

THE 28th.LIFE

THE UNLEASHING

MODULE 5 — DEEPER ROOTS

Remaining Grounded So You Can Lead Others Well

Module Overview

A healthy tree can only grow as high as its roots grow deep.

The same is true for followers of Jesus.

As God increases our influence, our dependence upon Him must increase even more.

Throughout **THE UNLEASHING**, you've learned that every believer is called to live on mission, make disciples, lead through service, and discover God's unique calling. But none of those things can be sustained apart from a deep, abiding relationship with Christ.

Ministry can become exhausting if it is disconnected from the Source of our strength.

Jesus understood this.

He preached to crowds, healed the sick, and invested in His disciples—but He continually withdrew to spend time alone with the Father.

His public ministry flowed from His private relationship with God.

The same must be true for us.

The greatest danger for mature Christians is not usually abandoning their faith.

It is allowing ministry to replace intimacy.

We can become so busy working for Jesus that we neglect simply being with Jesus.

John Wesley repeatedly reminded believers that there are no "holy shortcuts." Spiritual maturity is cultivated through what he called the **Means of Grace**—the ordinary practices God uses to shape extraordinary disciples. Through Scripture, prayer, worship, the Lord's Supper, fasting,

Christian fellowship, acts of mercy, and continual obedience, the Holy Spirit forms us into the likeness of Christ.

These practices do not earn God's love.

They position us to receive more fully the grace He freely gives.

As we remain rooted in Christ, we gain wisdom for life's decisions, strength for life's challenges, and endurance for the lifelong mission He has entrusted to us.

Jesus gave this promise:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

— John 15:5

This module will help you deepen your roots so that your life and ministry continue bearing lasting fruit.

Learning Objectives

By the end of Module 5, you will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of God's Word.
- Learn practical methods for lifelong Bible study.
- Strengthen your prayer life through intentional spiritual disciplines.
- Grow in confidence teaching and discussing Scripture.
- Learn to defend your faith with humility and grace.
- Build habits that sustain lifelong spiritual growth.

LESSON 17 — ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY

Theme

God's Word is meant to transform us, not simply inform us.

Key Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - Joshua 1:8
-

Big Idea

The more deeply we understand Scripture, the more faithfully we can live it.

Introduction

Reading the Bible is essential.

Studying the Bible takes us deeper.

Bible study helps us understand the historical setting, literary context, original audience, and overall message of Scripture. Rather than reading isolated verses, we begin seeing God's story as one unified account of redemption centered on Jesus Christ.

God's Word is alive.

It teaches.

Corrects.

Encourages.

Challenges.

Transforms.

Every time we open Scripture, the Holy Spirit invites us to know God more fully and become more like Christ.

Practical Bible Study Habits

Develop the habit of asking:

- What does this passage say?
- What does it teach about God?
- What does it teach about people?
- How does it point to Jesus?
- How should I respond today?

Study patiently.

Pray continually.

Apply faithfully.

Reflection

1. How has God's Word shaped your life?
2. What Bible study habits could you strengthen?
3. How can you move from reading Scripture to living it?

Weekly Challenge

Choose one chapter of Scripture and spend the entire week studying it slowly.

Journal what God teaches you each day.

Prayer

Father,

Open my heart to Your Word. Help me understand it, treasure it, and faithfully live it every day.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

— Psalm 119:105

LESSON 18 — TEACHING GOD'S WORD

Theme

Every disciple is called to share biblical truth with others.

Key Scriptures

- Matthew 28:20
 - James 3:1
 - Colossians 3:16
 - Deuteronomy 6:6–9
-

Big Idea

Teaching begins by faithfully living what we teach.

Introduction

Not everyone will preach a sermon.

But every believer teaches someone.

Parents teach children.

Friends encourage friends.

Mentors guide new believers.

Small group leaders facilitate discussion.

Disciples teach disciples.

Teaching God's Word isn't about impressing people with knowledge.

It's about helping people understand God's truth and apply it to everyday life.

The most effective teachers teach with humility, accuracy, and love.

Principles for Teaching

Faithful teachers:

- Prepare prayerfully.
- Stay rooted in Scripture.
- Keep Christ at the center.
- Explain clearly.
- Encourage questions.
- Apply biblical truth practically.
- Live what they teach.

Our lives give credibility to our words.

Reflection

1. Who has taught you God's Word well?
 2. What qualities made them effective?
 3. Where could God use you to teach or encourage someone?
-

Weekly Challenge

Share one biblical truth you've recently learned with a friend, family member, or small group.

Prayer

Lord,

Help me handle Your Word faithfully. May my life and my words always point others to Jesus.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."

— Matthew 28:20

LESSON 19 — DEFENDING THE FAITH

Theme

Followers of Jesus should be prepared to explain the hope they have with gentleness and respect.

Key Scriptures

- 1 Peter 3:15–16
 - Jude 3
 - Acts 17:22–34
 - Colossians 4:5–6
-

Big Idea

Apologetics is about helping people understand the truth of the Gospel.

Introduction

Every Christian will eventually encounter difficult questions.

Why does God allow suffering?

Can the Bible be trusted?

Who is Jesus?

Why does truth matter?

The goal of apologetics is not to win debates.

It is to remove unnecessary barriers that keep people from considering Christ.

We answer questions with humility.

We listen carefully.

We respond graciously.

And we trust the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts.

Truth without love becomes harsh.

Love without truth becomes empty.

Biblical apologetics requires both.

Practical Principles

When discussing faith:

- Listen first.
- Ask thoughtful questions.
- Answer honestly.
- Admit when you don't know.
- Continue learning.
- Keep Christ at the center.
- Speak with humility and respect.

People are often influenced as much by our attitude as our answers.

Reflection

1. What questions about Christianity do you find most challenging?
 2. How can you continue growing in biblical understanding?
 3. How can humility strengthen your witness?
-

Weekly Challenge

Research one common question about Christianity and study what Scripture says about it.

Prayer

Father,

Give me wisdom, compassion, and humility whenever I speak about my faith. Help my words reflect both truth and love.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Always be prepared to give an answer... with gentleness and respect."

— 1 Peter 3:15

LESSON 20 — A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Theme

Prayer is not simply something we do—it becomes the rhythm of our lives.

Key Scriptures

- Luke 11:1–13
 - Philippians 4:6–7
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18
 - John 15:7
-

Big Idea

Prayer keeps us connected to the heart of God.

Introduction

As ministry grows, prayer must grow with it.

Jesus prayed before making major decisions.

He prayed before miracles.

He prayed during trials.

He prayed for His disciples.

He prayed for future believers—including us.

Prayer is more than presenting requests.

It is abiding in God's presence.

Listening for His voice.

Aligning our hearts with His will.

Trusting Him completely.

A life rooted in prayer becomes a life marked by peace, wisdom, discernment, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Developing a Lifestyle of Prayer

Grow by practicing:

- Daily personal prayer.
- Listening in silence.
- Praying Scripture.
- Interceding for others.
- Keeping a prayer journal.
- Praying throughout the day.
- Ending each day with gratitude.

Prayer becomes less of an activity and more of a relationship.

Reflection

1. How has your prayer life grown since beginning THE28th.LIFE?
 2. What distractions most often interrupt your time with God?
 3. What new prayer habit will you begin this week?
-

Weekly Challenge

Set aside fifteen uninterrupted minutes each day this week to simply be with God.

Read Scripture.

Pray.

Listen.

Journal what He places on your heart.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for inviting me into relationship with You. Teach me to seek Your presence before I seek Your direction. May prayer become as natural as breathing, and may my life remain rooted in You through every season.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Pray continually."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Module 5 Wrap-Up

Fruitful ministry always grows from faithful intimacy with Christ.

Throughout this module, you've deepened your understanding of Scripture, strengthened your commitment to prayer, explored how to teach God's Word faithfully, and learned to defend your faith with both confidence and compassion. These practices are not merely disciplines to complete—they are lifelong rhythms that keep your heart anchored in Jesus and your ministry centered on Him.

As your influence grows, so must your dependence upon God. The deeper your roots sink into His Word and His presence, the more resilient you will become through seasons of joy, challenge, success, and hardship. God is not simply preparing you to accomplish great things for Him—He is continually shaping you to become more like His Son.

Never stop being a student of Scripture.

Never stop listening in prayer.

Never stop allowing the Holy Spirit to transform your heart.

The world needs disciples whose public ministry is sustained by a vibrant private relationship with Christ.

Up Next: Module 6 — The Mission in Action

Your faith has been ignited, strengthened, equipped, and deeply rooted. Now it's time to step beyond preparation and into greater Kingdom impact. In the next module, you'll discover practical opportunities to serve through community outreach, local and global missions, compassionate ministry, and partnerships through **THE28th.LIFE**. You'll learn that every act of service becomes a visible expression of the Gospel—and every opportunity to love others becomes an opportunity to reveal the heart of Jesus.