(42) Live, Give, **GROW**, Go **Take the Challenge (Part 1)**

**NT Challenge**

* Testimonies; Huge form of Outreach and Growth…
* I’m starting to get lots of comments and emails…

**COTC**

* **Family members** who typically do not read their Bibles regularly or attend church have been accepting the challenge and are excited about it. As a result, communication with families is increasing dramatically – topics being discussed that have never been discussed before…
* **Life Group** attendees are either taking the challenge as a group, or pairing together…
* **People who have never truly read the Bible** before are accepting the Challenge, and they are inviting their friends…
* **Non-Christian people are saying “Yes” to the Challenge that have happily surprised those who have obeyed the Spirit’s leading in asking…**

**LCC**

* One lady bought 10 Bibles to share with two friends; one of them is making the Bibles **available in her hair salon, asking people to take the challenge!**
* 16 working men took the challenge and texted daily – **two unbelievers in the group converted**.
* **One family gathered together for the daily reading and their eleven year old daughter willing and anxiously waiting to take notes.**
* **An LCC Senior is sharing the Challenge with two of her neighbors within her apartment complex.**
* **One of our members has posted it on her FACEBOOK and getting a significant portion of her friends from all over the country sharing and dialoguing every day on the readings in the WORD.**

**WE’RE DOING THIS TOGETHER – YOU’RE NOT ALONE!**

* + **It’s Easier than you think…Many people are saying “Yes”**
  + **People are Hungry for Answers; For Comfort; For Hope**
  + **Send me your encouraging experiences** [**grahamshire@gmail.com**](mailto:grahamshire@gmail.com)

**Things To Enhance Our Unity in Knowing Him and Making Him Known in 2018:**

**1. Daily Leaders Post on Website, Facebook, & Email**

**2. Every Sunday there will be opportunity for someone to briefly share something special in their interactions with their partners, or what stood out to them in the last week’s readings…**

**3. Sermons Series “GO” & “Sent” Will Help Us as we continue to engage with our culture**

**Matthew 10**

* Jesus is Sending Out and Instructing Those Who Wanted to Be His Disciples…
* This is a fantastic chapter to meditate on in what He is expecting from His followers…

**1. Wise and Innocent**

**Matthew 10:16**

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

* **“Sheep with Wolves”**
  + There’s risk involved…
  + Hurt; Rejection; Isolation (**10:22)**  “You will be hated because of My name…”
* **“Wise as Serpents”**
  + You have an Agenda – You Have a Purpose – And You are Strategic About It
  + Serpent is a shrewd animal; waiting, perceiving, opportunity and danger…
    - Know What you’re dealing with…
    - Know When is and When isn’t an opportune time…
* **“Innocent as Doves”**
  + Unlike the world, this agenda is for their good, not yours…the goal is to Save
  + Doves are harmless, calm, sweet dispositional creatures…represents Peace

**2. The Spirit Will Help You**

**Matthew 10:19-20**

**19**When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **20**For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

* **The Spirit Teaches and Brings to Remembrance What You’ve Learned**

* **John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
  + **Don’t expect no effort; and God’s blessing**

**Matthew 25:29** To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

**3. No Effort is Wasted**

**Matthew 10:42**

**42**And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

* **Nothing you invest in the Kingdom will go to waste…Nothing!**
  + So look for opportunities – daily, hourly, -- so much to sow into the field God has given us…
* **Ephesians 5:15-16** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
* **John 9:4** We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.