

JESUS CARES MINISTRIES

Restoring Individuals, Families, Marriages

PO Box 371 | Chandler, Arizona 85244 | 480 831-1737 | www.jesuscaresministries.org

E.Q.U.I.P

Continuing the vision

With all the saints cheering me on, it seemed fitting in the beginning of this year, to continue the vision Tom had to equip others. Our desire, as we

catch and hoping to bring as many into the kingdom as we labor together. We had the amazing privilege of a full day equipping mission directors



got grounded in our mission, was to commit to seeing other ministries succeed and thrive. Pastor Chet, from our founding board, always said that true fellowship was fellows in the same ship! We are all living for the Master, casting out our nets for a

and individuals who disciple others. Tom and I wrote the curriculum which was tweaked to accommodate group home leaders and directors of discipleship houses. E.Q.U.I.P. was the last project Tom and I worked on together and the last series we taught together.

"This conference was so helpful! The most impactful for me is the reminder that my labor in the Lord is not futile. The proclamation of the gospel is never wasted. Even when I am tired or there is no visible fruit. I was also encouraged to embrace leadership challenges. My preference is behind-the-scenes ministry, but God has called me to lead and to cultivate those who serve alongside me. Every challenge serves a purpose and rather than dread challenges or simply go to "fix it" mode, the Lord has called me to cultivate the relationship. Thank you for investing in our staff with such rich biblical truth!"

~Liz

**Visit our website for
free resources!**

jesuscaresministries.org

The day was bittersweet, as Suzanne joined with me in delivering the message of how to abound in the work of the Lord. Using this acronym, we would love to share with you the vision of E.Q.U.I.P. and give you a little taste of the series.

E = Excel

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being continually aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile nor wasted [it is never without purpose]. -1 Corinthians 15:58 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Paul had a healthy view of what it meant to excel! It was all about doing the best he could do with all that the Lord had entrusted to him. Exhaustion can set in when laboring in the Kingdom but that doesn't have to lead to burn-out. In this section we explore our motives, expectations and attitudes toward ministry. Grace = God's ability and therefore excelling is made possible with the empowerment of God's grace.

Q = Qualify

So then, let us [who minister] be regarded as servants of Christ and stewards (trustees, administrators) of the mysteries of God [that He chooses to reveal]. In this case, moreover, it is required [as essential and demanded] of stewards that one be found faithful and trustworthy. -1 Corinthians 4:1-2

So many believers struggle to know when it is



time to reach out and help others. Too many of us can be condemned with thoughts that we don't measure up. As a body, we tend to move into extremes of ignoring the mandates of Scripture regarding leaders or over scrutinizing and disqualifying those God has called. We explore Abraham in this segment, as we build the concept of faithfulness as the ground floor qualifier for leadership and a key to good stewardship in the Kingdom.

U = Understand

And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him— The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and strength, The Spirit of knowledge and of the [reverential and obedient] fear of the LORD. -Isaiah 1:2

Acquiring the skill to meet the needs of others can be a daunting task in the age in which we live. Jesus, our model, changed his approach and not His convictions in order to minister to the varied needs around Him in His mission. An understanding heart is essential as we reach out to others.

"One thing that really spoke to me was my need to get rid of unrealistic expectations and to learn to put realistic expectations on the altar."

~Leah

"... the phrase complete don't compete, helped my heart to remember to work toward understanding other people in ministry that I serve with, so we can work "better together."

~Tony

Tony and Leah flew in from Texas. They are houseparents at Heart of Hope Maternity Home in Louisiana. It was a real joy to host them in our respite room for the week.



I = Instruct

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. -II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

No magic wands presented in this segment of E.Q.U.I.P.! The Word of God must be the basis and foundation of all the principles we use to instruct others in their journey. As we take the time to understand the hearts of those we are reaching, we will be better equipped to instruct them. We discuss the difference between mentoring, counseling and discipling in this segment. The rabbi/talmidim (teacher/disciple) model is discussed with a goal of making disciples who want to be like the Master! Taking time for self-care, facilitating effective teams, and training staff were also topics of our discussion on "instruct."

P = Prepare

So prepare your minds for action, be completely

sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. -1 Peter 1:13

Guarding against cynicism, preparing for the ups and downs of mission work, and actively building our own character were the major points of prepare. We focused on longevity and effectiveness in ministry for this portion.

Thanks to all of you, we are able to put on seminars and conduct classes for the community that help equip them for life and ministry challenges. We are grateful for the many volunteers that have continued to sustain this ministry, the dozens of helpers that God has sent, the encouraging hearts, and the beautiful harvest that the Lord has brought to our doorsteps!

Last year began with Tom's death and ended with my mom's passing. Graduations, weddings and births continued for our family in the latter part of 2022 and into the new year. Board meetings, challenges, tough decisions, and amazing, miraculous provisions have been a part of our ministry life in the new year. The outpouring of love and support has not ceased. I am continually grateful to God for His Matthew 6:33 provisions that sustain and strengthen my sometimes

Kelley has been a great asset to these women. Her expertise is not just in teaching *Children: Our Heritage* but she designs custom made parenting plans for each woman (I.P.P.) This facilitates the women growing in parenting skills and gives the staff a reference point to see their progress.



Children: Our Heritage is a great companion tool for Moms and Dads. It can be facilitated in groups or individually. It is available online with a downloadable booklet with fill-ins to go with the teachings and a complete facilitator's guide:
jesuscares4u.org/parenting2.aspx

We also have some fun music for children that teach lessons and aid in Scripture memory:
jesuscares4u.org/foundations_for_kids_series.aspx



Micah finishing up the series with the ladies of Freedom House

trembling heart. We covet your prayers as we continue to show the community that...

JESUS CARES