

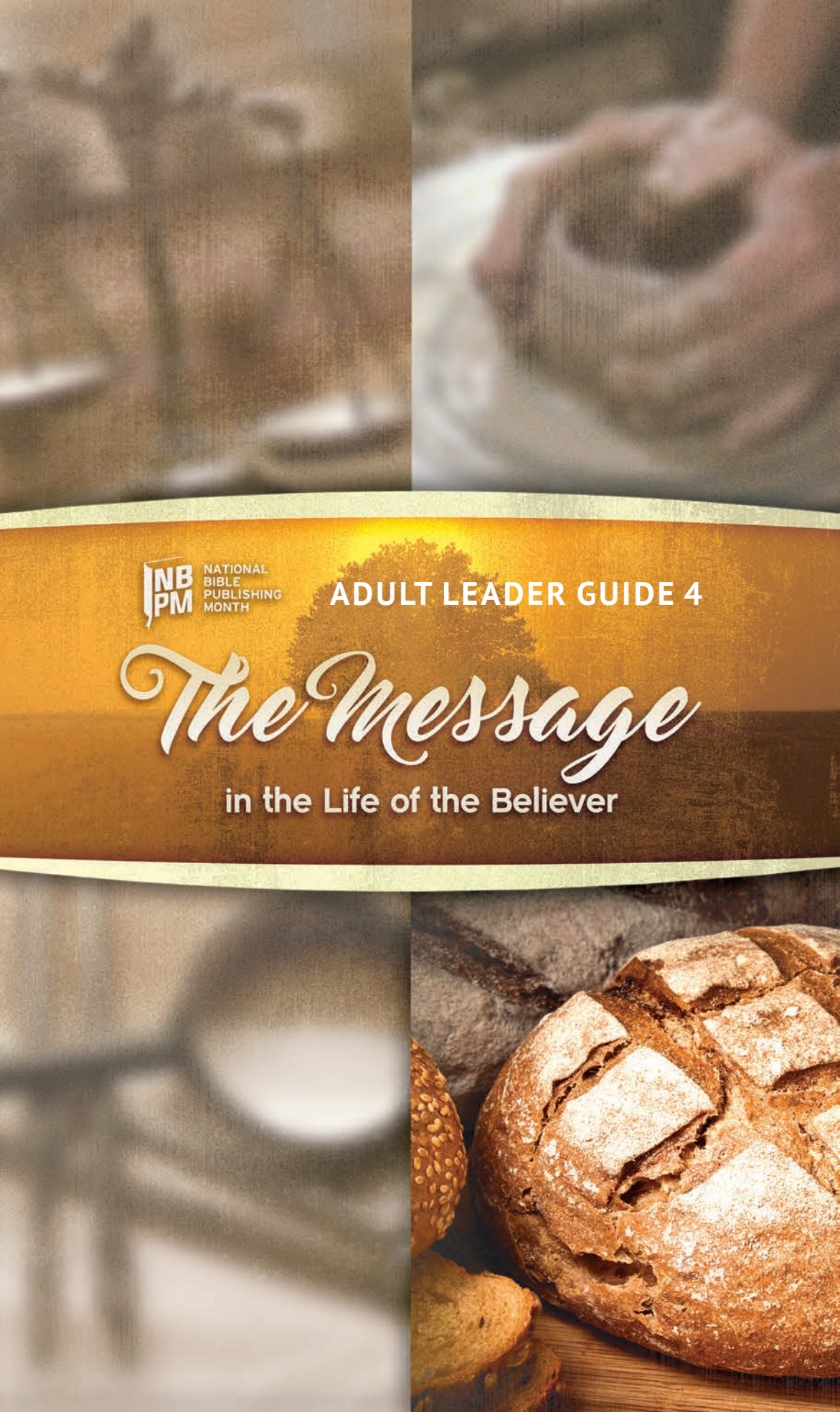
TEACHER NOTES:

In order for a church to stand on its own and duplicate itself, the people must have the Scriptures. Accepting Christ as our Savior enables us to live after we die (differently than we would have in our natural born condition). This is made possible by hearing and believing the message of the Gospel. Applying the rest of the Scriptures is how we learn to live before we die. We can also learn of a life in which we can earn crowns for serving in His name and for His honor and glory. The action of casting our crowns back at Jesus’ feet in heaven is how we will be able to show Him our gratitude for His great work on the cross.

**Conclusion:** Satan has had many strongholds around the globe. There is much opposition to the Gospel moving forward. We must remember that he is NO match for our Lord. All of the chains and the grip he can have on an individual and a people group can be overcome by the Gospel of Christ. **Paul said he knew what it was like to be physically bound, but that the Word of God could not be bound (II Tim. 2:9).** *“Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.”* It will produce fruit (Is. 55:11). It will pierce the hardest of hearts (Heb. 4:12). It will bring Light to the darkest of lands (Ps. 119:130). It will be a message of hope to the hopeless (Rom. 15:4). It is a source of direction to the lost (Ps. 119:105). Will you allow God to use you to provide this opportunity to others around the world? You may be the link to change their lives for all of eternity.



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio







## INTRODUCTION

The value of the Word of God is inexpressible. God tells us the premium He places on it in Psalm 138:2. He even magnified it above all His name! Shouldn't we as His children place the same value on it enough to take it to the nations? God clearly tells us to go and preach the Gospel to **ALL** people **everywhere**.

**For the Believer:** Scripture emphasizes the value that the written Word of God brings to the life of the believer. We must take the Gospel message to people everywhere for them to be born into the family of God and begin their relationship God desires to have with them. Their acceptance of that message will change their eternal destination. Unfortunately, that is often where we stop. Just as we must take them the Gospel message and what Jesus did for them (the **PLAN** of salvation), we must also take them the rest of the message so they can learn about what He is *still* doing for them (the **PERSON** of salvation) and the life that is made available to them. This is clearly the intention of our Lord when He said, *“teaching them to observe **ALL** things...”* (emphasis added).

**For the Messenger:** Soul-winning is only the first step of the process. To be complete, the Scriptures are a *requirement*. The value that the written Word of God brings to the life of a person after they accept Christ at salvation is of such importance that three separate authors of the Bible made a point to talk about it in the New Testament alone. Interestingly, toward the end of these men's lives, as they were giving what was likely their farewell charge to different people, they emphasized the necessity for the written Word of God in people's lives!

This lesson is going to look at what these men wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God and what the written Word of God would bring to the life of a believer. We have to continue to send *“the **MESSENGER**.”* We need to be sending more than ever before in these last days. To help them to be most effective and establish indigenous, self-supporting, self-governing, and self-duplicating churches, we must send them with *“the **MESSAGE**,”* the manual, which will instruct them how to achieve that end.

**For the Sender:** There is no doubt that God uses people. We are to send *messengers*. Jesus told us to pray that God would send more laborers (Mt. 9:38). These messengers carry with them the message of the Gospel that produces salvation to all who believe it. It is very clear in Scripture that once a person accepts Christ they are to grow as a Christian. Without this growth,

there will be very limited fruit that will remain (Jn. 15:16). This comes through having the printed Word of God (I Pt. 2:2).

**The New Testament church of today must send not only the messenger with the Gospel, but also send them with the Scriptures to leave in the hands of the believers so they can continue to grow when the messenger leaves.** Paul preached the Gospel message in cities and people believed and received it. Evidence that God wanted them to have more is the fact that He inspired Paul to write most the New Testament to these believers in addition to what they had received in his preaching to them.

**Scripture is Necessary for Doctrine:** As the epistles were written by Paul, they were delivered with instructions to copy and pass on to other churches that needed them also (Col. 4:16). Even at the end of Paul's life, he left some final instructions to a young pastor, Timothy, concerning the value the written Word would bring to his life. He said it was how to learn of the life that God would approve of (II Tim. 2:15). This life would also allow him to stand before God at the judgment and not be ashamed for wasted opportunities of service. He also told him the Word was the source of true wisdom (II Tim. 3:15). All Scripture has value and is profitable to the believer (II Tim. 3:16). Being in it and applying it produces spiritual maturity (II Tim. 3:17). Paul told Titus the same thing (Titus 1:9). He also told him that by the knowledge of the Word, a believer could have security that they were following the right path when false teachers were saying differently (Titus 1:10-14).

**Scripture is Necessary for Growth:** Peter tells the believer that the Scriptures are not only eternal, but also the source of true life (I Pt. 1:23). He explains they are the source of nourishment for spiritual growth (I Pt. 2:2; 5:2). In his second epistle, he says that the written Word is the source of producing the divine nature to overcome the world in the life of a believer (II Pt. 1:15). He says that the written Word was more reliable than just a spoken message passed down from generation to generation (II Pt. 1:19). That more *“sure”* Word was produced by the work of the Holy Ghost of God (2 Pt. 1:20, 21), not through the works of men.

**The Word of God is essential in the life of a believer.** It reveals God to us, as well as telling us how to reflect Him in our lives. A believer cannot be all that God desires for him to be without God's love letter full of instruction. As North American believers, we enjoy our walk with God and the peace, joy, and changed life that He makes possible. He desires to do the same in the lives of people from every kindred, every nation, every tongue, and every people group (Rev. 5:9). Jesus shed the same amount of blood to make that possible for them as He did for us. Do you think that all the nations would enjoy the life that He has made possible for *you*? We have been commanded to introduce Him to them. We must go and tell them, but we must also provide

this *“message”* of instruction so that they can introduce their generations to come to the real God as well.

The Written Word and the New Testament Church

I. Paul instructed them to take what they had received, [copy](#) it, and pass it on to the others who needed it also (Col. 4:16).

- II. Paul's instructions about the Written Word in the life of a believer
- A. His instructions to young Pastor Timothy
    1. Study It to learn what kind of life God [approves](#) of (II Tim. 2:15).
    2. Study It to learn how to live in such a way to not be [ashamed](#) at the judgment (II Tim. 2:15).
    3. It is the source of [true](#) wisdom (II Tim. 3:15). Truth will prevail over the false teachers.
    4. All of It has value and is [profitable](#) to the life of the believer (II Tim. 3:16).
    5. Studying It is the key to obtaining spiritual [maturity](#) (II Tim. 3:17).
  - B. His instructions to Titus
    1. It produces spiritual maturity in the life of a believer (Titus 1:9).
    2. It provides [security](#) for the believer. We can be confident in our beliefs in spite of opposition (Titus 1:10-14).

- III. Peter's instructions about the Written Word in the life of a believer
- A. It is the source of true [life](#) (I Pt. 1:23).
  - B. It will last forever (I Pt. 1:25).
  - C. It will tell us how to have a [divine](#) nature and overcome the world (II Pt. 1:4).
  - D. It will be there for their instruction even after Peter (the messenger) is gone (II Pt. 1:15).
  - E. It is a more reliable message than just a spoken message to pass on to others (II Pt. 1:19).
  - F. It is the product of the Holy Ghost of God, not corrupt men (II Pt. 1:20-21).

- IV. John's instructions about the Written Word in the life of a believer
- A. It produces true [joy](#) (I John 1:4).
  - B. It shows us how to have [victory](#) over sin (I John 2:1).
  - C. It is what produces a matured love that truly impacts others (I John 2:5).
  - D. A life obedient to It is the key to answered prayers (I John 3:22).
  - E. Through It we can gain [assurance](#) of our salvation (I John 5:13).
  - F. It is the instruction manual to tell us the proper way we should live (in Truth) (II John 4).