

PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY
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THE NEW TESTAMENT MODEL FOR THE CHURCH
Session One

WELCOME

- ❖ Introduce yourselves to each other and get better acquainted by briefly completing the following:
 1. My name is . . .
 2. One of the happiest childhood memories I have of my family is . . .

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some praise songs together as a group concluding with songs of love to Jesus such as “I Love You, Lord,” “My Jesus, I Love Thee,” etc.
- ❖ For those who wish to pray, conclude the worship time with sentence prayers: “I love You, Jesus, because”

**A relationship with Jesus Christ
leads to a relationship with His body, the church.**

WORD

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four:**

Read Acts 2:41-47 and answer the following questions:

1. The results of Peter’s preaching: “_____ souls were _____ to them.” (verse 41)
2. These new Christians put four things in place in their lives: (verse 42)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
3. They worshipped God in two arenas. (verse 46)
 - a. “Continuing daily with one accord in the _____ and
 - b. breaking bread from _____
4. The focus of their big gatherings at the temple and their small gatherings in homes was (first two words of verse 47)

5. The results: (verse 47, second part)
“The Lord _____ to the church _____ those who

were being _____

- ❖ Divide the following texts among the individuals in your group to read, then share what you learn about the early church. Where did the church meet? What did they do? How did they worship? How did they interact with each other? Write down brief notes beside each text.

Acts 5:42

Romans 15:5, 6

Romans 16:5

1 Corinthians 14:26

1 Corinthians 16:19

Galatians 6:2

Ephesians 4:2,32;

Ephesians 5:19,21

Colossians 3:16

Colossians 4:15

- ❖ **Return to the large group** and share what you have learned about the New Testament Church. Compare the early church with the church of today. What similarities are there?

What dissimilarities?

Church History in a Nutshell

- ❖ Take turns reading the following paragraphs:
 1. The New Testament church put equal emphasis on large gatherings and small groups. It functioned as a loving and growing family.
 2. Constantine (early 300's) embraced Christianity, but changed the beliefs and the form of the church.
 3. The medieval church got away from:
 - a. True Biblical teachings
 - b. The New Testament model of how to "do church."
 4. The medieval church:
 - a. Emphasized a professional clergy instead of the New Testament doctrine of the "priesthood of all believers." The clergy became the "experts" in ministry. Members became observers. Priests prayed for people, listened to confessions, forgave sins, etc. All this elevated the clergy above the congregation and made people believe they were not worthy or capable of praying for themselves, reading the Bible for themselves or ministering to each other.
 - b. Emphasized buildings and architecture over people. They built huge cathedrals, at enormous cost, and eliminated the gathering of believers in small, more intimate home groups. The church lost its sense of family or Ohana.
 - c. Encouraged people to believe that only the professionals were called and gifted to do ministry. People were discouraged from ministering to each other or witnessing to unbelievers.
 5. Martin Luther restored biblical truth, but was unsuccessful in restoring the New Testament way of doing church. John Wesley introduced the "method" of small groups; but gradually, the Methodist church got away from the model.
 6. Seventh-day Adventists followed the Methodist way of doing church, including meeting in small groups, which they called "social meetings." Gradually, however, this was abandoned.
 7. Today's church is lopsided with more emphasis on large gatherings and little or no emphasis on small gatherings. We, too, have lost the sense of Ohana* or family that existed in the early church. God, however, is calling us back to being a balanced church.

**Ohana* is the Hawaiian word for *family*.

Jesus is the answer!

He said in Luke 5:37,38: *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.*

As a church, we may have returned to pure biblical teaching (new wine), but we have clung to medieval methods. (old wineskins) It's time to return to our New Testament roots on *how* we do church as well as in *what* we believe.

It's time for a balanced church structure with both

1. Hosanna gatherings
2. Ohana groups

WITNESS

Each of us knows of people who need the “wine” of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we meet together from week to week, we will begin to share these names with each other.

First of all, we each need a list of the members of our Ohana group.

- ❖ Please go to the last pages in this book and take time right now to write down each person's name, address and telephone number. If there are couples in your group, please make separate entries for husband and wife because this list will comprise your prayer list.
- ❖ **This next week** pray for each of your Ohana group members.

JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY

Session #2

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share with the group:

The most taxing physical thing I ever did in my life was . . .

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some praise songs.
- ❖ Read silently the following scripture from Hebrews 12:2,3 (NIV)
*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame,
and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*
- ❖ Share with the group what it means to you, personally, to “fix your eyes on Jesus.”
- ❖ Sing together: In an attitude of prayer, sing “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” Stay in silence before God for a few minutes; then if anyone wishes to pray a short, sentence prayer, let them do so. The leader will conclude the prayer time.

Review

According to the Bible, The New Testament church consisted of two parts:

1. Small groups meeting in _____
2. Large worship gatherings at the _____

We are calling these two parts **Ohana groups** and **Hosanna gatherings**. (The word *Ohana* is the Hawaiian word for *family*. The word *hosanna* comes from the Bible where it was used as an exclamation of praise, particularly by the large crowd who praised and worshipped Jesus as He entered Jerusalem on what has become known as “Palm Sunday.”)

WORD

- ❖ Pick seven people to read one of the following texts. Make notes, following the examples given for the first two texts:

	The church = Body	The Head is Jesus	Function of the Head:
1 Corinthians 12:12,13	√		
Ephesians 1:22,23	√	√	<i>all things under Him - Over everything in the church</i>
Ephesians 4:12-16			
Ephesians 5:23, 29,30			
Colossians 1:18,24			
Colossians 2:19			
Colossians 3:15			

❖ **Turn to the person next to you** and read the following texts to discover what they reveal about how the body (the Church) relates to the head (Jesus) and to the other parts of the body. Make brief notes in the space provided.

1st Reader: 1 Corinthians 12:20-30

2nd Reader: Ephesians 3:6

Ephesians 4:11-16

❖ **In the large group:**

1. Share briefly what was discovered.
2. Summary: The church is like a body. The head of the body is Jesus. He is the source of life and growth for the church.
3. Discuss the following questions:
 - If Jesus is the head of the body, what does this mean to our Ohana group?
 - If Jesus is the Head of our Ohana group, what will we do to focus on Him during our time together?
 - If Jesus is the Head of our Ohana group, how does this affect the way we relate to each other at our meetings and throughout the week?
 - If Jesus is the Head of our Ohana group, how will it affect our thoughts and actions toward lost people? Can He help us as a group to reach lost people more effectively than we could as individuals working alone?

WITNESS

If you did not complete the list of Ohana group members' names, addresses and telephone numbers, do so now.

Think of one person in your sphere of influence (work associate, family member, neighbor, business acquaintance, etc.) who needs Jesus and might be receptive to hearing the gospel. This needs to be a local person, for we are going to pray that one day they will join us in an Ohana group.

Share your names with each other, writing them down under the Ohana member's name. If there is not time for all to share, we will continue putting names on our lists next week.

- ❖ **This next week** pray for your Ohana members and the persons they named who need Jesus.

**A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE**
Session #3

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share with the group:

During the ages of thirteen to eighteen, my best friend was (is) . . .

Review

The New Testament church consisted of:

1. Small groups meeting in _____ (Ohana)
2. Large worship gatherings at the _____ (Hosanna)

The Bible compares the church to a b_____.

The head of the body is _____.

Relationships

The human body is made up of many separate parts all in relationship to each other. If the relationship between one part and another is destroyed, the whole body suffers. It is especially vital that all parts be in good relationship with the head, for the brain is the control center of the body.

Jesus is the Head of the church and His body must stay in good relationship with Him or the body will suffer and die.

- ❖ Read John 15:4-6 and complete the following:

- a. A connection with Jesus is compared to _____
- b. If I am not connected to Jesus, I cannot bear _____
- c. If I am connected to Jesus, I will bear _____ fruit.
- d. Apart from Jesus, I can do _____ and will ultimately be destroyed.

The Bible is a love story

It is the story of God pursuing a love relationship with people. He wants to have a love relationship with you. He wants to have a love relationship with your Ohana group.

- ❖ Read the following scriptures and circle the word *love* (or any form of the word *love*)

John 3:16—*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 14:21—*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*

Romans 8:35,37,39—*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. . . .(Nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 John 3:16—*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

1 John 4:9,10,19—*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We love Him because He first loved us.*

Since God loves us so much, how can we show Him how much we love Him?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some praise songs that focus on God and His love for us. (Suggestions: “Behold, What Manner of Love,” “Thy Loving Kindness,” “The Wonder of It All,” “Jesus Loves Me.”)
- ❖ Pray short prayers that begin “I love you, God, because you first loved me.”
- ❖ Sing “I Love You, Lord”

WORD

- ❖ **In a small group of three or four**, read Luke 10:38-41 and answer the questions:

Have you ever been the guest in the home of a Martha-type host or hostess? What was it like?

In this brief Bible story, who extended the invitation to Jesus? And why?

What caused Martha to get upset? Was Jesus sympathetic to her?

Jesus did not say that Martha’s activities were wrong, but He did say that Mary’s choice was better. What is the “better thing” in this passage?

What are the “many things” that distract, worry and upset you to the point that you cannot focus on the “better thing?”

What needs to happen in your life so you can have a Mary attitude toward Christ?

- ❖ Take a few minutes to pray for each other in this matter of making the better choice.
- ❖ Conclude your time together reading these words:

The “one thing” that Martha needed was a calm, devotional spirit. . . She needed less anxiety for the things which pass away, and more for those things which endure forever. . . The cause of Christ needs careful, energetic workers. There is a wide field for the Marthas, with their zeal in active religious work. But let them first sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. –Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 525

- ❖ **In the large group**, discuss the following questions and jot down the ideas that come from the group.
 - How might an Ohana group get sidetracked into spending time on “lesser things” and neglect the “better thing?”
 - What could a group do to choose the “better thing?”

WITNESS

Continue to gather names from Ohana members of people they know who need Jesus. Your Ohana group could start one large blessing list to be displayed during each meeting. (“Our Blessing List” is available at \$1.00 each from North American Division Evangelism Institute. (616) 471-9220 or 104474.2216@compuserve.com)

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Pick a day and time and place when you can have some extended time with Jesus – at least 45 minutes to an hour. Go to a quiet spot. Take your Bible with you, a notebook and a songbook, if you like. Be still before God and listen to Him. Be prepared to share with the group next week how it went.
 - Continue to pray for your Ohana members and the persons they named who need Jesus.

A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS WILL EXPRESS ITSELF IN DYNAMIC WORSHIP

Session #4

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Share with the group how you would answer this question: *What is one of the best ways you have had love expressed to you?*

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together songs that talk of fellowship with God. Suggestions: “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” Conclude by singing “Seek Ye First.”
- ❖ Share with each other:

What happened as you sought to have some extended quiet time with God this past week? How did it go?

- ❖ Invite one or two to pray and thank God for the way He revealed Himself to group members this past week.

Review

Session 1: The New Testament church consisted of two parts:

1. Small groups meeting in homes (Ohana)
2. Large gatherings at the temple/synagogue (Hosanna)

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body. The head is Jesus Christ.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

A love relationship with Jesus will express itself in dynamic worship within your Ohana group

Worshipping together is a vital part of an Ohana group. As we come together each week, we need to come prepared to worship. Our worship time together is not just routinely singing three songs because this is the “singing time” before we move onto something else or to “kill time until everybody gets here.” Let’s find out what the Bible says about worship.

WORD

- ❖ **Form into three groups of three to five people each.** Each group will have a different set of scriptures to read. As you read them together, jot down some notes about who worshipped, under what circumstances they worshipped, how they

worshipped and why they worshipped. Choose one of your group to report to the larger group.

❖ **Group 1:**

Job 1:13-20:

Who Circumstances How Why

Exodus 14:27,30,31; 15:20,21:

Who Circumstances How Why

Luke 7:36-50:

Who Circumstances How Why

❖ **Group 2:**

2 Chronicles 20:2-4, 13-19:

Who Circumstances How Why

2 Chronicles 20:20-22

Who Circumstances How Why

2 Chronicles 20:27,28:

Who Circumstances How Why

❖ **Group 3:**

Luke 24:50-53:

Who Circumstances How Why

Matt. 28:1-9:

Who Circumstances How Why

Rev. 4:2-11

Who Circumstances How Why

Rev. 5:6-14

Who Circumstances How Why

❖ **Share with the large group** what you discovered about worship.

❖ **Read Colossians 3:15-17** (NIV): Circle the words *hearts*, *thankful*, *gratitude* and *thanks*; and underline the phrase *members of one body*.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Why we worship God is more important than how or when or where we worship Him. Worshipping together is a time for our Ohana group to tell God how much we love Him. There are many ways to do this, but according to what we just read in Colossians 3:15-17, what would you say is the “bottom line” of worship?

WITNESS

- ❖ It's time to pick a prayer partner! This should be someone of the same gender in your group with whom you will pray regularly. The two of you will agree to contact each other on a weekly basis by telephone or in person to pray together.
- ❖ **This next week** call each other and pray together, especially remembering your names of people who need Jesus. Ask God to open doors of opportunities and give you abilities to reach these people.
- ❖ Take a look at "Our Blessing List." Make sure you have the names on the group list copied onto your personal list, so you can pray for these people this week.
- ❖ **This next week** pray for the names on "Our Blessing List." Also pray for each of the Ohana members.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Get into the prayer partnerships just formed and pray for each other. Remain in silent prayer until the entire Ohana group has finished praying.
- ❖ Sing together "I Love You, Lord" and "Thank You, Lord"

A love relationship with Jesus brings us into

A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER

Session 5

WELCOME

- ❖ Take time to greet each other.
- ❖ Share with the group: A time when you received unexpected help from someone.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some of the songs that your group has most enjoyed singing the last few weeks.
- ❖ Read in unison:
*You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;
For you created all things, And by your will they exist and were created.*
(Rev. 4:11)
- ❖ Pray sentence prayers of praise to God for an act of His **creation** that you have observed and enjoyed in the last few days, such as a sunset, bird song, etc.
- ❖ Read in unison:
*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!* (Rev. 5:12)
- ❖ Pray sentence prayers of thanks and praise to **Jesus** for His death, resurrection and intercession in heaven for you!
- ❖ Read in unison:
*Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!* (Rev. 5:13)

Review:

Session 1: The New Testament church consisted of two parts:

1. Small groups meeting in homes (Ohana)
2. Large gatherings at the temple/synagogue (Hosanna)

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body.

The head is Jesus.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

Session 4: A love relationship with Jesus will express itself in dynamic worship within your Ohana group.

WORD

- ❖ **In a small group of three or four**, read the following scriptures together and as you discuss them as a group, write a brief commentary on these passages, following and adding to the examples given.

1 John 1:3-7—*fellowship with the Father brings us into fellowship with . .*

1st Peter is a handbook on how Christians are to relate to the world and to each other. Peter says that Christians are a chosen people; (2:9,10) and their witness to the world will be their “good works” (2:12) of submission to government, (2:13-17), submission to employers (2:18) and submission and understanding to spouses (1 Peter 3:1,8). Peter uses the word *submission* a lot.

1 Peter 2:21-25—*The ultimate example of submission is . . .*

What He did assures us . . .

1 Peter 5:5—*In all their relationships, Christians will . . .*

1 Peter 3:8,9—*As an Ohana group, we will . . .*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

1 Peter 4:8—*The most important ingredient for good relationships within an Ohana group is . . .*

1 Peter 4:9-11--*Love will manifest itself in many ways:*

1 Peter 4:11--*The goal of our relationships with each other is that "God may be . . .*

❖ **In the large group:**

- Share what you discovered about Christian relationships.
- **Note** that the passages we've just read were written by two disciples, Peter and John, who had not always lived by the high ideals they wrote about in their epistles. John and his brother were known as "sons of thunder." Peter was impetuous and often spoke hastily. All the disciples vied with each other for positions of importance. They were impatient with each other, insensitive to people's needs and prejudiced.
- Together, read the following quotation carefully, underlining phrases and words that particularly impress you:

"The apostles differed widely in habits and disposition. There were the publican, Levi-Matthew, and the fiery zealot Simon, the uncompromising hater of the authority of Rome; the generous, impulsive Peter, and the mean-spirited Judas; Thomas, true hearted, yet timid and fearful, Philip, slow of heart, and inclined to doubt, and the ambitious outspoken sons of Zebedee, with their brethren. These were brought together, with their different faults, all with inherited and cultivated tendencies to evil; but in and through Christ they were to dwell in the family of God, learning to become one in faith, in doctrine, in spirit. They would have their tests, their grievances, their differences of opinion; but while Christ was abiding in the heart, there could be no dissension. His love would lead to love for one another; the lessons of the Master would lead to the harmonizing of all differences, bringing the disciples into unity, till they would be of one mind and one judgment. Christ is the great center, and they would approach one another just in proportion as they approached the center." Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 296.

- ❖ How can Christ make a difference in how we get along together in an Ohana group? Think of specific, practical ways and jot them down:

WITNESS

- ❖ **Love is our witness.** Jesus said: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35) How can our Ohana group let the world see that they have real love for each other? Jot down your ideas:

- ❖ **This next week:**

- Think of one “random act of kindness” you can perform for the person on your list who needs Jesus. (Send a card, meet a need such as helping with work or home project, give a small, inexpensive gift, etc.)
- Call your Ohana prayer partner
- Pray for your Ohana members

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP WITH TIME, TRUST AND TRUTHFULNESS

Session 6

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by describing the first group of Christians with whom you were associated following your conversion. How did you become part of the group and what kind of an experience was it for you?

WORSHIP

- ❖ Choose one person to read the first verse and then have the group read the dark print together in unison:

Reader: *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”*

In unison: *“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* (Matthew 20:20-28)

- ❖ Sing songs that focus on Jesus and His sacrifice for us. Suggestions: “Jesus, Name Above All Names,” “There Is A Redeemer,” “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross.”
- ❖ Pray together **thanking Jesus** for His servant attitude and asking for a **servant attitude among group members.**

Review:

Session 1: The New Testament church consisted of two parts:

1. Small groups meeting in homes (Ohana) for fellowship, discipleship, evangelism, leadership development, etc.
2. Large gatherings at the temple/synagogue (Hosanna) for worship, teaching, etc.

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body. The head is Jesus.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

Session 4: A love relationship with Jesus will express itself in dynamic worship within your Ohana group.

Session 5: A love relationship with Jesus brings us into a love relationship with each other.

WORD

- ❖ **In small groups of three or four:** Search the scriptures and discuss the elements of time, trust and truthfulness in building relationships:

Time

- ❖ How much time did the disciples spend with Jesus and with each other? Acts 1:21,22
- ❖ Have persons in the group each read two or three of the following scriptures. Jot down the various things the disciples and Jesus did together.
Mark 2:15; Mark 6:7, 30-32; Mark 9:30-32; John 1:39; John 2:2; John 4:1,2.

Trust

- ❖ Have persons in the group each read two or three of the following scriptures:
Matthew 18:21; Mark 9:32; Mark 10:35-37; Luke 9:46; Matthew 26:14-16.
- ❖ From these verses, how would you describe the level of trust among the disciples?
- ❖ What is the antidote for fear and mistrust? 1 John 4:18

Truthfulness:

- ❖ Remembering the scripture verses you just read together under the *Trust* section, what would you say was the level of truthfulness, honesty and openness among the disciples?
- ❖ Discuss together: (If you do not have time to discuss all four of these, drop down to #4)
 1. How important is trust and truthfulness to our Ohana group?
 2. What are some things that could keep people from **trusting** each other in a group?
 3. What are some “masks” that people wear from time to time to avoid being open, honest and **truthful** about who they really are?
 4. What can we do, individually and collectively, to make our Ohana group a “safe” place for people to come?

- ❖ **In the large group:** Let each smaller group share their answers to question 4: *What can we do, individually and collectively, to make our Ohana group a “safe” place for people to come?*
- ❖ Discuss together: What are some ways our Ohana group can spend social **time** together as the disciples and Jesus did? (Be as specific as possible and jot down your ideas.)

WITNESS

- ❖ Pick one of the ideas generated and plan a social time together:

- What:
- When:
- Where:

- ❖ Read Mark 3:14 and notice the two reasons Jesus called the twelve:

1. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be _____ Him
2. and that they He might send them out to _____

Jesus gathered disciples about Him to be *with* Him, then to go out *for* Him. Today, He is still calling disciples to the same two priorities, and both these priorities can occur within a small group (Ohana) setting.

- ❖ **This next week**

- Pray for your Ohana members.
- Call your prayer partner.
- Do your part for the social time you planned as a group.
- Invite someone who is not a member of your Ohana group to come to the social time.

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS GROW WHEN PEOPLE ARE EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

Session 7

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other
- ❖ Share with the group: An incident in your life when someone helped you learn a new skill. It might have been a very small skill; nevertheless, you were “mentored” or “coached” and consequently you grew in confidence and ability to do a certain thing.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Read together: (Psalm 147:1,7; 149:1, 5,6; 150:6)

Reader 1: *Praise the Lord!*
 For it is good to sing praises to our God;
 For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

Reader 2: *Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;*
 Sing praises on the harp to our God,

Reader 3: *Sing to the Lord a new song,*
 And His praise in the congregation of saints.

Reader 4: *Let the saints be joyful in glory;*
 Let them sing aloud on their beds.
 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth.

In unison: *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

- ❖ Sing together songs that focus on God, the Father.
- ❖ Pray together: short prayers that complete this statement: “I praise, You, God, because You are . . . “

Review

Session 1: There are two parts to a growing church: (1) Small Ohana groups for fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and leadership development (2) Large Hosanna gatherings for worship, teaching, etc.

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body. The head is Jesus.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

Session 4: A love relationship with Jesus expresses itself in dynamic worship within the Ohana group.

Session 5: A love relationship with Jesus brings people into a love relationship with each other.

Session 6: Love relationships develop with time, trust and truthfulness.

WORD

- ❖ Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9, 10.

In these verses, a radical new notion of ministry is introduced. In Old Testament times a special group of people, the Levites, were chosen to be priests and ministers for all the people. The New Testament proclaims, however, that we are all priests and ministers! We are to minister to each other and proclaim the gospel wherever we live and work.

This means that our Ohana group is a group of ministers!

- ❖ **In a small group of three or four:**

- ❖ Discuss: **Why** do we need to minister to each other?
An answer can be found in the following scripture passage. Please read it together and jot down your findings in the space provided.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- ❖ From the following scriptures, find out **how** we are to minister to each other?

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Colossians 3:12-17

- ❖ What is the **result** of Christians ministering to each other? Read Ephesians 4:11-16 from the New King James Version of the Bible and fill in the blanks:

God puts people of various gifts together “for the _____ of the saints for the _____ of _____, for the _____ of the body of Christ, till we all come to the _____ of the faith and the _____ of the Son of God, to a _____ man, to the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ; that we should no longer be _____, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of _____, . . . but may _____ up in _____ things into Him who is the head, _____, from whom the whole _____ joined

... together ... by which every part does its _____, causes _____ of the _____ for the _____ of itself in love.

❖ **In the large group:**

Jesus employed three “learning environments” for spiritual growth:

<u>One to one</u>	<u>Ohana Groups</u>	<u>Hosanna Gatherings</u>
Nicodemus	The twelve disciples	He taught in temple,
The woman at the well	Dinner parties, social events	synagogues, meadows

However, He built His church on the Ohana group of the twelve disciples!

He still wants to build and expand His church through Ohana groups!

- ❖ Discuss the small-group model Jesus established by choosing twelve disciples:
- How did He encourage the disciples to minister to each other and to their world?
 - How did He equip them to minister?
 - What difficulties did they encounter as a group of developing ministers?
 - What finally drew them together as a unified, loving group of ministers?

Jesus wants to equip our Ohana group into fully devoted disciples and apostles.

Will we let Him?

It will mean we each need to be **faster** people:

F – faithful

A – available

S – spiritual

T – teachable

E – evangelistically minded

R – reproducible

WITNESS

- ❖ **This next week** get together with your Ohana prayer/accountability partner so you can begin to minister to each other. If you don't know each other well, first

take time to get better acquainted by finding out about each other's families, occupations, hobbies, interests, etc. **Share how you each became a Christian.**

Find out if either or both of you practiced a "random act of kindness" last week toward the person on your prayer list. Share what you did and how it went.

Ask "how can I pray for you?" or "What can I pray for you?"
Then pray together, mentioning these special things.

Read the extra reading material for Session 7.

❖ **Keep praying** for the people on the Ohana Blessing List.

Reading Material for Session Seven

"Jesus knew the character of the men whom He had chosen; all their weaknesses and errors were open before Him.—Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 291

"God takes men as they are, with the human elements in their character, and trains them for His service, if they will be disciplined and learn of Him. They are not chosen because they are perfect, but notwithstanding their imperfections, that through the knowledge and practice of the truth, through the grace of Christ, they may become transformed into His image. — Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 294

All the disciples had serious faults when Jesus called them to His service.
--Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 295

Jesus reproved His disciples, He warned and cautioned them . . . The Saviour did not withdraw from them because of their weakness and errors. They continued to the end to share His trials and to learn the lessons of His life. By beholding Christ, they became transformed in character.—Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 296

He who called the fishermen of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples. However imperfect and sinful we may be, the Lord holds out to us the offer of partnership with Himself, of apprenticeship to Christ. He invites us to come under the divine instruction, that, uniting with Christ, we may work the works of God."—Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 297

LOVE RELATIONSHIPS BUILD UP PEOPLE

Session 8

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Share with the group: If you ever built or remodeled a house or a room, briefly tell us about the project.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together: some of your group's favorite songs.
- ❖ Focus on God together: by reading Isaiah 59:1

*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.*

- ❖ Share briefly with each other some evidence you received in the last week that God heard you or saved you in some way.
- ❖ Look at the Blessing List together and share what is happening with the people for whom you are praying. Have you seen any evidence that God is beginning to work in people's lives?
- ❖ Pray together: Claim Isaiah 59:1 as a promise of what God will do for the people on the Blessing List. Ask each member of the group to pick one name and pray for that name and for the Ohana member listed by the name.

Review

Session 1: There are two parts to a growing church: (1) Small Ohana groups for fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and leadership development (2) Large Hosanna gatherings for worship, teaching, etc.

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body. The head is Jesus.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

Session 4: A love relationship with Jesus expresses itself in dynamic worship within the Ohana group.

Session 5: A love relationship with Jesus brings people into a love relationship with each other.

Session 6: Love relationships develop with time, trust and truthfulness.

Session 7: Love relationships grow when people are equipped for ministry.

Like building a house, Ohana groups take time and effort

WORD

Let's turn to the Bible to find out what is involved in building our Ohana group. The New Testament uses the word *edify* which means "to build up." The Greek word for *edify* is *oikodomeo* which means *to be a house-builder* or *to build up*. Webster's Dictionary also defines *edify* as to build or to construct a dwelling and to instruct or improve morally or spiritually.

❖ **In a small group of three or four:** (Take about 10-15 minutes)

To each person in your small group, assign three or four of the following verses which use the word *edify* or some form of the word *edify*. For clearer understanding as you read the texts, mentally substitute the phrase *build up* whenever you read *edify* or *edification*. Beside each text, jot down brief notes of what you discover about edification, then share what you learn with each other.

Romans 14:19

Romans 15:2

1 Corinthians 8:1 last sentence

1 Corinthians 14:12

2 Corinthians 10:8

Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians 4:29

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Timothy 1:4

❖ **In the large group,** summarize the findings from scripture by answering the following:

What **is** *edification*?

What is it **not**?

Who is to *edify*?

How should *edification* take place in a group?

Do you foresee any times when *edification* might be a difficult process?

**Building up (*edifying*) our Ohana group will take the currency of love
and the commitment of time.**

In session six we talked about how Jesus invested time in His disciples. They lived together -- eating, sleeping, traveling and doing chores together. Jesus taught them together and equipped them to minister together. As they followed Jesus, they learned from Him how to *build up* (edify) instead of destroying each other. It took a lot of love and it took a lot of time.

- ❖ **To think about:** If Jesus and the twelve dropped into our world, how do you think they would function?
- ❖ **Brainstorm:** Picture our Ohana group as a group of disciples led by Jesus in today's world. In spite of our individual commitments to families and work, we are going to stick together as a group and worship God together, fellowship with each other, be instructed by Jesus together, minister together, witness together and edify each other. Brainstorm on how this could be scheduled into our lives. Be as specific as possible. Remember that some of what we wish to do can be done in pairs as Jesus sent out the disciples, or in specially scheduled large events. Try to think of ways to incorporate Ohana activities into the natural, day-to-day events of our lives. (If you do not have time to address all five items below, concentrate on numbers 1 and 2)

1. Ways, times, places our Ohana group can **build up** each other:

2. Ways, times, places our Ohana group can **fellowship** with each other:

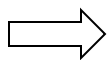
3. Ways, times, places our Ohana group can **reach the lost** together:

4. Ways, times, places our Ohana group can **worship** together:

5. Ways, times, places our Ohana group can **receive training** in leadership and ministry:

WITNESS

❖ This next week:



- Pick one idea generated from the brainstorming session above and do it! Incorporate it into your personal life or with your prayer partner or as something you can do for your Ohana group.
- Read the extra reading material for this session.
- Contact your prayer/accountability partner and discuss what you have read. Share with each other one area of your life where you need “building up.” Discuss how you might help each other in that area.
- Pray for Ohana members and their names of people who need Jesus.

Reading Material For Session Eight

Building up sometimes involves tearing down.

In remodeling a house, you often have to tear down and get rid of things such as outdated wiring and plumbing, termite-ridden boards, weak foundations, leaky roofs, etc. Even in building a new house, the site needs to be prepared; and this involves removing dirt and rocks so the foundation of the house will be on level and solid ground.

It is the same in our Christian lives. Jesus wants to build us up into mature Christians; but He needs to take away the junk from our past. Old attitudes and values need to be torn down so they can be replaced with Christ-like ones.

Part of our daily prayer life should include a prayer similar to David's in Psalm 139:23,24

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.”*

It is not easy to ask God to show us what is wrong with us, but it is vital if we are to grow. This work is a personal matter first.

Often times we hear someone in a small group say, “I’m having conflicts at work.” Or “I have been depressed for days. Please pray for me.” We quickly pray for the request but see no lasting results. Why? Because we did not ask God to search and know us.

We pray about a symptom or two without knowing the underlying cause. Maybe there is unresolved anger, bitterness or sin that causes the conflict at work or the depression.

Deal with the roots of sin, not just the fruits of sin

Jesus always dealt with the root of sin and not just the fruit. To the woman at the well, He said, “You have had five husbands and the man you are now living with is not your husband.” To the man let down through the roof for physical healing, He said, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Satan tries to confuse and deceive us by covering up the real source of our problems with a lot of surface hurts, pains and conflicts. He gets us to live, talk and even pray in generalities that do not help us. We need God to *identify* the root of our problem so that we can get specific in our praying and in our living. Then God can begin to *build us up*.

Help is needed to identify roots

There are several reasons we need help:

1. We may be in denial. We fear that the real causes of our pains, hurts and sins may be so painful we cannot handle it, so we deny their existence.
2. The cause may be so deeply buried that we honestly do not know the real cause of the destructive fruit in our life. We may have buried the causes way back in our childhood or in some other unresolved events in the past and as a result, we are totally blind to them.

3. Satan may be deceiving us by dumping so many peripheral difficulties on us, that we do not see the root causes of what's going on in our lives.
4. We may have become too dependent on another person. Satan has ensnared us in an unhealthy co-dependent relationship with a spouse, parent, child, etc. to the point that we cannot come to grips with the roots of our pains and hurts on our own.

Jesus is the best help!

- He can open our hearts to be honest and real so that we can stop denying the roots of our problems.
- He can lovingly bring us to the place where we can face the issues we've buried in the past.
- He can give us wisdom concerning the deceptions of Satan.
- He can separate us from unhealthy relationships that keep us stuck in destructive behaviors and unproductive living.

Pray daily "Search my heart, O God!"

Get by yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to do a "CAT scan" of your soul.

- First, ask Him to show you any pattern of sin in your life. What are the sins you have been vulnerable to through the years?
- Secondly, look for pressure points in your life. At the other end of those pressure points you find Satan's handiwork. Put these two pieces of information together—your habitual sins and your pressure points—and you will have a road map to Satan's schemes against you." (Ed Silvano, *That None Should Perish*; Campus Crusade Asia Limited, Alexandra PO Box 0205, Singapore, 911507; pp. 238,239)
- **Go to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing of the past, and power for the present.** Claim 1 John 1:9 and 2 Peter 1:3,4.

Jesus uses His people to help

1. Your prayer partner can be a supportive and honest Christian friend to encourage you to get at the roots of your hurts, pains and sins.
2. Your Ohana group can lovingly help you "root out the roots" of your problems.
3. You must be open, honest and willing to listen.

An Ohana Group is *not* a therapy group

There is danger that a group becomes a problem-solving group rather than a group being built up by Christ. This can happen when:

1. The group sees itself as the ones to “build up” rather than a conduit for Christ to “build up.”
2. An individual in the group brings a need to the group first rather than taking it to Jesus first.
3. A leader or member is perceived (in their own mind or by others) as the official “counselor” or “edifier” who has the answers for all problems and needs.

The best help an Ohana group can give

1. Encourage deep, personal relationships with Jesus for each member.
2. Listen lovingly to each other.
3. Ask God to reveal the “roots” underlying the “fruits.”
4. Focus on Jesus as the Great Physician who can accurately diagnose, prescribe and heal at the right time using the people He chooses.

Praise God for His power to build up!

**JESUS GIVES THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
TO OHANA GROUPS**

Session 9

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ We concluded last week by brainstorming ways, times and places our Ohana group could edify (build up) each other. Our assignment as individuals was to pick one idea and do it.
- ❖ Share with each other what you did and how it worked.

Review

Session 1: There are two parts to a growing church: Ohana groups and Hosanna gatherings.

Session 2: The New Testament compares the church to the body. The head is Jesus.

Session 3: A love relationship with Jesus (the Head) is the most important thing in life.

Session 4: A love relationship with Jesus expresses itself in dynamic worship within the Ohana group.

Session 5: A love relationship with Jesus brings people into a love relationship with each other.

Session 6: Love relationships develop with time, trust and truthfulness.

Session 7: Love relationships grow when people are equipped for ministry.

Session 8: Love relationships build up people.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Have three people each read one of the following verses aloud:

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. –John 14:16,17

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. –Luke 24:49 NIV

He commanded them . . . to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit . . . you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” –Acts 1:4-8

- ❖ Sing together songs about the Holy Spirit such as “Holy Spirit, Come,” “Spirit of the Living God,” “Spirit Song” (all from Maranatha Praise 2nd edition) “Breathe on Me, Breath of God,” (SDA Hymnal #265)

- ❖ Pray together asking for a special infilling of the Holy Spirit.

WORD

- ❖ **In a small group of three or four**, let each person pick one of the following questions and the accompanying scriptures that answer it. Read the question and look up the texts, making brief notes on what is revealed to you from the scriptures.
- ❖ **Group member #1: Why did Jesus say He would give the gift of the Holy Spirit and what would be His work?**

John 15:26

John 14:26

John 16:7-15

- ❖ **Group member #2: What are the gifts of the Spirit?**

Ephesians 4:7-11

1 Cor. 12:1, 4, 7-11; 28-30

- ❖ **Group member #3: What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?**

Ephesians 4:12,13, 15,16

1 Cor. 14:12, last part

- ❖ **Share with each other** what you have learned from the preceding questions and scriptures.
- ❖ **Read together** Galatians 5:22,23 and list the “fruits of the Spirit”:

- ❖ Discuss together what you see as the difference between “**gifts** of the Spirit” and “**fruits** of the Spirit.”

WITNESS

- ❖ In the large group, discuss together what gifts of the Spirit you see manifested in your Ohana group. List each member of your group and identify at least one gift for that person.

Ohana member:

Gift/gifts:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

- ❖ **Ask yourself:** “How can I use the gifts God has given me to build up my Ohana group?” Be specific in thinking of some way to **use your gift this week**. Jot down your ideas:

(If you are not sure what your gift might be, speak to your Ohana group leader)

**The most important work of the Holy Spirit
within our Ohana group is to uplift
JESUS!**

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**” John 15:26*

- ❖ **Sing together:** “Spirit of the Living God” and “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”
- ❖ **Look at the Blessing List** and share any updates concerning the people on the list.
- ❖ **Pray together** asking God to show each Ohana member how they can uplift Jesus before the people on the Blessing List.

- ❖ **This next week:**
 - Use one of your spiritual gifts to build up your Ohana group.
 - Read the extra material accompanying this session, underlining phrases that are especially meaningful to you. You could share these with your prayer/accountability partner.
 - Contact your prayer/accountability partner.
 - Pray for your Ohana group members and the people on the Blessing List.

Reading Material For Session Nine

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end.

From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. . .

Those who at Pentecost were endued with power from on high, were not thereby freed from further temptation and trial. As they witnessed for truth and righteousness they were repeatedly assailed by the enemy of all truth, who sought to rob them of their Christian experience. . . Daily they prayed for fresh supplies of grace. . . Under the Holy Spirit's working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, learned to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled.

The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. . . The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give.

With the consecrated worker for God, in whatever place he may be, the Holy Spirit abides. The words spoken to the disciples are spoken also to us. The Comforter is ours as well as theirs.

--Acts of the Apostles, pp. 49-51

**JESUS GIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OHANA GROUPS
SO THEY CAN SHARE HIM WITH THE WORLD**

Session 10

WELCOME

- ❖ As people arrive, share with each other what you came up with in answer to the question, “How can I use the gifts God has given me to build up my Ohana group?” Find out what specific actions people took to use their gifts in the last week.

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group’s favorite songs.
- ❖ Read and meditate on the following scripture passages:

*In returning and rest you shall be saved;
In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.*
Isaiah 30:15 NKJV

*I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
And in His word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than watchmen wait for the morning—
More than watchmen wait for the morning.*

*O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
For with the Lord is unfailing love
And with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
From all their sins.*
Psalm 130:5-8

- ❖ Spend some time in silent prayer. Then let those who wish, offer short prayers of praise and thanks to God. Conclude by singing “I Love You, Lord.”

Review

Last week’s session was entitled “Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to Ohana Groups.”

- ❖ Share with each other what you found to be the most meaningful thought from the extra reading material from the book, Acts of the Apostles.

WORD

- ❖ Read Acts 2:1-4, 14-18, 41-47 and answer the following questions:

1. Why was the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost?
2. What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit?

3. What do you think it was like to have 3,000 people become believers in one day?

In one day, the 120 believers grew to a group of 3,120 believers! This means that the original 120 immediately became Ohana group leaders! In these verses we see the formation of the New Testament church into:

1. Ohana groups
2. Hosanna gatherings

The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to share the gospel. The same Spirit inspired the structure of the infant church into Ohana groups and Hosanna gatherings.

The Result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Read the last sentence of verse 47 of Acts 2: “And the _____
_____ to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Notice that the multiplication of believers was the *Lord’s* work. It is still the Lord’s work. It is not our work. However, He invites us to join Him in His work, plus He gives the Holy Spirit so we can do His work. Here in Acts 2, we see how God works:

1. He gives the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to proclaim the gospel.
2. The Holy Spirit puts believers together in Ohana groups where they can care for each other.
3. The Holy Spirit inspires believers to praise God in Hosanna gatherings.
4. God adds to the church.

We can’t improve on God’s way of working! Let’s join Him in His work!

- ❖ View the video “The Harvest”
- ❖ Share with each other how this video affected you.

WITNESS

- ❖ Spend the rest of the evening discussing how your Ohana group can work together to “get the harvest in.” Be as **specific** as possible in listing ways your group can share the gospel. In the space below **write down** every idea the Holy Spirit gives to your group. (Get extra paper if you need it)
- ❖ Pray together over the promptings you have received from the Holy Spirit during this session and the ideas you have written down. Also pray for the people on your Blessing List.

❖ **This next week**

- Contact your prayer partner. You could continue your discussion of how you think the Holy Spirit would like to use you and your Ohana group in the “harvest field.”
- Pray for the members of your Ohana group.
- Pray for the people on the Blessing List.
- Review the material from session one through session ten of your notebook. Briefly jot down what was most meaningful to you in each of the ten sessions.

Session 1:

Session 2:

Session 3:

Session 4:

Session 5:

Session 6:

Session 7:

Session 8:

Session 9:

Session 10:

DESTINATION FOR OHANA GROUPS

Session 11

WELCOME

- ❖ Visit together as people gather. Find out how each person's week has been going.
- ❖ Ask one or two members to have an opening prayer.
- ❖ Share with each other: The most memorable homecoming or arrival at a destination that you ever experienced.

- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next sections.

WORD

- ❖ Read Acts 1:3-11 together and discuss the following questions:
 1. What did Jesus command His disciples to do?

 2. What did Jesus say was the most important thing for the disciples to be concerned about?

 3. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the Holy Spirit in these farewell words to His followers?

Summary:

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus gave a road map to the first Ohana group and every group thereafter. It is a map that will take His disciples to their final destination in the kingdom of God. Notice the steps:

- Take time to prepare for the journey. (vs. 5)
- Don't worry about arrival dates or times. That is in God's hands. (vs. 7)
- Fill up with the fuel of the Spirit. (vs. 8)
- Start the journey in your neighborhood. (vs. 8)
- Go to adjacent neighborhoods, towns and countries. (vs. 8)
- Go to the whole world. (vs. 8)
- **You will arrive** at the destination because you've got God's word on that! (vs. 10,11)

- ❖ Quickly read together the following texts to find out how well the disciples followed Christ's instructions. (Space is provided to jot down brief notes)

Acts 5:28 & 42

Acts 8:1, 4-6
Acts 8:26-29

Acts 11:19-21

Acts 13:2-4

Acts 16:9,10

Acts 17:16,17

Acts 28:14, 16, 23-24

The first Ohana group of twelve disciples took Jesus' words seriously and followed His commands and instructions to go to the world with the gospel.

- ❖ To discuss:
 - What if the twelve had stayed in the upper room, fellowshiping with each other, even praying together and worshipping together, but had never gone out for Jesus?
 - How serious will our Ohana group be about following Christ's command to go?

- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

WITNESS

**Jesus has a geographical map as well as a spiritual plan
for Ohana groups to follow.**

- ❖ **Read together** and discuss the vision, goal and strategy on page 44.

WORSHIP

It's a God-sized assignment that God has given us. We cannot do it by ourselves. Together, let's go into His presence and ask for His Spirit to fill us and enable us.

- ❖ **Sing together** songs of consecration such as "Into My Heart," "Change My Heart, O God," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," "Spirit of the Living God."
- ❖ **Pray for the person on your right, by name**, asking God to use him/her in a special way to reach their neighborhood for God.
- ❖ **Sing** "He Is Able." (Maranatha Praise, 2nd edition, p. 30, or 3rd edition, p55) or "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go," (SDA Hymnal, #573) or "Christ for the World" (SDA Hymnal #370) or "Lift Him Up" (SDA Hymnal #371)

❖ **This next week**

- Contact your prayer partner. You could review what you've learned the past few weeks by sharing with each other a summary of each session.
- Pray for the members of your Ohana group.
- Pray for the people on the Blessing List.

ALL ABOARD FOR THE OHANA JOURNEY!

Session 12

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and share: “One of the most memorable or fun trips I have ever taken was . . .”

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group’s favorite songs.
- ❖ In pairs, take turns reading the following scripture to each other, inserting your partner’s name in the appropriate places.

*I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven
and on earth derives its name.
I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you, (name) with power
through his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your heart, (name), through faith.
And I pray that you, (name), being rooted and established in love, may have power,
together with all the saints,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,
and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—
that you, (name), may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,
for ever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:14-21 NIV*

WORD AND WITNESS

Taking a trip can be an exciting adventure!

It is God’s desire that our Ohana journey will be an exciting experience.

A successful trip depends on making adequate preparations. For the last several weeks we have been preparing for the Ohana journey. Actually, we’ve been on a “test journey” to see what a real Ohana trip will be like. God has asked us in His Word to invite everyone in the world to join us on this journey; and we want to make sure that when people join us, they will have a good trip and arrive at the destination. The destination is heaven and along the way, there are mileposts of Christian development that are absolutely essential. Therefore, we have been learning and practicing the things that will make our trip a successful one.

During this session, we want to check our preparation list and make sure we have everything in place for the Ohana journey.

We will do this by reviewing the highlights for each session. Most importantly, we want to look at the “**Witness**” and “**This next week**” sections and make sure we have been “doers of the Word” and not just hearers. In other words, this is a time for personal and

group accountability. If you have suggestions for improvements, particularly in the assignments for each week, please make them.

Session One – The New Testament church consists of Ohana groups and Hosanna gatherings.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- Make a list of Ohana members.
- Pray for Ohana members during the week.

Suggestions:

Session Two – The New Testament compares the church to the body and the head is Jesus.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- Think of someone in your sphere of influence who needs Jesus.
- Share the name with the group.
- Write down all the names gathered from the group beside the corresponding Ohana group members names.
- Pray for Ohana group members and their names during the week.

Suggestions:

Session Three – A love relationship with Jesus is the most important thing in life.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- Continue adding names of people who need Jesus to the Ohana Members List.
- Transfer names to the large “Our Blessing List.”
- Personally, have an extended time with God some time during the week.
- Pray for Ohana members and their names.

Suggestions:

Session Four – A love relationship with Jesus expresses itself in dynamic worship within the Ohana group.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- Form prayer partnerships of two Ohana members of the same gender and pray together before the meeting ends.
- Update “Our Blessing List” with any new names and prayer requests.
- Call your prayer partner and pray together during the week.
- Pray for Ohana members and their names.

Suggestions:

Session Five – A love relationship with Jesus brings people into love relationships with each other.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- As a group, write down ways your Ohana group can let the world see that you have real love for each other.
- Think of a “random act of kindness” you can perform for the person on your list who needs Jesus.
- Perform the “random act of kindness” during the week.
- Pray for Ohana members and their names during the week.
- Contact your prayer partner.

Suggestions:

Session Six – Love relationships develop with time, trust and truthfulness.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- Plan a social time for your Ohana group.
- Invite someone who is not a member of your Ohana group to come to the social time.
- Do your part for the social time.
- Call your prayer partner during the week.
- Pray for your Ohana members and their names.

Suggestions:

Session Seven – Love relationships grow when people are equipped for ministry.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- ❑ Get together with your prayer partner and get acquainted, share how you each became a Christian and find out specific prayer needs. Share what “random acts of kindness” you each performed for the person on your list who needs Jesus.
- ❑ During the week, read the extra reading material for this session .
- ❑ Pray for Ohana members and their names of people who need Jesus.

Suggestions:

Session Eight – Love relationships build up people.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- ❑ Pick one idea generated in the Brainstorming session and do it this week.
- ❑ Read the extra reading material.
- ❑ Contact your prayer/accountability partner and talk about how you can “build each other up.” Also discuss the extra reading material.

Suggestions:

Session Nine – Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to Ohana Groups.

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- ❑ As a group, list the spiritual gifts of each Ohana member.
- ❑ Personally, think of one spiritual gift and how you can use it during the week.
- ❑ Use your spiritual gift to build up the Ohana group in some way.
- ❑ Read the extra material, underlining important words and phrases.
- ❑ Contact your prayer/accountability partner.
- ❑ Pray for Ohana members and their names.

Suggestions:

Session Ten – Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to Ohana groups so they can share the gospel

Witness and Next Week: (Please check if you and your group completed these)

- ❑ As a group, make a list of specific ways you can work together to “get the harvest in.”
- ❑ Contact your prayer/accountability partner.
- ❑ Pray for Ohana members and their names.
- ❑ Review the material from sessions one through ten and jot down the highlights.

Suggestions:

All aboard for the Ohana journey!

The next step is for us to start several Ohana groups and invite people to join us on this exciting journey!

Discuss together how many groups can our group spawn? Who should comprise the leadership team for each group? When shall we start? Who can we invite to each group? (Have a list of the newest members of your church, plus a list of persons who are not yet members but are currently receiving Bible studies, attending a pastor’s class, etc. These are people who would be great to invite into an Ohana group.)

Important rule - You must invite three times as many people as you wish to have in your group. For instance, if you want to start with a group of 10 people, you need to invite 30. If you wish to have 5 new people in your group, invite 15. Even though they are interested, many people will have scheduling conflicts, family situations and other things going on in their lives that will keep them from joining you now. Keep praying for them and invite them again at a later date.

Plan to start with about 6 to 8 people and then you have room to grow week by week until you reach 12.

Use the planning outlines on the following pages to help you.

You are not alone on the journey

Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. ---Joshua 1:9

1. You will always have Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
2. You will always be in a team. Jesus sent His disciples out two-by-two. We will do the same.

3. You will always be part of this core Ohana group. We will continue to meet regularly.
4. Our next sessions will deal with the topic of leadership so you will get all the help you need to be the very best Ohana leader you can be. You will learn biblical principles of inspiring leadership. You will continue to grow in your ability to find and make disciples. You will get encouragement and support from the group.

**Following Jesus together,
we will lead our church back to its New Testament roots**

1. We will work together with God toward a balanced church with
 - Ohana groups to care for people
 - Hosanna gatherings to praise God
2. We will join God in His work of inviting all the people in our communities to join us on the journey to heaven.

❖ My commitment:

Taking God at His Word,
Following Jesus, my Savior and Lord,
Praying for the infilling of His Spirit,
Relying on His power,
I commit myself to being a disciple-maker
as a leader of an Ohana group.

Name _____ Date _____

Ohana Group #1

Leadership Team:

Tentative starting date:

Tentative meeting place for the first session:

People to invite:

Ohana Group #2

Leadership Team:

Tentative starting date:

Tentative meeting place for the first session:

People to invite:

Ohana Group #3

Leadership Team:

Tentative starting date:

Tentative meeting place for the first session:

People to invite:

Ohana Group #4

Leadership Team:

Tentative starting date:

Tentative meeting place for the first session:

People to invite:

THE MEMBERS OF MY OHANA GROUP AND THEIR PRAYER NEEDS

Name:

Home telephone:

Other telephone:

Address:

Notes/things to pray about:

Name:

Home telephone:

Other telephone:

Address:

Notes/things to pray about:

Name:

Home telephone:

Other telephone:

Address:

Notes/things to pray about: