

ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MISSION



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TRAINING UNIT 11 (42.52 MINUTES)

<i>2nd Commandment of sending: Preach IV:</i>
<i>The call to repentance into following Jesus Christ</i>
Summary part I: Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God
Summary part II: Proclaim «From Creation to Salvation»
The five areas of the Gospel
Summary Part III: Faith, repentance, baptism, receiving of the Holy Spirit
4 main steps of a true biblical new birth
<i>The call to repentance and into following Christ</i>
➔ How and why were they «called»?
Summary part IV: The call to repentance and into following Jesus
The call to repentance and into following Jesus includes three parts:
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Training Unit 11



P-R-E-A-C-H

2nd Commandment of sending: Preach IV: The call to repentance into following Jesus Christ



The call to repentance AND into following Jesus Christ

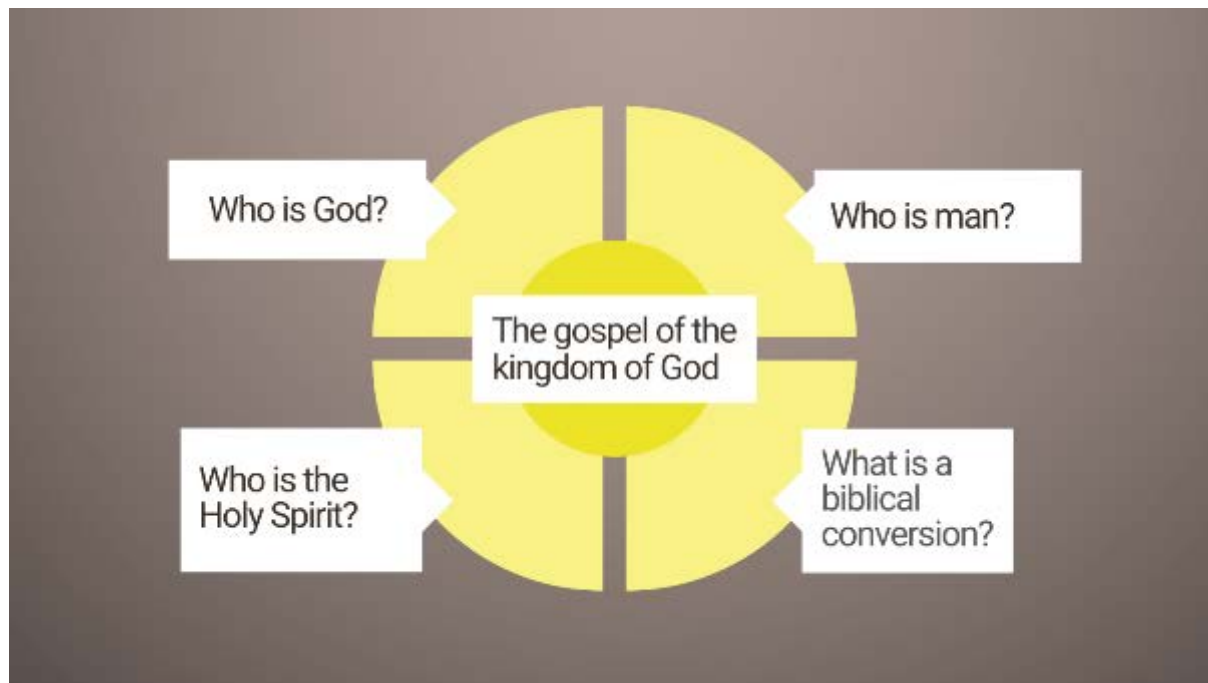
Within the ENTIRE ministry of sending the proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom of God is **CENTRAL and probably THE MOST IMPORTANT part**

- Because only a clear proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom of God creates **FAITH**.
- Because only the clear proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom of God produces **CLEAR decisions for Christ**.
- Because only a **CLEAR decision for Christ** builds a solid foundation to make a person a **HEALTHY disciple of Jesus**.

Summary part I: Proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God

The gospel of the Kingdom of God

- The **Gospel** means: Through his death on the cross, Jesus is the Savior of the world



- **Gospel of the Kingdom of God** means:
 - Jesus reigns as King
 - His royal dominion is accepted
 - His will is done
 - His commandments (new commandments of Jesus) are obeyed and lived out

➔ **Gospel of the Kingdom of God** therefore means to proclaim:

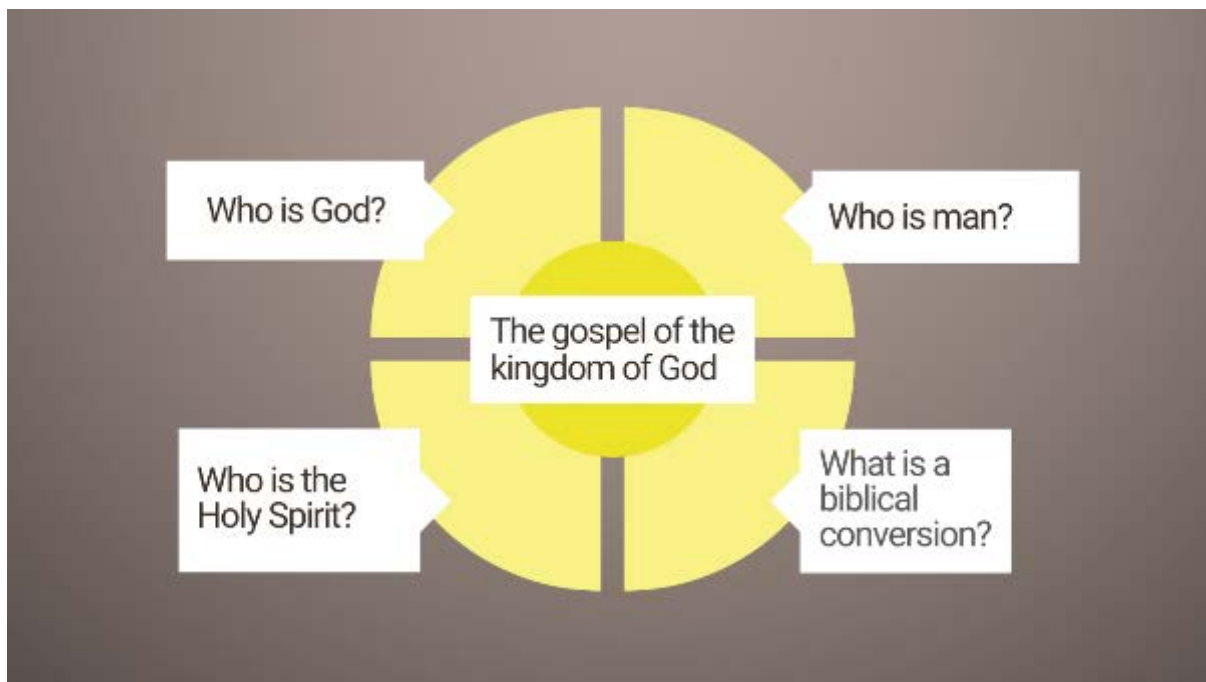
- Jesus as Savior and
- Jesus as Lord and King

Summary part II: Proclaim «From Creation to Salvation»

The core part of the proclamation of the gospel of the Kingdom of God is to introduce JESUS as Savior and Lord. To have true biblical new births, we must take four other important parts into account of how to **proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom of God**

- Who is God?
- Who are we humans?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does a biblical new birth mean?

The five areas of the Gospel



In order to PROCLAIM these five areas of the gospel of the Kingdom of God shortly and clearly, we tell seeking people the story of salvation throughout human history.
«From Creation to Salvation»

Summary Part III: Faith, repentance, baptism, receiving of the Holy Spirit

VERY PRACTICAL STEPS:

The process from unbelief to belief is the most central experience a person can ever go through in his/her life. In the New Testament, this experience is described in different ways

→ Different terms during and after the change of spiritual government

1. Turn to God, away from old nature
2. Go from the Kingdom of darkness and enter the Kingdom of His Son Jesus Christ
3. Made righteous
4. Renewal of the mind
5. Salvation
6. Become a new creature
7. Become a follower of Christ
8. Put on Christ, which means to receive Him entirely
9. Become children of God
10. Be born again (new birth)

4 main steps of a true biblical new birth



The call to repentance and into following Christ

→ The call for repentance and into following Christ belongs to a **true proclamation of the gospel of God's Kingdom**

→ The call into following Christ is also a call into discipleship (make disciples of all ethnic groups)

Disciples in the New Testament are the ones that:

- ⇒ **The twelve** who are constantly around Jesus
- ⇒ Furthermore, another circle of his followers: **the seventy-two**
- ⇒ And all who were honestly and thoroughly open to the teaching, life and ministry of Jesus
- ⇒ The book of Acts chapter 11 says that in Antiochia the disciples were called «Christians» for the very first time
- ⇒ In the book of Acts and later, all who believe in Jesus Christ are called **disciples**

When faith arose in people's hearts, they were called to express their faith following specific steps of faith:

How and why were they «called»?

This call is a very important truth. For this reason, this truth is expressed in several different pictures and words throughout the Bible:

- **Call** into following Christ: Mark 10: Come and follow me...
- **Invitation to a (wedding) celebration:** Wedding celebration in Matthew 22: Everything is ready; come to the wedding! Or in Luke 15: The story of the return of the prodigal son. There his father went out and asked the elder son to also participate in the celebration of the younger son's return.
- **Invitation for a guest banquet:** Luke 14: Come! Everything is ready – come in so my house would be filled!
- **DIRECT invitation to Jesus:** Matthew 11: Come to me, you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest!
- **Request to choose between life and death** in Deuteronomy 30: Heaven and earth are my witnesses that I gave you the choice between life and death, between blessing and curse. Choose life so you and your children will not perish.
- **Call to choose the right path** in Matthew 7: Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- **Receive JESUS into his/her house** in Luke 19: Zacchaeus come down fast, I need to be your guest in your house tonight.
- **Receive JESUS into the heart** in John 1: How many among them who received him, he gave them the right to be called children of God.
- **Call or demand to become born again** in John 3: You must be born again.
- **Call of a shepherd to his sheep** in John 10: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

How AND for what purpose were people «called», invited or demanded through the disciples and the Apostles in the book of Acts?

- Peter in Acts 2, at Pentecost, when he saw that people started to believe in Jesus, whom he had preached about: **REPENT** and be **BAPTIZED** for the forgiveness of your sins, so you will receive the **GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.
- Peter in Acts 3: So now **REPENT**.
- Philipp in Acts 8: When they **BELIEVED**, they were **BAPTIZED**
- Paul in Acts 9: **BAPTISM**
- Peter in Acts 10: **BAPTISM**
- Paul in Acts 13 in Pisidia: **Faith and the forgiveness of sins**
- Paul in Acts 16 in Philippi with Lydia: **Baptism**
- Paul in Acts 16 in Philippi with the prison officer: **Faith – Baptism**
- Paul in Acts 17 in Athens: But now he commands people everywhere to **repent**
- Paul in Acts 18 in Corinth with Krispus: **Faith and Baptism**
- Paul in Acts 19: Ephesus with the disciples of John the Baptist: **Baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit**
- Paul in Acts 26: Paul speaks in front of King Agrippa and the governor Festus: « ... but preached to those in ... the nations that they should **repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds**.

When people had faith, they were called/demanded to express this by taking specific steps of faith.

How – For what purpose were they called?

In the book of Acts, we clearly see that people were called to do four specific things

- A) Faith
- B) Repentance
- C) Baptism
- D) Receiving the Holy Spirit accompanied by an obvious sign

→ People were NOT called to a sinner's prayer, but when faith was created in Jesus as Savior through the proclamation of the Gospel, the following steps (repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit) followed directly after another or even at the same time. Again: When people in the New Testament had faith, they were called/demanded to express this by following specific steps of faith.

How / to what purpose did Jesus himself called?

Mark 1:12-14

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent and believe the good news!**"*

- Also, Jesus called to repent and to believe! It goes on:
- Namely the IRRESISTIBLE CALL to follow him:

Markus 1:16-20

*As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "**Come, follow me,**" Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." **At once they left their nets and followed him.** When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay **he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.***

Jesus doesn't only call to

- ➔ BELIEVE and to REPENT, **but also**
- ➔ into a **living community** with himself and
- ➔ into a **task, a mission or a ministry** that will fulfill our lives in a new way

Very similarly to Peter, Andrew, John and James, Jesus also calls Matthew:

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

- What a sovereignty and authority of Jesus is shown when he calls! It is absolutely clear that Matthew didn't have any doubts when he started following Jesus.
- Jesus is very convinced of what He is doing and says: "Come and follow me!" Matthew, or Levi (how Mark and Luke call him in their Gospels) stands up and follows Jesus.
- Because Jesus calls these men to follow him, these men were called disciples or followers of Christ – it's an old word for apprentice or student.
- JESUS doesn't tell them **why** they should follow Him, but instead **for what purpose**: and I will make you fishermen of men!
- Matthew 9,9 says how Matthew was called and in Matthew 10 we already read:

Matthew 10:1-3

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

- Jesus called people to follow him, to take them with him on his mission.

Mark 3:13-14

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve¹ that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach

- Jesus doesn't call only single people but an entire group!
- **Call into following Jesus** doesn't only mean a call to **faith, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit**, but also a call into a learning-, living- and ministry community with **Jesus and with other disciples**.

But the call to follow Jesus also means:

- A **completely challenging call** – a test case for a serious change to Jesus and true following of Jesus.

In Mark 10 this can be seen:

There we read about a young rich ruler who asks what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to follow the commandments. "Teacher," the young man declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. **"One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."** Here the problem of the young ruler is obvious. He couldn't get rid of his god – money. He walked away sadly because he knew it was too much for him.

In Luke 9:57-62, three situations are described where three men are called into following Jesus or wanted to follow Jesus out of their own motivation:

1. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, **"I will follow you** wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." **The price to pay was too high for this man**
2. He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." **The duty held the man back from following Jesus.**

3. Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God. **When Jesus calls to follow Him, there is no compromise: NO «YES, BUT».**

Eventually, Jesus also mentions the price we must pay if we really want to follow Him.

Mark 8:34

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

- ➔ Jesus calls us to deny ourselves to really follow him. He doesn't mean we are supposed to destroy our own «personality» but it means that we put his Kingdom as our very first priority and that our desires are secondary.
- ➔ Jesus calls us to carry his cross daily. Literally, this means to be ready to die for him every moment. Figuratively, it also means to willingly face and accept disadvantages, rejections and difficulties that evolve from following Jesus completely.

Summary part IV: The call to repentance and into following Jesus

- The call of Jesus is also a call to faith, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.
- **Call into following Jesus** doesn't only mean a call to **faith, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit**, but also a call into a learning, living and ministry community with **Jesus and with other disciples**.
- The call of Jesus is also a call into his Kingdom
 - A Kingdom where Jesus reigns as Lord and King
 - Where the royal dominion of Jesus is accepted
 - Where the will of Jesus is done
 - Where Jesus' (new) commandments are obeyed

The call to repentance and into following him definitely belongs to a clear proclamation of the gospel of God's Kingdom.

The call to repentance and into following Jesus includes three parts:

1. The call to 4 specific steps:
 - faith
 - repentance
 - baptism
 - obvious reception of the Holy Spirit
2. The call to a learning, living and ministry community with Jesus and with other disciples.
3. The call into a Kingdom where Jesus reigns as Lord and King

Part II: Application

- a) Someone from the group summarizes this teaching in his own words. If anything is missing, the others can add to the summary.

- b) Group discussion.

- c) Write down personal revelations from the teaching.

→ **Task:**

Write down how you want to practically do the 3-fold call to repentance and into following Jesus on a piece of paper. The call includes three parts:

A) The call to four specific steps:

- faith
- repentance
- baptism
- obvious reception of the Holy Spirit

B) The call into a learning, living and ministry community with **Jesus and with other disciples**

C) The call into a Kingdom where Jesus reigns as Lord and King

→ **Task:**

In a role play, call your partner to repentance and into following Jesus.

Part III: Outreach

Regular practice of **GOING** (2-3 times a week, 6-9 hours in total) to the unreached of the ethnic group God put on your heart. This should be accompanied by 2-3 prayer walks (4-6 hours) each week.

1. PRAYER – Prayer walks with the team/a partner ☐
2. GO – (2:2 or as a team) to the unreached God put on your heart ☐
3. PREACH – the gospel of the Kingdom of God ☐
4. SHARE – the way of salvation ☐
5. CALL to repentance and into FOLLOWING Jesus ☐
6. FAITH, repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit ☐

BEsent is a training - without practice it is almost useless!