A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

Serving Others and Sharing Christ

Living It Out · Book 8



Careful witness and faithful discipleship

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

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A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

Introduction

The people around us need more than a religious sales pitch. They need to hear the truth about Christ and see the care His people are called to show. I want to take both responsibilities seriously. Service should express love, and our words should help people understand the Savior to whom we are pointing.

Faithful witness is not a sales pitch. It is loving people enough to meet real needs and tell them the truth about Jesus. Over years of leading Bible studies, volunteering at church camp and helping lead mission trips to Baja, I have seen God use ordinary believers who simply show up. I wrote this book for Christians who want to serve and share the gospel without pressure or gimmicks.

1 Care that moves toward a need

Luke 5:17-26 (SLB) describes men bringing a paralyzed man to Jesus. When they cannot get through the crowd, they lower him through the roof. The account centers on Jesus' authority to forgive sins and His power to heal. Their determined effort also gives us a practical example of care that acts.

I can notice a need without making myself the person's rescuer. Christ is the Savior. My responsibility may be to listen, offer practical help, explain what I believe, or make a way for someone to hear the gospel. I should not promise to do what only the Lord can do.

Friendships often open the door to honest talk. They do not make me the owner of the other person's answer. Kindness should remain kindness even when someone is not ready to discuss faith. No one should find out later that my care depended on their becoming a success story for me.

The practical opportunities are often close to home. Someone may need a ride, a meal, help with a responsibility, or a person who will listen without rushing. Serving that need is worthwhile. I want my life to make room for people rather than always finding a reason that somebody else should respond.

2 Words that make the message clear

> *Walk in wisdom toward those outside, redeeming the time.*
> **Colossians 4:5 (SLB)**

> ***Let** your word **be** always in grace, seasoned with salt, to know how you must answer each one.*
> **Colossians 4:6 (SLB)**

Colossians 4:2-6 (SLB) brings prayer, opportunity, wise conduct, and gracious speech together. Paul asks that God "may open to us a door for the word," and that he may "make it manifest, as I must speak." That is a good place to begin when I feel unsure about sharing my faith. I can ask God for an opportunity and prepare to speak plainly.

I do not need to pretend I know every answer. If someone raises a question I cannot answer, I can say so and return to it after careful study. An invented

answer may win a moment and damage trust later. Honesty is part of a faithful witness.

I also need to explain the message itself. Jesus is not just a tip for making a comfortable life a little better. We need forgiveness and reconciliation with God. The gospel points us to who Christ is, what He has done, and the call to believe in Him. My testimony should serve that message rather than replace it.

Grace should shape the conversation. It is possible to be clear without being harsh and patient without being vague. I can listen to what the person is actually asking instead of answering the argument I expected to hear. The aim is understanding, not simply getting through a prepared speech.

As a boy in Victorville, I mowed the lawn for Pastor Jimmy Carter, who lived down our street. He took me to church and led me to Christ. Years later, wanting plain, accurate words drove me to translate the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), so readers could see what Scripture actually says. People cannot trust a message they cannot understand.

3 Faithfulness when people do not respond

Mark 6:1-6 (SLB) records Jesus teaching in His hometown and encountering unbelief. The account warns me against assuming that familiarity will always make a witness easy. People who know our past may respond differently from people who meet us in a church setting.

I should not compare my imperfect life with Jesus as though our circumstances are identical. He is sinless. I may need to acknowledge ways my own conduct has made a conversation harder. A truthful apology and a consistent life can be necessary parts of my witness to people who know me well.

Mark 6:7-13 (SLB) then describes Jesus sending the Twelve with instructions for their mission. I need to read those instructions in their setting, not turn every travel detail into a rule for all ministry. The mission is carried out under His authority, and being turned away does not give the disciples license to look down on people.

Love and wisdom should guide how long and how hard I keep trying. I can remain available, pray, and look for an appropriate opportunity without pressuring someone through repeated unwanted arguments. I am accountable for faithfulness. I cannot force another person's belief. Leaving that part with God helps me keep serving without treating people as projects.

I have led Bible study groups, served as a lay pastor and preached, and there have been plenty of times I saw no response. I drifted from God more than once myself before the truth took deep root in me. We are responsible for delivering the message faithfully, not for forcing the outcome. God often works below the surface long after we think nothing happened (1 Corinthians 3:7).

4 Making disciples who continue to grow

> *Therefore, having gone, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
> **Matthew 28:19 (SLB)**

> *teaching them to observe all things, as many as I commanded you; and look, I am with you all the days, until the consummation of the age.*
> **Matthew 28:20 (SLB)**

> *For you were called to freedom, brothers; only **do** not **use** the freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be slaves to one another.*
> **Galatians 5:13 (SLB)**

Matthew 28:18-20 (SLB) gives the commission to make disciples, baptize, and teach obedience to what Jesus commanded. The job is bigger than getting someone to say a quick yes to Jesus. People need help learning to follow Him through the circumstances of ordinary life.

That help can include reading Scripture together, answering questions carefully, encouraging involvement in a church, and showing what repentance looks like when I fail. I should not make a new believer dependent on my personal authority. The direction is toward Christ and a growing understanding of His Word.

Galatians 5:13 (SLB) calls believers to "through love be slaves to one another." Mission therefore includes the way we treat fellow believers as well as the

people we hope to reach. A church that is harsh or careless with its own people can undercut the very message it says it wants to share.

I want to stay available after the first conversation, to celebrate growth, help with a difficulty, and encourage the person to serve others in turn. We keep pointing one another toward the Lord who calls us, teaches us, and remains with His people.

After I started recovery in May 2020 and went through a 12-step program, I saw how much people need structured, Scripture-based help to keep growing past the first steps. That led me to write New Beginnings, a Christ-centered 12-step course. Making disciples does not stop at a decision. It means walking beside people until they can help someone else (2 Timothy 2:2).

Serving Others and Sharing Christ

✦ ✦ ✦

People need more than a religious sales pitch. This book looks at caring for real needs, sharing the message clearly, staying faithful when people do not respond, and making disciples who keep growing.

Walk in wisdom toward those outside, redeeming the time.

Colossians 4:5 (SLB)

Book 8 of 10 in the collection Living It Out

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