

Fundamentals of Ministry

Lorne Sanny

Seminar Workbook



Forward

Lorne Sanny began working on a draft of the **Fundamentals of Ministry** (FOM) in 1974. Once this document was complete and made available to the staff, Lorne was content for the rest of his life to believe that an authentic Navigator ministry statement had been summarized in the three key words: **evangelizing, establishing** and **equipping**. At that time, I felt this was perhaps the greatest legacy Lorne would pass on to future Navigators. I still do.

The FOM was later followed by the Scriptural Roots of Ministry in the 1980s and today's calling statement and core values. However, the FOM is the dictionary, the encyclopedia, the Navigator Bible, with which the authenticity of all dogma, ideas, and innovations of future Navigators can be tested. If future generations should lose the Navigator vision, perhaps a person like Josiah (II Chronicles 34:14-21) will dust off and implement the scriptural principles found in the FOM.

Jim Downing

Fundamentals of Ministry

Lorne Sanny

Introduction

This Seminar is addressed to the men and women who make up the Navigator staff around the world. It is neither a book to be read, nor is it a ministry manual. Rather, it is the distilled essence of the Navigator philosophy in Seminar form.

It deals with basic truths, principles and guidelines which are necessary as we plan and minister together. These are also intended to help us individually, to root our calling and our ministries in the Bible. We depend upon your maturity and judgment in the use and application of this material.

Certain recurring questions led us to develop this Seminar. For example:

- Is a society such as The Navigators biblically legitimate?
- What is our God-given calling?
- What are the cross-cultural essentials to fulfill that calling?
- How should we relate to the Body of Christ?
- How can we better integrate these insights into our lives and ministries?

We have sought here to provide a forum where what we are learning can be clarified and communicated.

The Fundamentals of the Navigator Ministry is the product of a thoroughly cooperative effort by the entire Navigator staff. It was assembled out of input from the staff and then resubmitted to them for revision. It has been dismantled and rebuilt block by block as it has been taken around the world. It remains a document under revision, subject to the modifications that will inevitably be made as we gain new insights into how to more effectively fulfill God's purposes for us.

Since the Bible is the source book and authority for the Navigator ministry, we have sought to root these Fundamentals of Ministry in it. Since the Bible is cross-cultural, it also serves as an effective medium of communication. Hence we have, as far as possible, used biblical terms as our means of expression.

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Masculine references include the feminine gender, unless the context dictates otherwise.

Seminar Overview

The scope of this Seminar includes:

I. Our Identity

Who are we? Before we can really understand what it is we are supposed to do, we must first define our identity. We do this by viewing ourselves in relationship to God, to His Kingdom, to the Church and its manifestations in the world.

II. Our Calling

God, being the Lord of the harvest, assigns specific functions to His servants. No individual, or group, is expected to do everything. Consequently, the question, what is our calling, is extremely important.

We begin with the Great Commission and go on from there to define our Aim.

III. Essentials of the Ministry

There are certain things we must do and teach if we hope to fulfill our calling. Circumstances, personalities and cultures affect the means or methods we employ, but there are a few functions that we want to make sure are present in any Navigator ministry. We identify these essentials.

IV. Basic Beliefs

Just as there are a few essential functions in our ministry, so have we - as Navigators - always held to certain fundamental truths or beliefs. We set out these beliefs.

V. Forms

Our few essential functions need to be expressed and reproduced through forms.

We look at forms of communication - and examine the use of tools and methods. We then describe an important form: The Disciplemaking Team.

VI. Application

If we do the right things in the right way, with right hearts towards God, we can anticipate progress towards our Aim. We will see results. What results do we desire?

VII. Relating

We are a part of God's Body; of His program. Parts do not find their fulfillment until they are fitted into the whole. How about those we disciple and prepare to labor? How are they to complement the Body? And, collectively, how do The Navigators relate to the rest of the Body?

VIII. Strategic Guidelines

Finally, we must recognize our limits. We are specialists. We identify what we will and will not do as Navigators.

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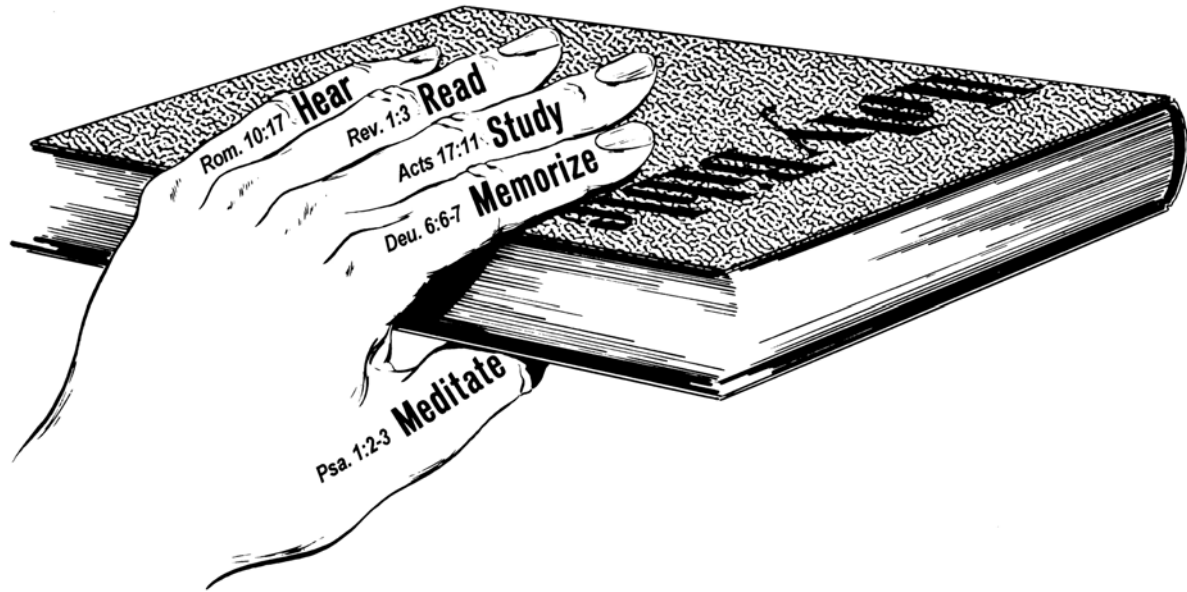
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The Wheel Illustration
Christ-Centered Spirit-Filled Life



The Word Hand Illustration

Abiding in the Word of God



Hear – to be informed	Romans 10:17 Jeremiah 3:15
Read – to be healthy	Revelation 1:3 Deuteronomy 17:19
Study – to be intelligent	Acts 17:11 II Timothy 2:15
Memorize – to be skillful	Deuteronomy 6:6-7 Proverbs 7:1-3
Meditate – to be fruitful	Psalms 1:2-3 I Timothy 4:15
Apply – to be obedient	Ezra 7:10 James 1:22
Proclaim – to be reproductive	Colossians 1:28-29 II Timothy 2:2

(Primary verses for the Word Hand were chosen by Dawson Trotman in 1937-39; the “Word Hand Scripture Memory Pack” was created by a KMI laymen’s team, with help from Jim Downing and John & Helen Crawford in 2005).

God

“In the beginning God.” We start with God.

Who is God and what is He doing? These are two fundamental questions of the Christian life. Putting the same questions another way, Paul asked, “Who are you, Lord?” and “What shall I do, Lord?” - Acts 22:8,10. To answer these two questions is to define one's philosophy of life as well as one's ministry.

I. Who is God?

A. The revelation of God in the Bible is progressive. Exodus 6: 2,3. Step by step God revealed Himself - by new names, by His works, by His prophets. Finally He revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. “God ...has spoken to us by his Son ...the exact representation of his being.” - Hebrews 1:2-3. Who is God? What is He like? Look at His Son.

B. God is infinite - Isaiah 40:12-28. He has spoken. Because both these statements are true, finite man has access to infinite truth. If He had not spoken, life, the world around us and our very existence would be inscrutable. So we must begin with God. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” -Psalm 111:10.

II. What is He Doing?

A. It is in understanding what God is doing that we understand what we should be about. What is He doing? He is reconciling the world unto Himself - Colossians 1:19-21; 2 Corinthians 5: 19,20.

B. So our ministry begins with God. He is a loving, holy God reaching out to His creatures. His justice and mercy meet in the sending of His Son. The Great Commission is consistent with God's nature. As He sent His Son, He sends us. Our ministry has its origins in the person of God.

The Kingdom of God

Central to God's person is His sovereignty - His right and power to do what He wants. Sovereignty presupposes a kingdom.

I. The Kingdom of God is a major theme of the Bible.

A. In the Old Testament, the Kingdom is presented as absolute, ultimate and eternal. Psalm 2:6,10,12 - "I have installed my King upon Zion, My holy mountain ...now therefore O kings, show discernment ...do homage to the Son." See also 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:1-7.

B. Jesus refers to the Kingdom over 80 times in the Gospels, often in enigmatic terms:

- It is present, yet it is future - Luke 17:20,21; and 22:16-18.
- It is revealed, yet it is a mystery - John 3:3-5.
- It is among us, but not of the world - John 18:36.
- It is like a small seed, yet it pervades everything - Luke 13:18-21.

C. In Acts, the Gospel was the "good news of the Kingdom of God" - Acts 8:12; and 28:30, 31 .

D. In the Epistles, the early Christians were called on to be "worthy citizens of the Kingdom" - 2 Thessalonians 1:5. And were promised they would inherit it! - Ephesians 1:20-23.

E. In the Book of Revelation, the rule of God is made complete - Revelation 11:15; and 19:12-16.

The Kingdom was the first (Mark 1:14,15) and the last thing (Acts 1:3) that Jesus talked about. It is impossible to ignore such an essential theme without loss of perspective. The Kingdom of God spans eternity. It completes the picture.

II. What is the Kingdom?

A. The Kingdom of God is not a place or a realm. It is the absolute reign of God over all that exists. All rule, all authority and all power are His - Colossians 1:16.

B. God assigned certain dominions to the creatures of His creation; to angels and to man. These were given limited authority - Genesis 1:26-29; Luke 4:5,6; Ephesians 6:12. But both angel and man marred and destroyed their domains through rebellion - 1 Corinthians 15:21-26; Romans 8:19-22; Jude 6.

C. From the time of the Fall, God has been at work reconciling that which was alienated by sin.

1. The Kingdom of Israel was a “first fruit” of God's promise to reestablish His perfect order. Israel was not that Kingdom, but a promise, or preview, of what is to come - II Samuel 7:12-16; Deuteronomy 4:5-7.

2. The death of Jesus Christ was the decisive step in restoring all things under God's sovereign rule: the Resurrection, the final guarantee - Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23; Colossians 1:18-22.

3. Citizenship in God's Kingdom occurs on an individual basis and is synonymous with salvation - John 3:3; Mark 10:24,25. These citizens make up the Church - Ephesians 2:19. The Church, like Israel, is a unique living proof of God's victory over the principalities and powers of darkness - 1 Peter 2:9. The Church will inherit the Kingdom - Matthew 25:34.

D. The Day is coming when God's work of reconciliation will be completed. This creation as we know it will terminate - 2 Peter 3: 9,10. Christ the King will appear to judge (Matthew 25:31,32) and to establish a new and imperishable creation - Revelation 21: 1,2. Then God Himself will eternally rule - 1 Corinthians 15:28.

The Kingdom is the saving rule of God - Isaiah 52:7 (Note 1). For the present, we see it as a mustard seed; the growth in the world of that which we saw in Jesus; grace and truth. As to the future, we look for the day when all things are united in Him and God's glory is completely revealed - Habakkuk 2:14.

III. What Difference does the Kingdom make?

A. Perspective

To understand God's eternal purposes, we begin with His Kingdom. God has an un-altering, un-failing plan that predates creation and the Fall. It existed in His mind before this world came into being - Ephesians 1:4-10. The scope of this plan embraces the universe. What is God's plan? It is to reconcile all things to Himself - beginning with man - Ephesians 1:11-14, 19-23. So our reconciliation to God is part of a great cosmic drama.

The Kingdom is fundamental to our view of reality. We may not perceive it, but it is really what is going on around us. It gives us a basis for understanding the world, the Church, The Navigators, and our personal lives and ministries.

The Kingdom lifts us out of sectarianism. We are not merely working for a perishable organization nor are we in competition with any other laborers in God's harvest. We are serving the King of an unshakable Kingdom. Our labors are never lost nor in vain - Hebrews 12:28.

B. Evangelism

Our Gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom. That means at least two things:

1. Salvation is being reconciled to Christ the sovereign King. At the center of the Christian life is a reigning Savior. No area of life escapes His dominion - Isaiah 52:7.
2. We become citizens of His Kingdom. This means deliverance from the dominion of darkness, and a new way of life. The reconciliation won by Christ means we can expect now to find substantial healing in every area that has suffered from the Fall - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

C. Discipleship

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness - Matthew 6: 33. God does not intend for everyone to join The Navigators, but no one escapes the call to God's Kingdom. We have a mandate to call on all men to be its worthy citizens. No area of life is excluded.

D. Crossing Cultures

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession” - 1 Peter 2:9.

How do we avoid corrupting the Gospel with our cultural peculiarities? Everything created by man is marred by the Fall, cultures included. But there is a universal reference point: the Kingdom culture. It is an entirely other order - Leviticus 18:3-5. Jesus describes the characteristics of that culture in Chapters 5-7 of Matthew.

1. It is always relevant.
2. It dwarfs all other allegiances - political, ideological, theological, national, cultural or tribal.
3. It speaks to every aspect of life and society.