

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

★
ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 10

THE ADVANCE



*The Church advances by engaging the culture
with the hope of the Gospel and living out the
Great Commission.*

MISSION BRIEF

FROM RECOGNITION TO ENGAGEMENT

SITUATION: We are turning a corner. Until now, much of our training has focused on recognizing the enemy's tactics—how lies take root, how attention is captured, how fear and temptation distort our thinking, and how unexamined beliefs shape behavior. That awareness matters, but awareness alone is not the mission. We have not been trained merely to study the opposition. We have been trained to take the field.

MISSION: Live out the Great Commission in the places where God has already positioned us. We will move toward people with the truth and love of Jesus, make disciples through intentional relationships, and help others learn to obey everything Christ commanded. Our mission field includes our homes, workplaces, schools, churches, neighborhoods, conversations, and daily routines.

COMMANDER'S INTENT: Shift from defense to faithful engagement. We will not spend all our energy reacting to darkness; we will carry the light. We will not merely identify lies; we will embody and speak truth. We will not treat people as opponents to defeat, but as people Christ loves and calls us to serve. We will enter every setting alert to spiritual opposition, attentive to the Holy Spirit, grounded in Scripture, and ready to act.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

1. **Abide in Christ.** Remain rooted in prayer, Scripture, and obedience so that our activity flows from fellowship with Jesus rather than anxiety, pride, or pressure.
2. **Recognize the battlefield.** Discern the beliefs, fears, distractions, wounds, and cultural messages shaping the people and places around us.
3. **Engage with grace and truth.** Listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions, serve sacrificially, and speak the Gospel clearly without hostility or compromise.
4. **Make disciples.** Invite people not merely to agree with Christian ideas, but to follow Jesus, learn His ways, obey His commands, and become disciple-makers themselves.
5. **Multiply the mission.** Equip others to recognize lies, replace them with Scripture, live transformed lives, and carry the Gospel into their own relationships and communities.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: People are not the enemy. We will refuse contempt, fear, manipulation, and isolation. We will listen before assuming, pray before reacting, serve before seeking influence, and speak with courage and gentleness. We will not compromise nor weaponize truth to win arguments. Our posture will reflect the One who sent us.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

- **Pray:** Ask God to reveal where He is already working and whom He is calling us to engage.
- **Observe:** Pay attention to the needs, questions, influences, and opportunities present in everyday life.
- **Connect:** Build genuine relationships marked by consistency, compassion, and trust.
- **Share:** Explain the hope of the Gospel and testify to what Jesus is doing in us.
- **Invite:** Call people to take a clear next step toward following Christ.
- **Equip:** Walk with them in Scripture, prayer, obedience, community, and mission.
- **Send:** Help growing disciples carry the same hope to someone else.

IMMEDIATE ORDERS: Identify one person, one place, and one act of obedience. Pray for that person by name. Enter that place with spiritual awareness. Take one concrete step—begin a conversation, offer practical help, share your testimony, explain the Gospel, extend an invitation, or follow up with someone God has already placed in your path. Do not wait for ideal conditions. Faithfulness begins with the next clear step.

MEASURES OF FAITHFULNESS: We will not define victory by winning arguments, controlling outcomes, or being admired. We will look for obedience to Jesus, courage under pressure, love for people, clarity in sharing the Gospel, consistency in making disciples, transformed lives, and disciples who begin discipling others. The results belong to God; faithful engagement belongs to us.

END STATE: A people whose minds are renewed, whose lives are transformed, and whose daily presence advances the mission of Jesus—disciples making disciples, wherever God sends them.

MISSION CHARGE: Know the enemy's tactics, but do not become preoccupied with them. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Take your place. Engage the mission field in front of you. Go with courage, serve with humility, speak with grace and truth, and make disciples who will do the same.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Allow God's truth to renew the way you think so that it transforms the way you live.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

DAY 1 | REMEMBER: *What Did We Learn?*

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

The Great Commission was not given only to pastors, missionaries, or evangelists. In Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus spoke to His disciples with all authority and sent them to make disciples of all nations.

That command was given to disciples—and that includes every person who belongs to Christ. Because Jesus has all authority and promises to remain with His people, we do not go in our own strength. If you know Christ, you have been sent by Christ to help others know Him, follow Him, and obey His teaching.

Evangelism, then, is not a spiritual assignment reserved for a few; it is part of the shared calling of every disciple. The Great Commission moves us beyond simply knowing the truth. We are called to go, make disciples, baptize, teach obedience to Jesus, and trust His presence as we carry the Gospel into the relationships and places He has already given us.

REFOCUS

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The mission is not for a few; it's for every believer.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

What would obedience to the Great Commission look like for me this week?

- **Where am I already positioned to make disciples?**
Think about your family, workplace, neighborhood, friendships, and everyday routines.
- **Who in my life may already be open to a spiritual conversation?**
Who has asked questions, shared a struggle, or shown interest in faith?
- **What keeps me from engaging?**
Fear? Busyness? Feeling unqualified? Assuming someone else will do it?
- **Am I helping people simply know about Jesus—or actually follow and obey Him?**
The Great Commission is more than making converts. It is making disciples.

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Pray. Notice. Engage. Follow through.

- Pray for one person by name.
- Notice opportunities God may already be placing in front of you.
- Engage in one intentional spiritual conversation.
- Follow through with a next step—share Scripture, invite them to church or group, offer to pray with them, or continue the conversation.

Before the day ends, identify one person God has already placed in your path and take one intentional step toward helping them know and follow Jesus.

You don't have to go somewhere else to live on mission. Start with the people God has already put around you.

RETURN

God, open my eyes to the people you've already placed in my life. Remind me that they need the same grace you've extended to me and make me aware of the opportunities I have to share it. Amen.

DAY 2 | EXAMINE: *What Does This Reveal?*

WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL?

EXAMINE >>>>

In 2 Corinthians 5:17–21, Paul reminds us that the Gospel does more than improve our behavior—it makes us new. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation: the old has passed away, and a new life has begun.

This new life begins with God. Through Christ, He reconciled us to Himself, removing the barrier created by sin and restoring the relationship we could not repair on our own. Reconciliation is not something we achieve; it is a gift of grace we receive.

But God’s work does not stop with us. The same people He reconciles are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. We become Christ’s representatives, carrying the message that God is drawing people back to Himself through Jesus and no longer counting their sins against them.

Paul describes believers as Christ’s ambassadors. An ambassador represents the authority, character, and message of the one who sends them. God makes His appeal through us, calling people to be reconciled to Him. Our words matter, but so does the compassion, integrity, and humility with which we deliver them.

At the center of this message is the great exchange: Christ, who knew no sin, took our sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Because we have been made new and reconciled, we now enter everyday relationships with a clear purpose—to represent Jesus faithfully, share His message of reconciliation, and invite others to receive the new life He offers.

REFOCUS >>>>

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Jesus rarely began with a sermon. He began with people.

RESPOND >>>

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

How can I make God's appeal visible in one relationship this week?

- **Do the people around me see me as someone who represents Jesus well?**
Does my attitude, integrity, compassion, and humility reinforce the message I say I believe?
- **Am I more focused on winning arguments or helping people move toward reconciliation with God?**
An ambassador carries the message of the King, not his own agenda.
- **Who in my life may be far from God but already close to me?**
Where has God already given me relational access?
- **What might be keeping me from representing Christ clearly?**
Fear? Pride? Impatience? Inconsistency? Indifference?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE

Listen. Love. Represent. Invite.

- Listen before you speak. Pay attention to the person, not just the opportunity.
- Love in a way that reflects the character of Christ.
- Represent Jesus faithfully in both your words and your conduct.
- Invite the person one step closer—to a conversation, prayer, Scripture, church, or a clearer understanding of the Gospel.

Answer this question:

"If God were making His appeal through me in this relationship, what would that look like today?"

RETURN >>>

Jesus, remind me that I am your ambassador everywhere I go, and in every relationship I have. May I grow closer to you, become more like you, and represent you well in all things. Amen.

DAY 3 | PRACTICE: *What Needs To Change?*

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE?

PRACTICE

Zacchaeus was surrounded by a crowd, carrying a reputation, and almost certainly used to being judged before anyone ever really knew him. But Jesus saw more than a tax collector. He saw a man.

Jesus stopped. He looked up. He called Zacchaeus by name. And before Zacchaeus had cleaned up his life or proven anything, Jesus invited Himself into his world. That is an important lesson for us.

Evangelism does not begin with having the perfect speech. It begins with paying attention to people. Listen long enough to understand the story behind the words. Notice what others overlook. Ask questions that communicate genuine interest. Refuse to reduce someone to their reputation, their behavior, or the issue you disagree about.

People don't need another person trying to win an argument. They need someone willing to see them, hear them, and understand what may be happening beneath the surface.

Jesus' willingness to enter Zacchaeus' life created space for something deeper to happen. Zacchaeus began talking about repentance, restitution, and change. Jesus did not have to force the conversation. His presence opened the door.

The goal is not merely to get someone into a Gospel conversation. The goal is to care enough about the person that we recognize when God has already opened one.

REFOCUS

Luke 19:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Great evangelists are first great listeners.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **Who did I genuinely notice today?**
Did I slow down long enough to see the person instead of just the situation?
- **Did I listen to understand, or was I mainly waiting for my turn to speak?**
What did I learn because I listened?
- **What did the conversation reveal beneath the surface?**
Was there a fear, burden, disappointment, question, or spiritual hunger underneath what was said?
- **Did my response communicate care or correction first?**
Would that person describe me as interested in them—or simply interested in making my point?
- **Where might God have opened a door for a deeper conversation?**
Did I recognize it? Did I ignore it? Is there a next step?

DAILY CHALLENGE:

Don't look for someone to preach to. Look for someone to pay attention to.

Notice. Ask. Listen. Discern. Invite.

- **Notice** one person you might ordinarily pass by.
- **Ask** a question that cannot be answered with yes or no.
- **Listen** without interrupting, fixing, or immediately telling your own story.
- **Discern** what may be happening beneath the words. Ask yourself, *"What does this person really seem to be carrying?"*
- **Invite** only when the door is open. That may mean offering prayer, sharing something God has taught you, asking a spiritual question, or simply saying, *"Would you like to talk about that some more?"*

RETURN

Father, teach me to truly notice others. May I be present in each conversation, listen and discern the truth beneath the words, and invite others to know who you truly are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 4 | *How does this prepare me to engage others?*

HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME?

ENGAGE >>>>>

RECONNECT >>>>>

Paul tells believers to be prayerful, watchful, wise in the way they engage outsiders, and gracious in their speech. That means evangelism is not about forcing every conversation into a religious script. It is about being alert enough to recognize where a conversation can naturally go.

The starting point may be work, family, disappointment, culture, fear, or hope. The subject changes. The destination does not.

The starting point changes. The destination never does.

Our goal is to speak with enough wisdom and grace that ordinary conversations can become opportunities to point people toward Jesus.

REFOCUS >>>>>

Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV) ² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Every conversation can point to Christ.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

Who should I continue the conversation with?

- **Was I spiritually alert in my conversations today?**
Did I recognize any opening I might normally have missed?
- **Was my speech gracious?**
Did the way I spoke make deeper conversation more likely—or less likely?
- **Did I force anything?**
Was I trying to steer the conversation, or did I allow it to develop naturally?
- **What everyday subject could have become a bridge to something spiritual?**
Work? Family? Anxiety? Purpose? Forgiveness? Hope?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Find the bridge.

In one conversation today, listen for a natural connection between what the person is already talking about and a deeper spiritual issue.

Ask yourself:

“What does this conversation reveal about what they value, fear, hope for, or need?”

Then ask one question that moves the conversation one step deeper.

For example:

- “Why do you think that matters so much to you?”
- “Has that changed the way you see life?”
- “What gives you hope in that?”
- “Have you ever thought about that spiritually?”

RETURN

Father, teach me to recognize the bridges you’ve already built. May I love others the way that you do, listen to understand, and speak with grace, clarity and restraint. Amen.

*The starting point changes. The destination
never does.*

DAY 5 | MULTIPLY: *Who Else Needs This?*

WHO ELSE NEED THIS?

MULTIPLY >>>

1 Peter 3:15 reminds us to be ready to give an answer for the hope we have, and to do it with gentleness and respect. That means the hope God has given us was never meant to stop with us. Someone around you needs to hear what God has done in your life.

They may not be ready for a sermon. They may not be ready to agree with you. They may simply need someone who can speak clearly, love faithfully, and point them toward Christ without trying to force the outcome.

You are not responsible for changing them. You are responsible for being faithful.

That may mean answering one honest question. It may mean sharing part of your story. It may mean praying with someone, offering Scripture, or simply being present long enough for trust to grow.

The person God brings to mind may not respond immediately. That doesn't mean the moment was wasted. Sometimes you plant. Sometimes you water. God gives the growth.

So, ask yourself: *Who else needs the hope God has given me?*

Then take one faithful step.

Love faithfully. Share clearly. Pray consistently. Trust God completely.

REFOCUS >>>

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

Faithfulness is our assignment.

Transformation belongs to God.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Honestly assess your conversations from this week;

- Was I prepared to explain the hope I have in Christ?
- Did I speak with gentleness and respect?
- Was I trying to be faithful—or trying to control the outcome?
- Did fear of rejection keep me from speaking when I had an opportunity?
- Am I willing to trust God with the response, even if I do not see immediate fruit?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Release the outcome.

Think of one person you care about spiritually.

Write their name down, then complete these two statements:

- **My responsibility is:**
What can I faithfully do?
- **God's responsibility is:**
What do I need to stop trying to control?

Then pray specifically for that person and take one faithful step today.

RETURN

Father, lead me to prepare well. May I cross the bridges you've already built, share with all confidence in who you are, and release the results to you and your timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Your job is not to produce the harvest.
Your job is to be faithful in the field.*

Practical Training: Conversation Principle

Rather than trying to get to the gospel quickly, focus on understanding the person first.

A simple progression is:

- 1  Ask good questions.
- 2  Listen carefully.
- 3  Learn their story.
- 4  Affirm what you can.
- 5  Share how Christ has changed your life.
- 6  Invite them to consider what Jesus teaches.

