



The Master's  
**PLAN**

**A one-year journey to become a disciple  
that makes other disciples**

By Patrick Alexander van der Plaat, M.Sc

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# **OVERVIEW 101 KINGDOM IDENTITY**

Introduction

Lesson 1 Good News?!

Lesson 2 Back to the beginnings

Lesson 3 Going to the root cause

Lesson 4 Too good to be true

Lesson 5 Freedom I can believe in

Lesson 6 Dr Jekyll meets Mr Hyde

Lesson 7 Killing Dr Jekyll

Lesson 8 Grace meets Faith

Lesson 9 Knowing the Spirit

Lesson 10 Clash of Clans part 1

Lesson 11 Clash of Clans part 2

Lesson 12 Bringing it Home

# **WELCOME TO THE MASTER'S PLAN!**

Congratulations! You have made a very important decision in your life. Together with others you have become part of an exciting journey. We like to call this journey “The Master’s Plan” and it is basically the calling that Jesus Christ has put on any believer that truly wants to follow Him.

The journey is progressive, meaning that each part of the Plan is built up in such a way that you can grow and thrive as a Christian, who, consequently, invite others to join you as well on the same journey to become like Christ.

We have identified four parts of each 13 weeks that will help you to follow Jesus. They are:

1. KINGDOM IDENTITY
2. GROWING DEEPER
3. GROWING WIDER
4. GROWING FARTHER

## **The heart of the matter**

We believe that discipleship is becoming like the Master. The Master’s Plan of Jesus was simple, yet revolutionary. Jesus would reproduce Himself, His abundant life, in those who spent time with Him so that they as well could do the same with others. That was His original plan and it has never changed. Therefore, becoming like Jesus can’t be just by studying Scripture to get the information right, although the Bible is our compass for life. Rather, becoming like Jesus is a multidimensional and gradual process and it involves an all-of-life approach. Jesus wants all of YOU, not just your intellect!

## **101 Kingdom Identity**

It starts with who you are, your identity of a child of God. In Kingdom Identity, the first part of the journey we’ll zoom in on what that means. Kingdom Identity is about understanding and living out the implications of the Good News of the Kingdom. After all, you can’t give something you don’t have yourself to others. The Good News first needs to be shaped in you, before it will affect others. Besides the Gospel story, we’ll cover other topic such as freedom, renewing the mind, created value, destiny, spiritual warfare, intimacy with God and more.

## **201 Growing Deeper**

The continuation of Kingdom Identity is Growing Deeper. In this course we'll continue building on the identity we have in Christ from which everything else flows. We'll go more into depth what it means to pray, study the Bible, radical generosity and stewardship, hearing God, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit and more.

## **301 Growing Wider**

A disciple becomes more effective in mission as he is growing more and more to become like Christ. Jesus gave His disciples more practical assignments and used real-life situations to teach them. We'll seek similar situations where you'll receive more hands-on tools for ministry. This course is still in development and will be given only in 2020, so more information will follow.

## **401 Growing Farther**

The end-game of being a disciple is reproduction and multiplication. We are not Christians for ourselves only. In this course we'll explore important principles and continue building on courses 101, 201 and 301 so that you will be fully equipped to take your life as a disciple and disciple-maker to the next level. Again, this material is being developed and will be offered only in 2020.

## OUR APPROACH OF LEARNING

The dynamic of the Master's Plan is easy to remember. We call it the **S.T.R.E.A.M.S.** approach that goes like this:

**S** – STORY

**Tr** – TRUTH

**E** – ENGAGE

**A** – APPLY

**M** – MISSION

**S** – STUDY

...Jesus stood up and cried out, *“If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have STREAMS of living water flow from deep within him.”*

**John 7:37-38**

**Story-telling** is what Jesus did and we need to understand that stories are very powerful to connect spiritual truth to real life. He used stories from His cultural context to connect with His audience. We'll use story-telling with examples from our context to do the same thing.

**Truth** is who Jesus is and He said Himself that through Him we would know the truth, which would set us free. It's the big group teaching time where we will explore the main topic of the evening from a biblical perspective.

**Engage** is about the process where the Truth has the chance to land. It's a time for Q&A, follow up and discussion, still in the big group setting.

**Apply** moves disciples into a more intimate space where the implications of the truth taught need to take root in a personal context. It's the time where we share life, stir one another up for works of love, hold one another accountable for growth and pray together. In a small group setting this is more appropriate to give the right support to every participant. After all, discipleship is first caught before it is taught, and the small group context gives the space to catch the bigger picture. It's where you can connect the dots of the teaching in real-life discussion, questions and some group assignments for reflection.

**Mission** is God's heartbeat that reaches out to a world that still needs to know Him. Jesus said Himself that as the Father sent Him, He now sends all of us back into the world to be and do what Jesus did. It's an act of obediently following Him by listening to the Spirit. Again, the practices of being on a mission with God and each other in the world build up progressively. They are designed for you to become the missionary agent of transformation.

**Study** is about going beyond the 'classroom' experience as discipleship was never meant to be a study only. It's where you will follow through on what you have learned. Again, it builds up with a few verses in the 'Kingdom Identity' training to perhaps a whole bible book in the other modules.

## **Core Values of the Master's Plan**

Core Values are like the beacons that will light the way to know where to go. They help us giving the right sense of direction. The four Core Values (CV) in the Master's Plan are important to understand because they will help us along the journey as our tour guide.

1. Relational
2. Intentional
3. Reproducible
4. Gospel-centred

## **PROGRAM MASTER'S PLAN**

### **STREAMS structure**

A typical evening looks like this:

FOOD (30 min)

Before we start the evening, we have a meal together where we unwind from life's activities a bit and prepare our hearts and minds for what's to come. Food is magic! It really helps people to connect informally and creates a healthy atmosphere where discipleship can thrive.

STORY (10 min)

TRUTH (30 min)

ENGAGE (20 min)

APPLY and MISSION (40-50 min)

STUDY (5 min wrap up for the assignments to do during the week) – TOTAL +/- 2-2.5h

## **BEFORE WE BEGIN...**

We are so thrilled to have you with us on the Master's Plan. Let me explain a few things that will be helpful for you to know.

First off, we are starting a journey together. And with any journey, this can be sometimes a bit unpredictable, difficult sometimes, but always refreshing and exciting. There may be moments you sense you're a bit discouraged. Some of the content may be quite new to you and the process can at times be a bit challenging. I want to be honest and up-front with you on this so that you know.

But here's the good news! You are not alone in the process. We are doing this together. Nobody here has all the answers and has got it 'figured out'. We do believe that the process in a group will be so good because we learn together, get to know each other and grow more as a person.

With any course, there are some commitments that need to be made. We believe that you are here, because you really want to be here to learn. Being motivated yourself is much more important than us checking out if you are really doing the assignments and show up for the meetings. In that sense, you are making a '*promise to yourself*' so to speak. Only you know whether you are in this thing or not. Self-motivation is key in the whole journey.

# I PROMISE MYSELF...

I, (name) \_\_\_\_\_, promise myself to faithfully participate in the journey of the Master's Plan.

What am I promising myself?

1. I promise myself to attend all 13 weeks unless I am excused due to sickness or extraordinary circumstances.
  - a. **Please note:** A minimum attendance per module of 11 out of 13 is required to be able to continue with the next modules (if you would like to). For participants that need to miss out more but have legitimate reasons (e.g. planned holidays etc.), it is advised to catch up with Ps. Patrick and your small group leader before the next module starts to be in the loop of everything. The initiative to catch up starts with the participant! Be pro-active.
  - b. You can write to **mastersplan@dianellanazarene.com** for any question.
2. I promise myself that I will keep all conversations within the group as this is a safe place for all to share and be vulnerable.
3. I promise myself that I can be held accountable by others for my participation, efforts and growth in an atmosphere of mutual encouragement, love and acceptance. Also, in love and truth, I can hold others accountable.
4. I promise myself that I will do the assignments to the best of my ability and seek for help from my leader(s) if needed pro-actively.
5. I promise myself that I will actively participate in group discussions and activities in small groups.

**Name**

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## **Introduction to the course – what is Kingdom Identity about?**

There is a big identity crisis on so many levels ravaging many people, because nobody really knew who they were when they were born. WOW! That's a very bold statement to start this course with, wouldn't you say? I will explain it soon.

All of us had to figure out our identity (WHO ARE WE?) through life experiences, which were tainted by the consequences of the Fall. We live in a very broken world. The result is that people define themselves by their story which isn't even their real identity, but rather a construction of what makes sense to them. Even among many Christians there is a lot of *identity confusion*. They do believe in God and serve Him the best they know. They are faithful in coming to church, give their tithes and offerings, study the bible and desire to live for God. Yet, at the same time their spiritual life sometimes looks like an emotional roller-coaster of ups and downs. The victorious life in Christ still seems so far away and struggles in sin and/or thoughts that aren't helpful determine much of how their day is going.

In Kingdom Identity we will explore the amazing treasures of the Good News that is really life-transforming. Gradually we'll explore aspects of what identity means and how it relates to the Good News that Jesus brought to us about His Kingdom. It's the best news ever!

Each session you will receive the hand-outs that correspond with the S.T.R.E.A.M.S. approach. We ask from each participant to put them together in a folder we'll provide for you. This way you can keep track of what you are learning and practicing. We encourage you to make notes, although it is not just a formal classroom situation with expository teaching. There are two reasons why we don't give you all the materials yet. First, the Master's Plan for our context is still being developed. We sense that God is doing something new for our situation, although the Master's Plan itself isn't anything new. Second, it is always tempting to do more assignments and get ahead of the game, but we believe that the process and the pace of the Master's Plan is also very important.

The purpose of the STREAMS approach is to learn by doing (hands-on) within an interactive environment where there is room for questions, discussion and prayer. Your participation in the process is very, very important. Again, there is much room for making mistakes. We are not aiming for perfect performance, but we are encouraging everyone to be really part of the journey as an active participant and not just a listener. Let's now dive in!

# INTRODUCTION - FIRST THINGS FIRST

Let's have a conversation first...Here are some questions to think about:

1. What are your expectations from the Master's Plan?
2. What do you hope to see in the end of this?
3. What might be your reservations or perhaps even concerns of being part of this journey?
4. What do you want to do in your life through this journey? Why are you here in the first place?

We are going on a journey together. Yet, God has been much longer with you. We'd like to know your story as it relates to your life with God.

Can you in 5 minutes describe your journey till now and how God played a role in that process? We'll first model it for you...

## STORY

My story...

## TRUTH

WHAT IS IDENTITY?

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Jesus, the Master of the Master's Plan, said many things Himself about identity. Many inspired Bible writers also wrote down words that said a lot about identity. Let me give you a few:

**John 1:12** – In Christ I am God’s child

*“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

**John 15:15**- I am Christ’s friend

*“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends...”*

**Romans 8:14-15** – I am a son (or daughter) of God

*“For all who are led by the Spirit are sons of God.”*

**1 Corinthians 3:16** – I am God’s Temple

*“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”*

**2 Corinthians 5:17** – I am a new creation

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.”*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19** – I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*

**Philippians 3:20** – I am a citizen of Heaven

*“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Colossians 3:4** – I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life

**1 Thessalonians 1:4** – I am chosen and dearly loved by God

*“For we know brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you...”*

**1 Peter 5:8** – I am an enemy of the devil

*“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

And the list could go on for a long, long time.

When you read these verses, this can be very encouraging, right?

## **IDENTITY AND LIFE EXPERIENCE**

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## **REVELATION (SCRIPTURE) AND OUR STORY**

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## **THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

Little exercise. Let's say I'd ask you to quickly write down five character traits (not skills or things you do, but who you ARE) in two columns. Write down the positive traits on the left and the negative on the right. What do you think is easier to write down?

## **IDENTITY TAGS AND IDENTITY KILLERS**

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## **IDENTITY - BEING AND DOING**

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In the next section called **ENGAGE** we'll explore identity even more in a Q&A/discussion time. I have some questions for you and perhaps you may have some questions you'd like to throw in the group as well as it relates to what we just discussed about identity.

## **ENGAGE**

1. I shared a few bible verses about who God says we are. Perhaps you remember them still. Just go back to the TRUTH section and quickly read them again. What verse do you believe to be true in your life? What statement or verse you find hard to embrace? Why?
2. Our identity is shaped before we realize it. In a broken world living apart from a close relationship with God (more about this in the following lessons), that process of

‘figuring out who we are’, **always** leads to a wrong construct of who we think we are.

Please respond to this statement. Do you believe this is true? Yes/no? Why?

3. In the Truth section we talked about ‘tags’ that people can either put on themselves or accept as truth as life unfolded. What ‘tags’ or ‘identity killers’ have you heard around you? What are some popular ones in today’s world? Give some examples
4. Perhaps you have a good question or observation that could be helpful in our Engage time with each other. Please let us know! We are all ears!

OK. It’s time to make this truth a bit more personal and the way we do this is as following.

We break up in small groups that are assigned to a small group leader. During this time there is space for more personal questions, reflection and prayer time. But before you share this as well. In our STREAMS approach, we now make TRUTH we grappled with in ENGAGE more personal. Truth needs to land somewhere. That’s what we are now going to do in your small group. After APPLY there are two other sections. MISSION you will still do with your group while STUDY you will explore during the week. Finally, take a moment to pray in your group. If you don’t want to pray, that is fine. No pressure here either! Perhaps you would like to share a prayer point for yourself or for someone else. That is also a good moment to do it. Your Small Group Time (APPLY, MISSION and STUDY) will take about 40-50 minutes.

**A**pply (divide in small groups with small group leader)

### **My spiritual journey till today...**

Please write down some key elements, events etc. that you think that shaped who you are as a person. If you know Jesus as your personal Saviour, try to put that also somewhere in your story. If you are not sure about Jesus and you are simply exploring, that is fine as well. Just share your story in this box and feel free to share this with the group.

After everyone has shared a bit about the personal story, it's time to connect the dots a bit. Just a few questions that can work as a guideline in your small group discussion (but don't feel limited to just answering these questions...)

1. Considering what was shared in TRUTH and ENGAGE, do you think that somewhere in your life you may have embraced 'truths about yourself' (remember the tags or identity killers I mentioned before?) that wasn't true at all? Feel free to share what you can.
2. What identity tags have you embraced in your life that later in life you found out to be false (think of example of my personal example of "ADD" I gave earlier)? How did that change your life?
3. Let's do the five character traits (positive and negative) exercise for real now:

Things in my character I like (positive)	Things in my character I don't like (negative)

Share with your group how this went. Was it more difficult to come up with positive or negative things (traits)? Remember, we are talking about character, not skills, gifts, talents etc. It's all about *who you are as a person*. Nobody is judging you here. It's just an exercise.

## Mission

An important part of the Master's Plan is also Mission. In this lesson we won't focus too much on this for now. But one thing is important and perhaps you can share this also in your group. *What would you consider your 'life mission' or 'life statement'? What makes you tick when you wake up? What gives you energy or passion and drives you?*

Please share this in your small group. Now close your small group time in a short moment of prayer. Nobody is obliged to pray out loud. Perhaps you would like to share a prayer request.

Finally, have a look at what can be done at home in the Study section.

## Study

No matter where you are in life, the rule of faith for you to grow is to immerse yourself in God's Word. God's Word is powerful and will help you to grow. No course or sermon can ever substitute your personal devotion to Him by being in the Word and prayer. Perhaps reading the Bible has not been easy for you. Throughout the year you'll be preparing yourself as if you are a marathon athlete that just started working out. You need to get in shape.

For this week, we would like you to just reflect upon a few verses only. But remember, with any training, the intensity will build up. Reflecting upon scripture is much more than just going through a few verses quickly. The whole reason we read the Bible is to know God. It's about intimacy, not just knowledge. We have selected a few scripture readings for you to make some notes. Just ask yourself a few questions while you are doing this.

1. What does the writer want to say here? What is the general theme or topic here?
2. What is the most important point the writer wants me to understand? What is his main point?

I have selected some stories from the Gospel of John for you for the following 7 lessons. These stories are so amazing. Besides the questions for interpretation and understanding of what you are reading, I would like you to focus also on these questions (at home!). Read the story a few times. Perhaps you want to write down your own questions, observations or discoveries.

I'd like to encourage you to really zoom in on the person of Jesus in the story and, in response, also to the other people in the stories.

- 1. What does this story teach me about Jesus?**
- 2. What does this story teach me about other people?**
- 3. What does this story teach me about myself?**

Probably in the beginning this might be hard and that is OK. With any training, you might feel some 'spiritual sore muscles'. That is totally normal.

### **STORY OF THE WEEK - JOHN 2:1-11 – WEDDING IN CANA**

Be prepared to share your questions/observations next week in your small group time.