. According to the inspired quote, how should the workers of his cause be sent in the fulfillment of the mission?

Note: This quote was written on April 18, 1892, practically at the beginning of the church. In those times the difference between full-time workers and volunteer workers was not marked. The church was in a hurry to evangelize the world, and many left their daily activities and dedicated themselves only to the preaching of the gospel. Therefore, this quote does not refer only to the Pastors, but to the whole church.

7. In what, in fact, is there wisdom, according to the Spirit of Prophecy?

Note: The fact that two go to preach the gospel together is a wise action. That is the inspired counsel that has its foundation in the Word of God.

God. No church today should exist with its members walking each one alone, but the Christian should go with the Christian, encouraging each other, and they should walk together toward the eternal home. "No one was sent out alone, but brother went with brother, friend with friend. Thus, they could help and encourage each other, consulting and praying together, each making up for the weakness of the other." DTG, 316.

8. What was the secret of growth in the early church? Acts 2: 42

Note: What teaching had they received from the Apostles? The same ones Jesus left them. That is why the members of the early church lived "in mutual fellowship! There can be no fellowship in a church of 200 members where most of them hardly know each other. It is necessary that each Christian be associated with another Christian.

MY DECISION

Having understood that the church of God on this earth must
march as an army in order,
I wish to promote the establishment of disciple-making couples.

A TWO BY TWO | 8 PERSONAL SERVICE

The danger in organizing prayer and mission couples and small groups is that of omitting the personal fulfillment of the mission.

The organization of the church into prayer couples does not have as its objective to make someone believe that he or she is liberated from his or her individual missionary responsibility, simply because he or she is associated with another Christian. The individual fulfillment of mission is an essential element for the spiritual growth of the Christian.

1. What did Jesus teach about mission fulfillment? Mark 13:34-36

Note: Jesus was emphatic in saying that the best way to prepare for His coming is to do the work He has entrusted "to each one". The mission is of the church as a body, but it must be fulfilled by each Christian. No one can hide behind a partner. There is a work that each one needs to fulfill individually. "To everyone who becomes a partaker of his grace, the Lord points out a work to do for others. Each one must take his place, saying: 'Here am I, send me. Upon the minister of the word, upon the missionary nurse, upon the Christian physician, upon the individual Christian, whether tradesman or farmer, professional or mechanic, upon all rests the responsibility.'" Christian Service Page 183

2. What is the trend in the church today? Christian Service Page 145

"Everywhere there is a tendency to *replace individual effort with the work of organizations*. Human wisdom tends to consolidate, to ~~create~~ to form large churches and institutions. Many leave to institutions and organizations the task of practicing beneficence; they exempt themselves from the contact with the individual.

With the world, and their hearts grow cold."

Note: No church should be satisfied just because it reaches its baptismal target with the participation of evangelists and Bible instructors. The responsibility is individual. "When the Lord of the house called His servants, He gave to each one his work. The whole family of God was included in the responsibility of using the Lord's goods. Every individual, from the lowliest and most obscure, to the greatest and most exalted, is a moral instrument endowed with capabilities whom God holds responsible." Christian Service Page 184

3. What kind of work did Christ entrust to His disciples? The Ministry of Healing Page 147 "Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul."

Note: The biblical and Spirit of Prophecy teaching cannot be ignored by disregarding the importance of the individual work of each church member. "Each one has been assigned a work, and no one can take his place. Each has a mission of marvelous importance, which he cannot neglect or ignore, for its fulfillment involves the welfare of some soul, and its neglect the misfortune of one for whom Christ died." Christian Service Page 153

4. Although Jesus wanted each disciple to fulfill an individual mission, How did he send them? Mark 6:7

Note: Jesus sent his disciples out two by two, but not so that one would be condemned in the other, but so that they would encourage and support each other. The personal work of each should be accomplished with the encouragement, prayers, and support of a companion. "When he sent out the twelve, and later the seventy, to proclaim the kingdom of God, he was teaching them their duty to impart to others what he had made known to them. In all His work He was preparing them for an individual labor, which would extend as their numbers increased, and eventually reach the uttermost parts of the earth." Christian Service Page 168

5. How should the mission be fulfilled? Christian Service p. 203 "Our work is clearly set forth in the Word of God. *The Christian is to unite with the Christian*, the church with the church, the human instrument is to cooperate with the divine, and every instrument is to be subordinated to the Holy Spirit, and all is to combine in giving to the world the good news of God's grace."

Note: The fulfillment of the mission is an individual work in which each Christian must unite with another Christian.

6. For what purpose was the church of Christ on earth organized? Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 21 "The church of Christ on earth *was organized for missionary purposes*, and the Lord desires to see the whole church idealizing means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth."

Note: The church is not a religious club where Christians meet once a week to worship. It is much more than that. It was organized for the purpose of each Christian strengthening his faith by proclaiming the gospel to others.

7. What is the emphasis in the fulfillment of this mission? The Review and Herald, December 12, 1893. SC Pg. 14 "To *each* has been assigned a work, and no one can take his place. *Each* has a mission of wonderful importance, which he cannot neglect or ignore."

Note: The emphasis is on the participation of each disciple.

8. What should be the life's work of every disciple? Christian Service. P. 14 "The *saving of souls* should be the life work of all who profess Christ".

Note: No one will have an apology when Jesus returns. We are responsible for the privilege of having known the gospel.

MY DECISION

Having understood that although I must work and pray with another
brother, my missionary responsibility is individual,
I place my life as an instrument in God's hands.
