

MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 1 APPLICATION


The Significance of Discipleship


One of the best ways to move from where we are to where Jesus wants us to be is to first recognize our current state of being by becoming completely honest with ourselves and with the Lord (who knows us intimately regardless of our level of honesty).


ACTION:


1. Before reading each Scripture passage, ask the Holy Spirit to:
 - a. Reveal truth to your heart and mind.
 - b. Give you understanding of what He desires you to know.
 - c. Show you how to practice this truth in your life.
2. Then, rely on the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to create change within your heart and life to enable you to walk in obedience to Christ.

If you have not been trained to implement spiritual disciplines in your life, it can initially be overwhelming to consider making personal changes of obedience to God's will.


 **REMEMBER:** The Lord will never ask anything of you without also supernaturally enabling you to fully achieve what He asks. In doing so, He receives the glory.


 Instead of choosing to become overwhelmed, rely on God's enabling power to create genuine change in your life that reflects His Word and character.


 **FISHING FOR MEN:** We are often more comfortable and confident serving from an environment that is personally familiar because we know what is accessible to us: where things are located, and how to use what is available. In this same way, God wants us to become comfortable and confident with each step of the process of making disciples—comfortable using His Word and fully confident in His power to achieve His purpose.

 Since a person can never take someone further than he has traveled himself, choosing to first apply each truth from these lessons before considering their use in the lives of others will be valuable.


If you have been accustomed to personal discipleship training in the past, it can be easy for you to overlook truth due to its familiarity.


 Choose to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, inviting Him to reveal new truth to your heart and allowing Him to create change which reflects His will.

 Because everything you need God is, choose to recognize each specific personal need you have this week and convert it into a prayer request.

 Ask Almighty God to equip and enable you in every way to accomplish His will in your life!

 **READ: Mark 1:16-20**

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Do you recognize a time when Jesus personally called you to become His disciple?

 **WRITE:** What are the reasons you would give for your initial acceptance of Jesus' invitation to obediently follow Him?

- ✍ List some of the qualities of a genuine disciple (based on Scripture used in class and the following: **Luke 14:26-27; John 13:35, 15:8**).

☁ Does your current lifestyle reflect a biblical description of a genuine disciple of Jesus?

➡ What is the significance, if any, of the sequence of Jesus' instructions to "Come", "Follow Me", and "I will send you out to fish for people?"

➡ How does each of these words or phrases indicate a different goal or purpose in Jesus' invitation?

Come:

Follow Me:

I will send you out to fish for people:

➡ **Reflect**, for a moment, on the time in your life when you responded to Jesus' invitation to become His disciple. **Thank** the Lord for His transforming work in your life. **Commit** your efforts in making disciples to Christ and rely on Him to prepare you for future kingdom work.

John 1:35-39

Jesus always made Himself accessible to those who might consider following Him. By asking the question, "What do you want?", Jesus intended to influence His potential followers to think about what they were doing. Jesus lovingly asks the same question of His disciples today, "What do you want?"

☁ Do you want to follow Christ with total commitment and abandon regardless of the cost, or do you find your desire to follow Christ to be dependent on convenience?

☁ Do you desire to walk in consistent obedience to God's directives, or do you want to make your own way in life?

☁ Are you resolved to follow His ways in His strength and timing, or do you desire to maintain a sense of control in certain areas of your life?

✍ What steps would need to be taken in your life to surrender with total abandon to the cause of Christ?

➡ **Matthew 4:18-22**

Since fishing was their way of life, the men in these verses were very aware of the care, patience, and skill required to be a fisherman. In what practical ways are these attributes also needed in becoming a "fisher for men?"

Purposeful Preparation



1 Kings 8:22-23, 59-61

In this prayer of dedication, Solomon begins and ends with the importance of wholehearted devotion to Almighty God.



Take time this week to consider your level of commitment to the Lord.



Ask Him to reveal anything to your heart and mind that you might be withholding or reserving for yourself and commit to surrender your will in wholehearted devotion to His.



Romans 12:1



Consider for a moment the influence God's mercy has had in your life. Where would you be today without it?

This verse reminds us that an appropriate response to God's gift of mercy is to personally surrender to Him, moment by moment, through the continual sacrificing of our lives or will, for His.



Why does Paul call our willing, personal sacrifice "worship"?



Ask the Lord to allow you to **see** those times you choose to pursue your will, rather than considering His.



Ask the Lord to give you the **desire** to worship Him through genuine surrender and sacrifice.



Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to consistently **relinquish** your personal will for His perfect will throughout each day, surrendering all authority and control to Him.



Matthew 22:34-38

True love for God is demonstrated by a person's entire being. Our culture has taught us to divide out our lives according to time commitments, productivity, pleasure, etc. However, to respond to the Lord in genuine love is to do so with every sense and faculty.



Because you will only be able to take someone spiritually as far as you have gone yourself, choose today to become consumed in your entire being with the things of God.

Since God is eternal, those things that are not of Him are merely temporal. Therefore, as you allow God to consume your life, the fruit produced will increase in eternal value. On the other hand, those things that do not reflect Christ in our lives risk stumbling others.




Spend time this week asking the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in your life that possibly hinders or fails to promote a relationship that is consumed with the living God (i.e. employment, relationships, entertainment, communication, the Internet, hobbies, recreation).




Ask God to give you a deep desire to be consumed by Him and to reveal any changes that need to take place to promote this desire.

Psalm 119:1-16


These verses not only reveal that the Psalmist is consumed with the things of the Lord but also denote a lifestyle that is proactive in following His will. The making of disciples occurs as we reproduce truth in the lives of others. For this significant reason, we should be diligent in striving to learn, understand, and implement truth in our lives.


-  What habits do you have in place that help keep your heart and mind focused on the things of God throughout the day?


Rather than view these verses as an overwhelming list of things we must do, realize that Almighty God in His amazing provision desires to equip us in every way to be effective for every good work (**2 Corinthians 9:8**).

-  Even though meeting His desires will take effort on our part, the work will be supernaturally achieved as we choose to rely on the Holy Spirit to do the work in us.



So, for example, in **Psalm 119:1** in order to walk in obedience to the instructions of the Lord, we will need to first know them.

-  Is Bible study a priority in your daily routine? ____ If not, commit today to formulate and carry out a practical plan to consistently study God's Word, and ask the Lord to enable you to do so.


 Is there a difference between reading God's Word and studying it? (Explain.)


 How would you express to others the benefits of both reading and studying the Bible?

Psalm 119:4 instructs us to obey God's precepts. Because knowledge of the Bible without application will fail to create change, we must strive to consistently implement Scripture in our daily lives. In doing so, we will become living examples of Christ Jesus.

-  Do you have someone in place in your life that is assisting you in developing spiritual maturity by better understanding personal application of Scripture (verses 5-7)?
-  Do you have someone who helps to hold you accountable to following biblical truth? ____ If not, ask the Lord to provide such a person.

According to **Psalm 119:11**, in order to be victorious over temptation and sin we are going to need to memorize truth.

-  Do you have a plan in place to consistently set God's Word to memory? ____ If not, resolve today to begin setting Scripture to memory.

 Using practical terms, how would you explain to others the way God uses memorized truth in the life of a believer to battle temptation and sin?

In **Psalm 119:15**, the Psalmist reminds us of the value of meditating on God's precepts and considering His ways. God will reveal His wisdom, discernment, and will to us as we choose to consistently renew our minds with truth.

- ✦ Ask the Lord to show you practical ways to consistently renew your mind with His Word.
- ✦ Develop a habit of posting specific Scripture in conspicuous places to both meditate on and to memorize. For example, keep Bible verses on your phone to look at while you are placed on hold or waiting for an appointment.

➡ What are some practical ways you consistently renew your mind with God's Word?

➡ In what practical ways could you encourage others this week to meditate on God's Word?
(Be specific.)

Psalm 139:23-24

One who trains others in discipleship should be striving to remain free from temptation and sin.

- ✦ Develop a consistent habit of inviting the Holy Spirit to search your heart and life for any undesired behavior or offense.
- ✦ Choose to repent in immediate obedience of undesired behavior and rejoice in God's freedom from sin and guilt.

John 3:30

A person becomes increasingly consumed with the things of the Lord as they exchange the things of the flesh for the things of God. As they rid themselves of undesired behavior, the character of God becomes more developed within the life of a believer.

✦ In what ways are you becoming less, so God can become greater?

⚡ **TO ENCOURAGE:** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you are welcome to contact me.
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