

## **Search & Rescue Teams: An Overview**

### **“Advancing Christ’s Kingdom in 2’s and 3’s”**

#### **Key Bible Verses:**

- *“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! ...Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’” (Luke 10:1-24)*
- *“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)*
- *“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)*
- *“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matt. 18:20)*
- *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)*
- *“‘Come, follow me’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’” (Matt. 4:19)*
- *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Mt 28:18-20)*

**Search & Rescue Team Mission:** *To love, follow and obey Christ and help others to do the same.*

**Introduction:** When believers gather in small groups of two or three, dynamic kingdom impact can occur. Jesus sent out small Search & Rescue Teams made up of only two people. They were commissioned to advance the kingdom of God through prayer, proclamation, and power (such as healing the sick).

The Rock International Tribe’s primary building block for advancing the kingdom of God in cities, regions, and nations is covenant families (house churches). Every covenant family (house church) is called to help each member become like Christ through discipling relationships and to carry out the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20). The activities of a covenant family are often best done in gender-specific groups of two or three people. In order to help achieve our Covenant Family goals, we encourage people to relationally connect with one or two others to enhance and extend discipleship, focused prayer, and evangelism. Being deliberate in activities such as prayer and evangelism can inspire God’s people to be more proactive.

Search & Rescue Teams are gender-specific small groups of 2 or 3 people who are members of a Covenant Family (House Church). The exception may be that a Search & Rescue Team of 2 or 3 people may be the core seed of an emerging covenant family if there is no covenant family (house church) in that area. There are five purposes for a Search & Rescue Team: 1) to help each other love, follow, obey and become like Christ through support, training, accountability, and prayer, 2) to read and apply the Word of God to our everyday lives, 3) to pray for those who do not have Christ living in them as Lord and/or who are not in a covenant spiritual family, 4) to build loving relationships with those who are not in Christ for the purpose of sharing the good news of the kingdom of God in word and deed, and 5) to follow-up and disciple those who have just come to Christ.

A small committed group of two to three people has a much better chance of digging into the deep root issues that are blocking personal transformation. In the safety of unconditional love, trust, and confidentiality people can truly open their hearts. They are more apt to let their “inner conversation”, heart motives, and lifestyle issues come into the light. In the light and love of Father’s Spirit and Father’s family, we can fight for one another’s transformation into Christ’s likeness.

At the same time, twos and threes are highly effective outreach teams. They are flexible, spontaneous, and organically relational. They can go into the everyday world of those who don’t know Christ and meet them on their turf. This is in contrast to most church strategies that try to pull the unbeliever into church meetings in order to hear the gospel.

#### **Five Activities of a Search & Rescue Team:**

1. Helping each other become like Christ involves opening up our hearts and lives, so that we can exchange the life of Christ between one another: Transformation occurs when we help one another (a) renew our minds so that we have the mind of Christ, (b) get our hearts transformed into Christ’s heart, and (c) take on a kingdom lifestyle which complies with God’s will, God’s way, through God’s Spirit. The key is submitting to Christ (through His written Word), to Christ’s Spirit, and to Christ who dwells in our brothers and sisters. Use the “Kingdom Lifestyle Planning Page” as a tool to help each other focus and grow in the key areas pointed out by the Holy Spirit. The “character questions” will be asked to one another whenever we meet.
2. Reading, discussing, and applying the Word of God: We recommend utilizing the “One Year Bible” (reading approximately 30 chapters a week).
3. Strategically praying for those who are not yet in Christ: Prayer releases the Holy Spirit to convict unbelievers that they need to get right with God. It brings the manifest presence and power of the Holy Spirit into their lives. It causes people and circumstances to positively influence unbelievers. It brings you before Christ’s face and keeps you focused on who you are and why you exist. (Matt. 6:9-13) *“My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”* (Mark 11:17) Prayer moves God, who moves the world. Pray specifically for a person, bringing their name before God. Ask God for these five things to occur in their life:

1. Pray that the Father would draw them to Jesus (John 6:44).
2. Bind the spirit that blinds their minds (2 Cor. 4:4).
3. Loose the Spirit of adoption (sonship, daughtership) (Romans 8:15).
4. Pray that believers will cross their paths and enter into positive relationships with them (Matt. 9:38).
5. Loose the Spirit of wisdom and revelation on them so they may know God better (Eph. 1:17).

Pray in tongues often throughout the day. I Cor. 14:4

Fasting: Mark 9:27 "This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting"

4. Build loving, serving relationships with those who are not yet in Christ. When their hearts become open to yours, the Spirit of Jesus flows out of you and opens their hearts, causing them to receive Christ for themselves. When you listen to their life stories and inner heart conversations, be sure to respond in words and body language with affirmation, acceptance, affection, and assistance (willingness to help them become like Christ and fulfill their destinies). Do not hesitate to move in the gifts of the Spirit as well. Healing and deliverance should be practiced regularly.
5. Make sure that you follow up those you lead to Christ. Help them get a good study Bible in an easy to understand translation. Teach them *2Proapt* (Pray, Preview, Read, Observe, Apply, Pray, Tell) inductive Bible study method. Invite them into your Search & Rescue Team.

### **Reviewing the Search & Rescue Team's Purpose:**

"We are two/three guys or gals who covenant to meet weekly for the purpose of being mutually accountable for our personal struggles (sin), and in turn offering each other prayer, support and confidentiality."<sup>1</sup> In addition, we will pray for and reach out to those who do not know our heavenly Father through Christ. When they invite Christ to live in their hearts as Lord, we will follow-up and disciple them to become followers of Christ 24/7/365, to join our 2's/3's and come into our Covenant Family.

### **Same Sex Only:**

Some of the things we need to talk about most are less likely to be dealt with in a coed group.<sup>2</sup>

### **Two or Three, not four:**

Size is a critical element that can help or hinder our group purpose. While limiting our size to two or three people, we still continue looking for opportunities to include others. When the fourth person shows up we multiply and become two different groups. In this way there is no limit to the number of people who can become involved. A group of two or three has increased opportunity to achieve intimacy in sharing. Reproducibility is one of our stated goals, and one of

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<sup>1</sup> Cole, Neil, "Life Transformation Groups", *Life Transformation Groups* © 2000 by Neil Cole  
Adapted by R. Cody Smith © 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

the hoped-for results of our harvest prayers. Fewer moving parts means more flexibility in planning our times together.<sup>3</sup> Of course, we can maintain relationships with those who were once in our Search & Rescue team, either informally or through our Covenant Family.

#### **More In-Depth Explanation of the Five Activities of a Search & Rescue Team:**

- 1. Submitting to Christ in His Word, Christ's Spirit, and the Christ in one another.**  
**Confession of Sin, and Helping Each Other to Become like Christ:** There are many Character Questions that we will each answer truthfully every time we meet. Everything said during this time will be held in the strictest confidence, creating a safe environment for confession of sin and honest conversation about our common struggles. In this process we will become known as we truly are, and invite one another to keep us accountable for our progress. Prayer over the issues raised will be our only response to sin confessed. Also, you may want to use the *Kingdom Lifestyle Planning Page* as a tool for helping each other grow in Christ.
- 2. Reading of Scripture:** We believe that there is power in the scriptures to transform lives. Each week our group will select a portion to read (kind of like homework). Our goal is that we will read about thirty chapters each week. It may take us a while to develop an appetite for this much scripture, and that's OK. This isn't about skipping through the Bible in one year. If one or more of us are unable to finish the agreed upon reading, then we'll just try again with the same scriptures the following week. Unlike other books, the Bible actually gets better when read repeatedly.
- 3. Harvest Praying:** We will endeavor to pray new people into the kingdom of God (See prayer guide), and also pray that he will add to our number in this group enabling us to multiply.
- 4. Reaching Out to Those Who are Not Followers of Christ:** There are several great places to meet and influence friends to become followers of Christ. Co-workers, neighbors, schoolmates, and relatives are some of the places to reach out. You could even start 2's/3's at your job, meeting during your lunch break or right after work.
- 5. Discipling/Coaching New Believers and Connecting Them into our Covenant Family:** There are several ways to follow up a new believer: 1) Get them a well-translated easy-to-understand Bible, 2) Have them start meeting in your 2's/3's, 3) Introduce them to your covenant family and make sure they get baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, 4) Give them regular calls throughout the week to see how they are doing, 5) Lead them through inner healing and deliverance, 6) Teach them to hear Christ's voice objectively in the Word and subjectively in their spirit, 7) Make sure they have experienced the revelation of sonship (Rom. 8) and know their authority as a child of God.

#### **Accountability and Growth Questions:**

If a follower of Christ is humble, teachable, accountable, truthful, and obedient and if they will place their faith in Christ as Lord, great and lasting transformation into Christ's likeness will

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

occur. (Romans 8; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Peter 5:5-7) One of the keys to growth is “living in the light”. (1 John 1:5-2:17) This involves opening up, being honest and transparent, and revealing inner thoughts, heart motives, secret sins, and personal life to your Father and spiritual family who loves you unconditionally. Below are many questions that can be used by the Holy Spirit and your natural and spiritual family to help each person grow and change.

Questions about your identity as a son or daughter of your heavenly Father:

1. In what ways and how often does the Holy Spirit tell your personal spirit that you are a child of God? (Romans 8:15-17)
2. A person with an “orphaned heart” has places in their spirit and soul that have not yet received their identity, worth and destiny from their heavenly Father. This can be exposed when one thinks or feels that they are being personally upstaged or replaced by another person, or they perceive their ego or destiny is being threatened. Here are some questions that might expose an “orphaned” heart: Have you secretly wished for another’s misfortune so that you might excel? Who are you jealous or envious of and why? Who or what threatens you? Describe people or situations that make you angry.
3. In what ways has your appearance shaped your identity or worth?
4. To what degree do your achievements define your identity and worth?
5. Are you consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that you are better than you are? In other words, are you a hypocrite?

Questions about your sense of being loved by Father:

1. In what ways are you experiencing Father’s love for you?
2. When and how have you experienced God’s love being poured into your heart? (Rom 5:5)
3. What people, experiences, or circumstances cause you to doubt God’s love?
4. In what ways do you feel “ripped off”? Why?
5. Do you believe that being liked by certain people makes you more valuable or important? Why?
6. What people, circumstances, or situations cause you to feel threatened or angry? Why?
7. What are your personal ambitions? Are they selfish or selfless? How so?

Questions about your calling and destiny:

1. God has special plans, works, and purposes for each person. What is yours? (Eph. 2:10)
2. What are you doing now to prepare for your purpose?

Questions about your level of relational intimacy and love with Father through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit:

1. In what ways did you hear Father’s voice speaking to your spirit? (Romans 8)
2. In what ways did God make his presence known to you since our last meeting? What experiences of prayer, meditation and spiritual reading has God given you? What difficulties or frustrations did you encounter? What joys or delights?

Questions about your practice of spiritual disciplines:

1. Did you finish the scripture reading as agreed? What has God shown you in His Word and what do you plan to do about it?
2. Which spiritual disciplines did God use to lead you further into holiness of heart and life?
3. What fruit of the Spirit would you like to see increase in your life? Which disciplines might be useful in this effort?
4. In what ways did you encounter Christ in your reading of the Scripture since our last meeting? How has the Bible shaped the way you think and live?
5. How frequently and in what ways do you fast?
6. What role does silence play in your life?
7. Have you learned to meditate on Christ and “the things above”? Have you learned how to utilize the “eyes of your heart” such as your imagination to draw closer to Christ?
8. In what ways do you extend Christ’s love and life to others? How do you serve others?

Questions about your level of faith in God and His Word:

1. To what degree do you believe and apply the promises of God?
2. Have you learned how to make faith declarations or confessions from your mouth out loud? What is your practice of this?
3. How do you exercise faith in God’s Word on a daily basis?

Questions about your core values:

1. What would you die for? What would you live for?
2. What are your core values? Are you living according to your core values?

Questions regarding your world view and perspective on what is “Truth”:

1. Is the Biblical description of reality the correct one?
2. Are there “Truths” that are absolutely and always true all the time, every where? What are some of them?
3. Was the universe created by an Intelligent Designer? Why do you believe your answer?
4. Are there governing principles and laws built into creation? If so, what are the consequences for complying or not complying with these realities?
5. Is the Bible God’s Word and is it your authority for faith and life? How is this demonstrated in your life?

Questions about your character:

1. Have you been a testimony to the greatness of Jesus Christ through your thoughts, words and actions? How so?
2. Have you lacked integrity in your words, or financial dealings? How so?
3. What known sins have you committed since our last meeting? How were you delivered?
4. In what ways have you failed to obey Christ this week?
5. What temptations did you face since our last meeting? How did you respond?
6. Is there anything you are withholding from us?
7. Have you been completely honest?

8. What area of your life in the kingdom is Christ most dealing with?
9. Do you enjoy doing spiritual things (like prayer, fasting, giving, acts of compassion) in secret and letting no one find out?
10. When you tell someone you are going to do something, do you keep your promise?
11. Do you obey God quickly, cheerfully, and completely? Give examples.
12. Are you honest in all your acts and words, or do you exaggerate?
13. Do you pass onto others what you were told in confidence?
14. Are you a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits? How?
15. Are you self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying? Describe.
16. Do you disobey God in anything? How?
17. Do you insist upon doing something about which your conscience is uneasy?
18. Are you defeated in any part of your life? How?
19. Are you jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful? In what way?
20. Do you thank God that you are not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the publican?

Questions about your thought life:

1. Have you learned how to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ ”? (2 Corinthians 10:5)
2. What does the Bible mean when it talks about the “renewal of your mind” or “setting your mind on things above”? (Romans 12:2; Col. 3:2) In what ways, are you cultivating a renewed mind?
3. Do you find yourself having long internal conversations with people who have hurt or offended you? Why?
4. Do you have obsessive thoughts, worries, or fears? What are they?
5. What thoughts preoccupy your mind?
6. What are you thinking about when you daydream?
7. How do you think about yourself?

Questions about how you take care of your body, soul, and spirit:

1. Do you consistently exercise at least three times a week? What is your exercise regiment?
2. What are your sleep and napping patterns?
3. Describe your eating habits and the kinds of foods you use to fuel your body.
4. In what ways do you continue educating yourself about life? What role do books, magazines, journals, documentaries play in your development as a person?
5. Describe your level of emotional and mental health?
6. What role do the arts (music, drama, paintings, etc) play in your life?
7. How frequently and in what ways do you meet with Jesus throughout each day?
8. Is obeying Christ a high priority? How and in what ways?
9. Have you cultivated a consistently growing spiritual life or do you struggle with lots of “ups and downs”?

Questions about your lifestyle:

1. What kind of lifestyle is necessary to make you happy?
2. What level of income, housing, clothing, transportation, and recreation do you require in order to feel fulfilled?
3. How do you use your free time?
4. How do you unwind and relax?
5. How much television do you watch? Which programs?
6. How much time do you spend on the internet?
7. How much time do you spend playing video/computer games?
8. Describe your relationship with food. How much? What kind? How important? To what degree is it used to escape, comfort, or pleasure you?
9. Do you pray about the money you spend?
10. How do you give, spend, and save your money? Do you use the 10-10-80 plan? Give 10 percent as tithe to spiritual family (church), save 10 percent, live on 80 percent. What is your financial plan and budget?

Questions about accountability and submission to authority:

1. The five jurisdictions of kingdom government are: (a) personal, (b) marriage and family, (c) church, (d) work, and (e) civil. Describe the importance of honoring and submitting to natural and spiritual authority in these jurisdictions.
2. Describe your level of commitment to submitting to and obeying those in delegated authority.
3. In what ways do you struggle with rebellion?
4. What are the benefits of respecting, honoring, and complying with authority figures? How have you benefitted from submitting to authority?

Questions about your marriage and/or family:

1. In what ways is your marriage and family in divine order? In what ways is your marriage and family out of divine order?
2. Describe your communication patterns?
3. Describe your skills of conflict resolution?
4. What are the most obvious weaknesses in your marriage and family and what are you going to do to correct the problems?

Questions about your life at work:

1. What would your boss and co-workers say about your productivity and work habits?
2. How do you reveal the love, wisdom, and power of Christ at work?
3. Do you work as if Christ were your boss? (Ephesians 6:7) Give examples.

Questions about your relationship with your neighbors:

1. Do you love your neighbor as yourself? How so?
2. Describe your relationships with your neighbors.
3. In what ways do you serve and reach out to your neighbors?

Questions about your citizenship:

1. Do you pray for your elected and appointed civil leaders? How so?
2. Are you proactively involved in serving your community and country?
3. Do you study the issues and research policy positions of elected officials? Do you vote?
4. Do you voice your concerns to your elected officials?

Questions about your sexual purity:

1. Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material, or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate sexual thoughts? How so?
2. Are you emotionally, relationally, and sexually loyal to your spouse (or future spouse for singles)?

Questions about your relationships:

1. Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships? How so?
2. Have you harmed or meant harm to another person by your words, either behind their backs, or face to face? How so?
3. Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this week?
4. Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
5. Is there anyone whom you fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward or disregard? If so, what are you going to do about it?

Questions about forgiveness and judgments:

1. Have you continued to remain angry toward another? How so?
2. Is there any person you need to forgive and bless?
3. Is there any person whose forgiveness you need to seek?

Questions to ask others (such as natural and spiritual family, friends, co-workers, classmates, team members) for feedback and insight:

1. What are my greatest strengths and weaknesses?
2. What are my personal blind spots?
3. In what ways do I hurt your feelings or negatively affect you?
4. What do you think are the most important things I need to change?
5. What opportunities or experiences am I missing?
6. What habits, personality quirks, attitudes or actions cause others to distrust me, be offended, turned off, or withdraw?
7. Am I quick to humble my heart and admit wrong attitudes or actions? Do I respond defensively? Am I teachable and easily entreated?
8. Do I take personal responsibility for my life or do I shift blame to others? Do I present myself as a victim?

Questions about your private life:

1. Have you given in to addictive behavior or allowed your mind to be controlled by obsessive thoughts? How so?
2. In what areas and in what ways are you struggling most?
3. Have you done questionable or compromising things when you are alone?

Questions about your desires, drives, and passions:

1. Describe the things that excite you.
2. What do you live for and what would you die for?
3. Have you delighted yourself in the Lord and had Him “download” His desires into your heart? (Psalm 37:4) Describe.

Questions about your use of time, money, and energy:

1. Have you set kingdom priorities and goals? What are they?
2. Do you have a strategy to reach your goals? What is it?
3. Describe your level of discipline and commitment to achieving your life calling and serving others.

Questions about your calling, destiny, vision, and goals:

1. What are your specific kingdom-advancing goals this week? How can we pray for and help you?
2. What would you like to accomplish before you die?
3. What legacy would you like to leave?
4. What is the vision Christ has given to you for advancing His kingdom.

Questions about your gifts and talents:

1. What are your spiritual gifts?
2. How are you using your spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ and advance Christ’s kingdom?
3. What talents do you have? Are you using them? How so?

Questions about reaching out to those who haven’t yet placed their faith in Christ:

1. Have you faithfully prayed for the lost as agreed?
2. In what ways have you built a caring/loving/serving relationship with someone who doesn’t know Christ? Who are they?
3. Did God provide an opportunity for you to share your faith with someone? How did you respond?
4. Did you encounter injustice to or oppression of others? Were you able to work for justice and peace? How so?
5. Do you frequently pray for those who are sick or oppressed? How and with whom?
6. When did you last speak to someone about your faith?

Questions about your level of personal discipline and responsibility:

1. Do you consistently set goals and reach them?
2. Have you developed good habits which you exercise daily? What are they?
3. What areas of your life could use more discipline?
4. In what areas could you be more responsible?
5. In which of the five jurisdictions of kingdom government (personal, marriage & family, church family, work place, social & civil) is the Holy Spirit most speaking and working on? What specifically is the Holy Spirit dealing with in your life

Questions about your level of leadership and management:

1. Our original mandate was to “have dominion on the earth” or to “rule & reign” in life. This kingdom or dominion mandate is still in place. In what ways are you displaying kingdom leadership and management?
2. What areas and ways would you like to improve your leadership and management skills?

Questions about past events, relationships, or circumstances that detrimentally affect you today:

1. Are there memories of people or events that still affect you today?
2. Do any past sinful or damaging experiences cause you to believe lies about God, yourself, or others? What are they?
3. Have you forgiven everyone who sinned against you? Have you prayed for them to be blessed?
4. Have you brought all judgments, curses, and negative experiences under Christ’s blood?

Questions about spiritual warfare, including demonic attacks, strongholds, or curses:

1. What sins or weaknesses in your parents, grandparents, or other relatives have been passed on to you?
2. What areas of your thought life, emotions, attitudes, or behaviors have opened doors to demonic oppression or attacks?
3. Have you had any experiences or practices with the occult, false religions, or cults? If so, what were they?

**Prayer Guide for Those Who Don't Yet Know Father through Christ:**

Each member of our Search & Rescue Team will try to identify two/three people whom they feel God is calling them to pray for their salvation. By putting their names in the spaces below, and placing their names in our Bibles, we will be reminded to pray every day each time we open our Bibles for our daily reading.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**The following prayer points may be helpful:**

- That I may proclaim the Gospel clearly to them in word and deed. (Eph 6:19-20)
- Send others to witness to them as well. (Matt. 9:37-38)
- Open their eyes to the light. (2 Cor. 4:4)
- That they would receive the Bible not as the word of men, but of God. (1 Th 2:13)
- That they would seek you, Lord. (Acts 17:27)
- Lord, draw them to yourself. (John 6:44)
- That they would come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:8)
- Call them to turn from sin and begin to follow Jesus. (Acts 17:30-31)
- Cause them to believe the truth and become saved (John 5:24)
- Lord I pray that they will confess with their mouth and believe in their heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Rom. 10:9-10)
- Reveal yourself to them, for you are the Lord of the harvest.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.