

Discipleship & Leadership

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*Follow my example, as I follow
the example of Christ.*

1 Corinthians 11:1

SECTION 1

The Command: Make Disciples

Jesus' command is to "go make disciples of all nations." This charge propelled the early followers of Christ into a strategic mission that involved not just preaching the gospel, but training the new believers as well. A disciple is a learner as well as a follower.

1. What did Jesus say we must do after baptizing a new believer? Matthew 28:20

2. As the word of God spread, what was the result? Acts 6:7

3. What command did Paul give to Timothy? 2 Timothy 2:2

4. Read 2 Timothy 2:3-6

Paul compares the life of a disciple with the life of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. He then tells Timothy that if he will reflect on these things, then the Lord will give him understanding. What can we learn from each of these illustrations about discipleship?

Soldier _____

Athlete _____

Farmer _____

5. What are the scriptures useful for? 2 Timothy 3:16

6. How can we know we are truly a disciple? John 8:31

7. How can a disciple become like his Master? Luke 6:40

8. What are we not to be conformed to? Romans 12:1-2

9. How are we transformed? Romans 12:1-2

This means we are to replace our old thoughts with God's word.

10. How does Jesus compare the person who hears the word and acts upon it? Luke 6:48

11. How does Jesus compare the person who hears and does not act upon his word?
Luke 6:49

The Bible says he dug down deep, then laid a foundation on the rock. The most critical part of any house is the foundation. This is why, as a disciple, you must lay a strong foundation as well. These Bible studies are intended to do just that – to help lay the foundations listed in Hebrews 6:1-2 as well as other critical aspects of the Christian life. If you are discipling someone else it is important that you make certain that the person is well-grounded in these essentials.

12. What has Christ called us to? 2 Timothy 1:9

13. Why did he call us? 2 Timothy 1:9

14. What does the Bible say about those who are “in Christ”? 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are called to a whole new life; we are not only forgiven of our sins, we are given new hearts. Because of this new heart we should yearn to follow Christ.

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 2

The Cost: Absolute Surrender

1. What three things did Jesus say all his disciples must do? Mark 8:34

2. How often should a disciple take up his cross? Luke 9:23

3. Jesus compared discipleship to a war (Luke 14:31-33). What else did he compare it to? Luke 14:28

4. What should we do before we start building? Luke 14:28-33

5. What does it mean to “count the cost”?

6. What has it cost you to follow Jesus?

7. What happens if we are not able to finish? Luke 14:29,30

8. Who cannot be a disciple?

Luke 14:27 _____

Luke 14:33 _____

It is very critical to understand what is being said here, as well as what is not being said. Through God’s grace he has called us to his kingdom. Being “born again” means that we have new life. Though salvation is a free gift, it cost us everything. Make no mistake; we cannot buy his love and forgiveness, yet it will cost us everything if we follow. If we want to be disciples, then we can have no other god before him.

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 3

Discipleship & the Cross

We must keep in mind the great difference between the cross of Christ and the cross that we pick up when we are disciples. Because of Christ's victory at the cross, we are freed from sin and made slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:17-18). We are given the power to pick up our cross and follow Him through His triumph at His cross.

1. What happened at the cross? Colossians 2:15-17

2. Describe Paul's message to the Corinthians. 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

3. What is the message of the cross to the perishing? To the saved? 1 Corinthians 1:18

The cross is foolishness because it destroys self-effort. We marvel at the greatness of God's work in paying our debt of sin and delivering us from the power of evil.

4. What did Paul boast in? Galatians 6:14

5. What happened in Paul's life through the cross? Galatians 6:14

6. What do you think Paul meant when he said "I have been crucified with Christ"? Galatians 2:20

7. What did he mean by the phrase: "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"? Galatians 2:20

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 4

Christian Character

Those who are disciples will bear the marks of the Lord in their lives. It is critical that we cultivate the fruit of a godly life as we follow Christ in discipleship.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11

1. What has God provided for us by his divine power? 2 Peter 1:3

2. How do we partake of his divine nature? 2 Peter 1:4

3. What can we escape as a result? 2 Peter 1:4

The most important mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ is godly character. We should never minimize the importance of the “gifts of the Holy Spirit,” yet it is the “fruit of the Spirit” that identifies the true follower of Jesus. When instructing his disciples how to identify false prophets, Jesus said, *By their fruits you will recognize them* (Matthew 7:19-20). Many are gifted; yet, the real test is the character, habits and lifestyle of the individual. Though every disciple will be given gifts for the profit of the entire Body of Christ, it is the fruit of a godly life that we must cultivate if we are to bear the marks of a true follower of Jesus. Charisma is important. Character is essential.

4. What is the foundational “ingredient” to which everything else is added? 2 Peter 1:5

5. List the necessary “additives” that Peter describes. 2 Peter 1:5-7

6. What will be the result of having these qualities in increasing measure? 2 Peter 1:8

7. What is the condition of those without these character qualities? 2 Peter 1:9

8. What is the promise to those who develop this Christian character? 2 Peter 1:10

9. Why should we rejoice in suffering? Romans 5:3,4

10. Why did James say we should consider trials as pure joy? James 1:2,3

11. What results in our lives when perseverance finishes its work? James 1:4

12. What is the connection between trials and maturity or character? James 1:2-4

Personal Application

What did you learn from this lesson and how will you apply it to your life?

SECTION 5

Discipleship and Leadership

Jesus' original disciples became great leaders. Their lives and message impacted the world. They did not start out as leaders. They started as disciples. All leaders must first learn to follow before they can lead.

1. What did Jesus tell his first disciples to do? Matthew 4:19

2. What did Jesus promise his followers? Matthew 4:19

3. What was their response to his command and promise? Matthew 4:20

After a season of intense personal discipleship, Jesus sent his followers out on their own to practice what they had watched him do.

4. What did Jesus give his disciples authority to do? Matthew 10:1

5. What did they do with that authority? Mark 6:7,12,13

6. Did Jesus want his disciples to just follow him and watch him minister, or did he want them to watch, learn and do all they saw him do?

Discipleship is about learning to follow Jesus. Jesus is no longer walking on earth making disciples. He left that task to his followers. Therefore, if we are to become disciples, we must be disciplined by someone.

7. Who is discipling you?

Discipleship is the first step to leadership. We are not merely to be followers and learners forever; we are to act on what we have learned and we are to lead others as we have been led.

8. Who are you discipling?

Jesus disciplined twelve men in a group setting for three years. This still seems to be the best pattern of discipleship – small groups.

9. Are you in a small group (cell group)? Who is the leader? When and where does the group meet?

10. What did Jesus tell his discipleship group before he left earth? Matthew 28:18,19

11. What are we to teach our disciples? Matthew 28:20
