

Discipleship Principles

Presented by
The Discipleship Ministry

Discipleship Principles

The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to
"Make Disciples of All Nations" !

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"Discipleship Principles"
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How to Use This Studybook

Purpose

'Discipleship Principles' is written to provide a Scriptural look at the fundamentals of discipleship that can be learned from the life of Christ.

Format

The **Main Section** on each page contain *The Lesson* while the **Right Column** contains *Thought Questions, Helpful Information, Related Verses and Memorization Directives*.



Procedure

Main Section ~ *The Lesson*

- ✓ **Read** through each Lesson, paying careful attention to all Scripture References.
- ✓ **Instructions**, indicated by **bullets** ✓ , include directions to *Underline, Circle* or *Read* specific sections of Scripture. They help the student observe and retain significant Truths in the Bible!
- ✓ **Answer the Questions** in the space provided.
- ✓ **Applications**: complete all assigned Applications.

*“The Purpose of Scripture is not simply to be Informed,
but to be Transformed!”*

Right Column ~ Cover this material for a **deeper study**.

- ✓ **Helpful Information** provide additional information to supplement the Lesson.
- ✓ **Thought Questions**, designated by **arrows** ► in the Column, help the student focus on the significant ideas of the Lesson to gain a deeper understanding.
- ✓ **Related Verses**, indicated by the **Bible**  , provide additional Scriptures to look up. These should be examined to gain a better understanding of what other Scriptures teach about the Lesson.
- ✓ **Memorization Directives**, designated by the **arrow**  , point out key Scriptures to commit to memory.

Introduction

Any study on the topic of Christian Discipleship begins with the Master Discipler Himself, Jesus Christ the Son of God! By design, His life and ministry were based on the principles of Discipleship, for He was aware that both would be brief. By discipling a few men and women, He ensured the continuance of His earthly ministry *'unto the end of the age'*, and the fulfillment of His commission to take the Gospel to *'all people everywhere'*. It is doubtful that both would have occurred had He failed to disciple people and instead focused only on a ministry to the masses.

The definitive work on this topic is the classic *'The Master Plan of Evangelism'* by Robert E. Coleman. Anyone, and everyone, who is interested in Christian Discipleship would do well to read this masterful work. In comparison, this study will be but a brief outline.

It is my hope and desire that this study will birth in you a growing passion to make your life count for eternity through the discipling of others for Christ. There is no higher calling in life than to embrace the divine directive to **'make disciples of all nations'**.

Jesus is calling people just like you and me to join with Him in the greatest and most significant endeavor we could ever be involved in ... the establishment of His eternal Kingdom through the *'winning, building and sending'* of others for Christ until everyone everywhere has had the opportunity to hear and receive His invitation to come to God by grace through faith and be born again eternally into God's family!

Remember ...

Memorize 

**"One Life Will Soon be Past
Only What's Done for Christ Will Last!"**

The Discippler

Christian Discipleship starts with Jesus Christ. *He* is the standard. For Jesus, discipleship was more than an activity, but an expression of His Being. Everything He did was related to who He was, and it is the same with us!

Discipleship begins with the Discippler, and rightly so. For when we pour our lives into another, we must ensure that it is a life worth duplicating. And it will be so only if it possesses the imprint of Christ! This begins with knowing who we are, for this knowledge will determine what we eventually do. Jesus was well aware of His identity as God's Son and that made His every decision clear.

The Discippler's Identity

- 21 Now when all the people were baptized,
Jesus was also baptized,
and while He was praying,
heaven was opened,
22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him
in bodily form like a dove,
and a voice came out of heaven,
"You are My beloved Son,
in You I am well-pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

- ✓ Circle who descended upon Jesus. (v 22)
- ✓ Underline how the Holy Spirit appeared. (v 22)
- ✓ Circle from where a voice was heard. (v 22)
- ✓ Circle who the voice identified Jesus to be. (v 22)
- ✓ Underline what the voice said of Jesus. (v 22)

How did knowing He was God's Son determine how Jesus lived His life? _____

At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, God declared Him as His "beloved Son" in Whom He was 'well pleased'. Unlike many who are in search of their 'identity', Jesus knew who He was. And that knowledge determined how He lived His life.

If we believe we are nothing but a chance creation by natural processes, then ultimately, it really doesn't matter how we live our lives. But if we are the creation of God who loves us with an everlasting love, then our lives intrinsically have purpose and significance, and wise is the person who lives in accordance with that knowledge. The discippler *is* such a person!

 John 1:26-34

► How does this passage support the truth of the Triune God: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Who We Are Determines What We Do!

It is essential to know that when we became a Christian, our identity was radically and eternally transformed. 'When we were yet sinners', controlled by the sin nature within us, we lived with the natural inclination to please ourselves. But when we were 'born again' as God's children, God's Spirit birthed in us a new nature resulting in the super natural desire to please God instead.

Just as Jesus knew who He was, Disciplers know who *they* are, and know that God loves and accepts them unconditionally as His own. As a result, their desire, like Jesus, is to fulfill God's will and to establish His perfect and righteous Kingdom in the hearts of people everywhere.

As a Child of the Almighty, affirm the following by reading it out loud and then signing it below as a symbol of your commitment to its truth.

My Identity

God created me in Christ Jesus
to Know Him intimately, Love Him supremely and Serve Him eternally.
I have been reborn by His Spirit, Who has placed in me a new nature
which finds its greatest joy in pleasing our Father in Heaven
and living in obedience to His perfect will.

God loves me and chose me by His grace to be His own,
and a part of His eternal Kingdom and Family.
He has forgiven me completely and shown me His mercy
that I might declare His Son, Jesus Christ, in a dark and sinful world,
and to call all who will into His glorious Light!

This is who I am!

Sign

The Discipler's Power

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from the Jordan and
was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness"

Luke 4:1

- ✓ Underline how Jesus returned from the Jordan.
- ✓ Circle how He was led.

The primary qualification of a discipler is that they be 'full of the Holy Spirit'. Do not think yourself disqualified because you lack a Bible or Theology degree. Jesus did not have those either! Don't get me wrong. He was not ignorant of the Scripture. as He had already demonstrated in His youth, and will again in His encounter with the devil. He knew the Bible. But so did the devil! What stood Him apart from all else was not His possession of God's Word, but God's possession of Him!

He allowed God to fill Him with His Spirit 'without measure'. He wanted to be so possessed by God that every thought in His mind, every desire in His heart, every word from His mouth and every work of His body would be God's. He loved God with an unquenchable holy passion and He desired nothing less than to please Him in all that He did with His life. That's what happens when a person is 'full of the Holy Spirit'. And that's the kind of person God desires His disciplers to be!



John 3:34
Acts 10:38
Galatians 5:16-23

We must affirm that God is our Creator and that we belong to Him. There can be no compromise. One cannot be filled with God and with Sin at the same time. We must choose who will control our lives. But we cannot, and must not, waver. Such a person would end up being double minded. double dealing, living a double standard and completely unfit for God's service.

Many claim to be 'full of the Holy Spirit' only to be proven otherwise. It is easy to feel God's presence and power while on an emotional high at an inspirational church service, retreat or revival meeting. But the test is what we do when the feelings aren't there ... when we are not on the 'mountain top' ... but alone in the valley. How we handle *those* times determines whether we are 'full of the Holy Spirit' or simply inflated with emotions.

The Discippler's Leader

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, ... was led around by the Spirit ..."

When you decide to disciple another, you are basically saying, 'Follow me'. You are stepping forward to show other's the way in which they should go. And so the question must be asked to the discipler, 'who's leading you?' Who are you following, for as Jesus wisely said, '...if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.'

One of the marks of a person who is 'full of the Holy Spirit' is that they are 'led' by the Spirit'. They are available to go wherever He leads, and willing to do whatever He asks. Wherever God directs, the discipler goes, and whatever God commands, he does. Everything in their lives has the indelible stamp of God on it.

The Scripture says that Jesus was 'led around by the Spirit'. He Himself affirmed that He did nothing except what He saw His Father doing, and said nothing except what His Father had told Him to say. His life was the visible expression of God's Will and the model for us all!

1. Are you available to go wherever God leads you? ___ Yes ___ No
2. Are you willing to do whatever God asks? ___ Yes ___ No

If you answered 'Yes' to both questions, it is God's Spirit is doing His will and work in your life. Live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit by continually being available to His direction and instruction, and follow them with all your mind, heart, soul and strength.

Only as you devote yourself to live in the fullness of God's Spirit will those you disciple devote themselves to do the same.

Luke 4:1 comes immediately after a recitation of Jesus' genealogy traced all the way back to the first man, Adam, and His baptism in the River Jordan by John. At His baptism, God the Father audibly affirmed Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus' genealogy affirmed His humanity as a son of Adam. Thus, He is presented to us as being wholly God and fully Man, and the ultimate example for us all.

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit (to His Son) *without measure*."
John 3:34

John 3:34 tells us to what extent Jesus was anointed with the Spirit of God!

You have probably heard the expression, 'If you really want to discover a person's true character, simply apply some pressure.' It is easy to hide behind a facade, pretending to be something we are not, but during trials and temptations, our real nature emerges.

Jesus' trials, while being tempted by the devil, showed His true nature and confirmed that He was indeed the Son of God!

The very nature of Discipleship, the multiplication of our lives through the lives of others, demands that *our* lives be worth duplicating. Because the goal is to reproduce the life of Christ in others, we must make it our priority to reproduce Jesus' life in ourselves first!

Christian Discipleship begins in the Discipled. You cannot reproduce in another's life what you do not possess yourself. Before you want another to be passionate for Christ, you must ask yourself, 'Am I?'

The Discipled

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*'A pupil is not above his teacher,
but everyone after he has been fully trained,
will be like his teacher.'*

Memorize 

Luke 6:40

The Discippler's Call

Discipler's are called by God. Contrary to common thought, our vocation is not our occupation, but God's Call on our lives. (Vocation = *vocare* = call) My occupation may be a Water Microbiologist, but my 'vocation' is to serve God by equipping disciplers for Christ. Your occupation may be a teacher, a carpenter or a nurse, but as a discipler, God has *called* you to continue the work of Christ. As members of Christ's Body, we are His representatives on Earth, and the vicarious recipients of His Call as found in Luke 4:18-19

Jesus' Call

- 14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,
and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.
- 15 And He *began* teaching in their synagogues
and was praised by all.
- 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up;
and as was His custom,
He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.
- 17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.
And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,
- 18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME
TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME
TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ...
- 21 ...And He began to say to them,
"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
Luke 4:14-19, 21

- ✓ Underline all that the Spirit of the LORD anointed Jesus to do.

Interpretation (Luke 4:14-19)

1. What is the significance of Jesus' anointing by the Holy Spirit? _____

God's All Volunteer Army
In one of his lectures on church leadership, Dr. Howard Hendricks humorously concluded that pastors were "paid to be good, but their people were 'good for nothing'". Just because we aren't being paid doesn't mean we're exempt from ministry. The last time I checked, Jesus didn't draw a salary, either! What better way to show our appreciation for all that God has done for us than by serving Him as an act of our love for Him! He'll appreciate that ... guaranteed!

 Isaiah 11:2-5

Shocking Pronouncement

To this day, it is not easy to predict earthquakes before they occur. The synagogue members in Nazareth, who witnessed Jesus' reading of Isaiah, were the first to feel the shock wave of His pronouncement claiming to be God's Anointed that still reverberates around the world!

In Ancient Israel, three individuals were anointed before the people. The prophet, the priest and the king. Jesus fulfilled all three roles:
As God's Prophet He proclaims
God's Word To the people,
As God's Priest He stands
before God For His people,
As God's King He will rule Over
the people.

2. What is meant by the following:

'To preach the Gospel to the poor' _____

'To proclaim release to the captives' _____

'(To proclaim) recovery of sight to the blind' _____

'To set free those who are oppressed' _____

'To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord' _____

3. If you are a Christian, God has anointed you with His Spirit as well. Make a list of reasons why.:

At this simple reading, Jesus pronounced Himself as God's Messiah (Anointed), a Truth not immediately understood by those who first heard it. But when it was, 'all hell broke loose' ... literally! He also proclaimed God's Call on His life and the ministry He would soon undertake, both of which He commissioned His disciples to fulfill before His return.

A thousand years from now, when the memories of this life will have dimmed in the brilliance of God's presence, it will matter not how successful, famous or rich we became but how we responded to God's Call and fulfilled His ministry to 'proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!'

Just as with Jesus' often-times cryptic sayings, these reasons for His anointing can be interpreted both literally and figuratively.

The poor are those who are financially and spiritually in need. They often respond more readily for they recognize the Gospel's many blessings.

The captives are imprisoned in manmade, as well as spiritual, strongholds. The Gospel frees them from Satan's bondage.

The blind are those who cannot see, both physically and spiritually. Jesus heals both. One to see the trees made by God and the other to see God who made the trees. The only person Jesus could not heal were those who will not see.

The oppressed are afflicted by their fears. Christ liberates them by replacing fear with faith, and a God given joy that cannot be taken away.

The '**favorable year of the Lord**' is the *Year of Jubilee* when debts were canceled and wrongs made right. It is this brief moment of grace when people who respond to the Gospel are set free from the debt of Sin, and restored to their rightful inheritance and relationship with God.

Jesus stopped abruptly before reading the remainder of the text, 'And the day of vengeance of our God', ... a day when this period of grace ends and the just payment will be required of all who reject God's offer of forgiveness.

The Disciplers' Call

Even as Jesus answered His Father's Call, He called others to join Him.

- 1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;
- 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.
- 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat.
- 4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.
- 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break;
- 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.
- 8 But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"
- 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;
- 10 and so also *were* James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."
- 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Luke 5:1-11

1. What is the significance of the fishermen washing their nets? _____

- 2.. What do you think Jesus might have been teaching the people? _____

Observations

- ✓ Underline what the crowds were doing. (v 1)
- ✓ Circle what the fishermen were doing. (v 2)
- ✓ Circle whose boat Jesus sat in. Underline what He did from it. (v 3)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus asked Simon to do. (v 4)
- ✓ Circle Simon's two complaints. Underline what he would do. (v 5)
- ✓ Underline what they enclosed. Circle what happened next. (v 6)
- ✓ Underline who they signaled to. Circle what they filled. Circle what the boats did. (v 7)
- ✓ Circle why Simon fell at Jesus' feet. (v 8) Underline what he told Jesus.
- ✓ Underline why Simon said what he did. (v 9)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus said to Simon. (v 10)
- ✓ Circle the two things they did after arriving back on land. (v 11)

 John 21:3-17

The fishermen were already washing their nets, signifying they were cleaning up after a night of fishing.

As for Jesus' teaching subject, one can only guess but that He was teaching the people about God's Kingdom and trusting in the LORD. Those were His favorite topics.

3. Why did Jesus ask Simon to go back and let down their nets? _____

4. What does Simon's answer reveal about him as a person? _____

5. Why did Simon confess his sinfulness after seeing the amazing catch? _____

6. Explain Jesus' call to Simon. _____

7. How do you explain the fishermen's response? _____

Are you amazed as I am at Simon's response? Would you be willing to leave *everything* to follow an itinerant preacher? You might, if you were convinced that the He was God's Anointed come to establish His eternal Kingdom. Only then will the temporal lose its value in our eyes.

Perhaps by His teachings, or certainly by the miraculous catch, Simon was confronted by his own sinfulness in contrast to who Jesus was. But that Christ would extend His hand and invite him to be a part of His Kingdom was an offer Simon could not refuse, even if it meant turning his back on everything else.

The Call to be a discipler is a call to see things as they truly are. Only in the light of the eternal can we comprehend the insignificance of the things of this world and the inestimable worth of the one to come. This world, and all that is in it, will perish, but Jesus' Kingdom will stand forever! Those who respond to Christ's call have discerned the worth of His Kingdom and the folly of rejecting it.

God is calling people just like you and me to stand with Him in this generation, to denounce the follies of this world and to proclaim the eternal blessings in the next. Respond to His call by affirming the following:

"In answer to the LORD's Call, I renounce the vanities of this world and affirm my allegiance to His Kingdom and all it values; pledging to follow Him wherever He leads and proclaiming to all people His greatness and goodness, that they might come to know His love, forgiveness and grace."

Jesus did not live in the moment ... He lived in the eternal. Everything He did had a divine purpose, including the request to return to the Lake. In that experience was His true identity revealed, causing Simon to recognize his utter sinfulness in the presence of such a holy Person. It was the opening Jesus sought, and utilized to call Simon away from the mundane to the miraculous.

Jesus seeks the contrite, for it is their hearts that are most open to His leading. The penitent who apprehends the eternal will alone be willing to forsake the things of this world for the next. Such are the people Jesus calls.

The Discippler's Call

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Memorize 

*“but you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be My witnesses
both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
Acts 1:8*

The Discippler's Ministry

What is Discipleship? Discipleship, ultimately, is serving God and others. Jesus came serving others with a Godly humility and zeal. If your desire to be a discipler has at its root an unholy desire to be elevated above others or to be applauded by others, you had best wait until you are ready to relinquish any ambitions for selfish glory, and be willing to don the garbs of a servant, for such is the person Christ seeks. As Dr. Howard Hendricks observed, "In God's Kingdom, the way up is down."

Servant Leadership

When confronted by a mother's request to elevate her two sons to prominent positions in His coming Kingdom, Jesus told His disciples the following.

- 25b "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and *their* great men exercise authority over them.
- 26 "It is not this way among you,
but whoever wishes to become great among you
shall be your servant,
- 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you
shall be your slave;
- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve,
and to give His life a ransom for many."

Memorize 

Matthew 20:25-28

- ✓ Underline what 'the rulers' and 'great men' do.
- ✓ Circle Jesus' teaching concerning this.
- ✓ Underline who shall be 'your servant' and 'slave'.
- ✓ Underline the reason Jesus came.

1. Explain Jesus' statement in verse 25? _____

2. How does Jesus view greatness and ambition? _____

3. From Jesus' teaching, describe Christian leadership. _____



Daniel 2:12
Matthew 23:8-10
Luke 22:24-27

Modeling Servanthood

Jesus modeled humility. He lived to serve and make those around Him whole. A look at His ministry reveals His passion, priorities and power. In His wake are seen the effects of His life on a sinful world. The blind saw, the lame walked and the demonized were set free! Observe Jesus' ministry below.

- 40 While the sun was setting,
 all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases
 brought them to Him;
and laying His hands on each one of them,
 He was healing them.
- 41 Demons also were coming out of many, shouting,
 "You are the Son of God!"
But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak,
 because they knew Him to be the Christ.
- 42 When day came,
 Jesus left and went to a secluded place;
 and the crowds were searching for Him,
 and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.
- 43 But He said to them,
 "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also,
 for I was sent for this purpose."
- 44 So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:40-44

- ✓ Underline *who were* being brought to Jesus. (v 40)
- ✓ Circle what Jesus did with them. (v 40)
- ✓ Circle what were coming out of many. (v 41)
- ✓ Circle what Jesus would not allow them to do. (v 41)
- ✓ Underline *why*. (v 41)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus did when day came. (v 42)
- ✓ Underline what the people were trying to do. (v 42)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus said to them. (v 43)
- ✓ Circle what He kept on doing. (v 44)

1. What is the significance of Christ's healing ministry? _____

2. Why didn't Christ want the demons to testify to His true identity? _____

3. What do you think Jesus doing in the 'secluded place'? _____

► Someone once said that 'the enemy of the best is the good'. How does this apply to Jesus' ministry as well as ours?

Physical and Spiritual

The physical healings are the visible expression of a spiritual truth. Through Christ, the spiritually blind see, the spiritually broken are made whole, the spiritually enslaved are set free and the spiritually dead are reborn to eternal life!

As important as Christ's true identity was, the responsibility for spreading it to the world was delegated to true Believers, not deceiving spirits.

4. Compare the crowd's priorities with Jesus'? _____

5. How does Christ' decision to leave a thriving, exciting healing ministry to preach the Kingdom of God in other cities apply to us today?

God's Priority

In the midst of much activity and motion, it is always wise to stop and evaluate if you are moving in God's direction. During His time of prayer, Jesus obviously heard God's priority for Him to preach of His Kingdom throughout Judea!

Three Principles from Luke 4:40-44

1. **When you seek to help others, others cannot help but seek you.** Jesus came serving others and they responded. Those in need came in droves to be released from their physical illnesses and spiritual bondage. When you seek to serve, be not surprised at those who will seek your service. It will test your patience, energy and time. There will always be those who will want to be ministered to, but remember ...

2. **Busy is not always best.** Sometimes one must not only ask 'what' but 'why' as well. Satan doesn't mind busy Christians, as long as they're not busy reaching the world for Christ. Jesus could have had a tremendous ministry staying right where He was and healing people . But that's not the main reason He came. A quiet time with His Father refocused His vision and He did not hesitate to fulfill it. Would we but stop our 'busyness' and listen to our Father to hear whether we are busy going about His business or ours.

3. **The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.** Always remember that we only have a finite amount of time to accomplish our Lord's Commission. Time is the most important commodity we have, for once spent, it is irretrievable. Therefore, we must make every day count by investing every one for eternity. And there is no greater investment of our time than discipleship ... helping to 'Win, Build and Send' people for the Kingdom of our Lord ... for when this world has passed, the only thing that will matter will be our relationship with God. Billions will enter eternity without this relationship because millions of Christians worldwide will have failed to 'make the main thing the main thing'.

Oh, we will argue that we were busy serving in our churches, but the words of Christ will condemn us, for He did not commission us to build our individual denominational kingdoms, but His Kingdom which transcends them all! Let us look beyond our own organizations and unite for this final harvest before our Master calls us to account, lest we be found wanting for our failure to do what He expressly commanded us. He is the LORD and we are but His servants, who exist for this reason only ... to serve and glorify God forever!

The Discippler's Ministry

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*“Have this attitude in yourselves
which was also in Christ Jesus, who,
although He existed in the form of God, ...
... emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant”*

Philippians 2:5, 7a

Memorize 

The Disciples

One of the most critical steps in discipleship is knowing whom to disciple. In any Christian fellowship, there are members of varying commitments, motives and purposes. The same was true with Jesus' followers as well. Yet, He was able to select those whom He wanted from the crowd. Observe how Jesus accomplished this.

- 12 It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray,
and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.
- 13 And when day came,
He called His disciples to Him
and chose twelve of them,
whom He also named as apostles:
- 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and
Andrew his brother; and
James and
John; and
Philip and
Bartholomew; and
- 15 Matthew and
Thomas;
James *the son* of Alphaeus, and
Simon who was called the Zealot;
- 16 Judas *the son* of James, and
Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
- 17 Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place;
and *there was* a large crowd of His disciples,
and a great throng of people
from all Judea and Jerusalem
and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon,
- 18 who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases;
and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured.

Luke 6:12-18


- ✓ Underline when Jesus went off to the mountain. (v 12)
- ✓ Circle what He did there. (v 12)
- ✓ Circle how long He spent praying. (v 12)
- ✓ Underline the first thing He did 'when day came'. (v 13)
- ✓ Circle what He did with His disciples. (v 13)
- ✓ Circle what He named the 'twelve'. (v 13)
- ✓ Observe the names of the twelve whom Jesus chose. (vs 14-16)
- ✓ Underline two groups of people waiting at the bottom of the mountain. (v 17)
- ✓ Underline why the 'throng' had come. (v 18)

Three Qualifications

The staff of Campus Crusade for Christ looks for the following qualities in determining which students to disciple:

1. A Heart for God
2. Availability
3. A Teachable Attitude

The presence of these qualities indicates a person who is filled with the Holy Spirit. The lack of even one of these qualities may affect the person's faithfulness and your expectations of them to disciple others.

 Matthew 10:1-4
Mark 3:16-19
Acts 1:13

► List the names of the twelve disciples found in the three passages listed above alongside each other and compare them with the list found in Luke 6:14-16. Note any patterns in the order of the names. What does the pattern imply?

1. According to the prior context (vs 6-11) why did Jesus spend an entire night in prayer followed by the selection of the Twelve?

2. What is significant about the amount of time spent in prayer?

3. Why do you think Jesus chose a group of Twelve from His 'disciples'?

4. What is significant about naming them 'apostles'? _____

5. What is the difference between 'His disciples' and the 'throng of people'?

Immediately prior to selecting the Twelve, Jesus had an encounter with the religious leaders that ended on an ominous note. They were 'filled with rage' and began to plot His demise. Knowing that His time on earth would be short, Jesus communed with His Father and altered His ministry to prepare for the inevitable.

By selecting twelve disciples and naming them apostles, or 'sent ones', Jesus focused on replicating His life in them, and in so doing, prepared them for the future continuance of His ministry.

Principles for Selecting Disciples

1. Let God to Make the Choice. Jesus consulted God in much prayer before selecting the Twelve. The reason is obvious. As in the choice of David as Israel's next King, God did not look at the 'outward appearance' as we are prone to do, but at the 'heart' of a person (1 Samuel 16:6-13). God also determines the roles people will play in His Sovereign Plan to establish His Kingdom.

How might judging people by their outward appearance result in wrong decisions?

What do you think God was looking for? _____

How might God's perspective of Judas Iscariot differ from ours? _____

2. Recognize That All Disciples are Not the Same. You will notice in the above passage the separation of Jesus' followers into different groups. These are the 'apostles', the disciples He 'called', 'a large crowd of His disciples' and 'a great throng of people'. Today, even as in the days of Jesus, people follow Christ for various reasons, most often for what He will provide them. These provisions will vary from physical needs, as was the case of the 'throng' in this passage, to being a part of His eternal Kingdom, as was the case with Peter and most of the Twelve (John 6:60-71).

Ask God to open your eyes in order to discern the motives of those you seek to disciple and select those with a deep love and passion for God. In the end, they will endure and carry on the ministry more than the superficial.

What are some reasons people follow Christ today? _____

3. Focus On Quality, Not Quantity. Jesus chose a Biblically complete 'twelve' apostles. The decision to pour His life into a small group of disciples would prove pivotal to the continuation of His work in spreading the Gospel to the entire world. He named them 'apostles' for that very reason! It is one thing to follow Jesus (disciples) and a completely different thing to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (apostles). By their very definition, apostles are sent out into the world to fulfill the ministry of Jesus by 'winning, building and sending' others for Christ, which is the only way we will ever reach the entire world with the Gospel.

Ask God to keep you from judging your ministry by the amount of people you have gathered, but by the number of people you have sent to 'win build and send' still others. It never ceases to amaze me that Jesus was not enamored by the crowds as we too often are today. He did not hesitate to challenge the crowds that followed in His wake to consider the cost of following Him (Luke 14:25-35) and did not dilute His message even if some chose to leave (John 6:60-66). It was not the size of His following, but their faith that concerned Him. But He did allow one earthly minded disciple into His apostolic core for the sole purpose of triggering His destiny at the appointed time.

How can Christians of all commitment levels become involved in discipleship?

How does sending others for Christ develop their faith in Him? _____

Local churches are made up of people with varying commitment levels, ranging from none to deep. Many come simply for social reasons. Some to receive the sympathy and care of others. Still others come to serve and use their God given gifts to help others grow in their faith. What is your reason?

Jesus gave us a clue in the beginning of His Great Sermon (Luke 6:20-22) as to what He looked for in choosing the Twelve. He sought those who were spiritually 'poor', 'hungry' and 'persecuted'. He knew they would be most willing to give up earthly riches, fulfillment and praise, and endure the pain and suffering that can come with utmost dedication to Christ in this world.

To help develop more committed Christians, examine yourself first and ensure your commitment is worth duplicating in others. Then download and study the lessons on 'Practical Discipleship', 'Church Discipleship' and 'Spiritual Revival' available free at:

BibleStudyCD.com

to learn how you can help others 'win, build and send' others for Christ.

No matter our commitment, we can all be involved in winning this world to Christ by praying for and giving to ministries and missionaries who are spreading the Gospel! Let's Do It!

The Disciples

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Memorize 

*"Do not look at his appearance
or at the height of his stature,
... for God sees not as man sees,
for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart."*

1 Samuel 16:7

The Goal

The question must be asked, "What was Jesus seeking to develop in the lives of His Disciples?" The goal of discipleship is not only teaching ministry skills, but developing someone to be like Christ. You can teach ministry skills to almost anyone, but true discipleship is not so much what we do but who we are.

Jesus sought to develop three qualities in the lives of His disciples, qualities that He Himself manifested and which were also cited by the apostle Paul: Faith, Hope and Love. These three virtues were the template for the lives of His disciples. They must become the pattern for our lives and the lives of those we disciple, as well!

Faith

Dr. Howard Hendricks observed that the "only thing Jesus rebuked His disciples for was their lack of faith." Those who like to portray Jesus as 'mEEK and mild' should do a search of those times when His disciples fell short of His expectations. He expected them to trust God ... to believe that nothing was impossible with God and that His Word was True!

Christ used every day events to develop His disciples' faith. Observe the following episode found in Mark 4.

- 35 On that day, when evening came, He said to them,
"Let us go over to the other side."
36 Leaving the crowd,
they took Him along with them in the boat,
just as He was;
and other boats were with Him.
37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind,
and the waves were breaking over the boat
so much that the boat was already filling up.
38 Jesus Himself was in the stern,
asleep on the cushion;
and they woke Him and said to Him,
"Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"
39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,
"Hush, be still."
And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.
40 And He said to them,
"Why are you afraid?
How is it that you have no faith?"

Mark 4:35-40

A Caution

Beware of getting too caught up on ministry skills. Don't get me wrong. Learning how to share one's faith, how to help others grow in Christ and how to train them to help still others is crucial in Discipleship, as are the skills of studying the Bible and sharing its Truths.

But as important is the development of a life of Faith (trusting in God to do what He promised), Hope (seeing God's eternal perspective in all things) and Love (valuing God and the things He values). These are the things that keep people discipling!

Discipleship is simply allowing yourself to be used by God to help others become what God wants them to become in order that they will do what He wants them to do!

Observations

- Circle when this takes place. (v 35)
- Underline what Jesus said. (v 35)
- Circle who took whom in the boat. (v 36)
- Circle what arose during the crossing. (v 37)
- Circle what the waves were doing. (v 37)
- Underline how this affected the boat. (v 37)
- Underline what Jesus was doing. (v 38)
- Circle what the disciples did. (v 38)
- Underline what they said to Jesus. (v 38)
- Underline what Jesus did. (v 39)
- Circle what Jesus said to the sea. (v 39)
- Underline what resulted. (v 39)
- Underline what Jesus asked His disciples. (v 40)



Psalm 104:5-7
Psalm 89:-9

1. What is significant about the timing of their crossing? _____

2. What is significant about the phrase 'they took Him along with them in the boat'? _____

3. What is significant about what Jesus was doing during the storm? _____

4. What did the disciples imply by their question in verse 38? _____

5. What is significant about how Jesus handled the storm? _____

6. What is the reason behind Jesus' questions in verse 40? _____

7. Where should have the disciples' faith been placed? _____

This stormy trial reads like a parable for the turbulent times in our own lives. Before we piously criticize the disciples' actions, how many times do we fail to trust Christ when our lives are swamped by waves of adversity and misfortune. Maybe you haven't verbally accused the Lord of not caring, but you may have thought it. Perhaps these times of tribulation are God's tests revealing the misdirection of our faith and His attempts to refocus it on Himself.

Like Jesus' disciples, we find it easier to trust in ourselves ... what we can see and what we are able to do. But God wants us to trust in Him ... in what He is able to see and to do. Though at times doing so is difficult, doing so is also the wisest course of action, for God alone is able to see the 'end from the beginning' and 'do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think'.

According to the apostle Paul, Faith is not the 'greatest' virtue, but it is the necessary virtue, for the others rest upon it. Unless those we disciple have Faith that God exists and rewards those who 'diligently seek Him', they will never experience the Hope and Love such Faith cultivates.

Testing Their Faith

Jesus did not hesitate to test His disciples' faith. That is certainly what seems to be taking place in the episode with the storm. He was really testing their hearing and whether they believed Him when He said they would go to the other side, and not to the middle and sink.

We must test our students as well. One way I do it is to take them to share Christ with total strangers. I am really testing whether they believe Jesus when He said He would be with us whenever we 'go and make disciples'. There is nothing that tests a Christian's faith more than sharing the Gospel with strangers.

That experience will solidify a new Believers' faith more than any other!

Cultivating Faith

There is a kind of faith that comes from seeing the miraculous workings of God, a faith based on what is seen. Then there is a Faith that comes from hearing God's Word, a faith that is based on what is heard. It is this kind of faith that we must aspire to, for we must 'walk by faith, not by sight'.

The apostle Paul taught that this kind of faith 'comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.' (Romans 10:17) God favors this kind of faith, for it is a pure faith and not one tainted by the necessity to see or experience something before we will believe.

Hope

Successful athletes know that there can be no victory without disciplined training, and that the key to enduring that training is to set their sights on the finish line, and the ultimate prize at the end. Christians who desire to become disciples need to learn that lesson. As someone observed, the Christian life is not a sprint but cross country. It requires an endurance only those whose eyes are fixed on the ultimate prize will be able to achieve.

Because a life of Discipleship requires discipline, Christians must look beyond the trials and hardships of this life, away from the temptations and distractions of this world, and persevere, because they are convinced that the final outcome is worth all these momentary sacrifices! Christians possess a Hope to which nothing else compares., a Hope that surpasses every sacrifice they make. It is this of which the apostle Paul writes in the passage below.

- 20 For the creation was subjected to futility,
not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it,
in hope
- 21 that the creation itself also
will be set free from its slavery to corruption
into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
- 22 For we know that the whole creation
groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.
- 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves,
having the first fruits of the Spirit,
even we ourselves groan within ourselves,
waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons,
the redemption of our body.
- 24 For in hope we have been saved,
but hope that is seen is not hope;
for who hopes for what he *already sees*?
- 25 But if we hope for what we do not see,
with perseverance
we wait eagerly for it.

Romans 8:20-25

1. How does this Hope help us endure times of Temptation and Trial?

2. Describe a life that is devoid of any hope? _____

Observations

- Circle what Creation is subjected to. (20)
Underline what it will be freed from. (21)
Underline what it will be freed to. (21)
Underline what it does 'until now'. (22)
Underline what we have. (23)
Circle what we do within ourselves. (23)
Underline what we eagerly wait for. (23)
Circle what kind of hope is not hope. (24)
Underline how we eagerly wait for our
'adoption' and 'redemption'. (25)



Genesis 3:17-19

Hosea 4:3

2 Corinthians 5:2-4

Our Eternal Hope

When Man sinned, all of creation suffered its consequences. Not only did all of mankind become subject to death and decay, but everything around them as well. But the secret is that all who possess God's Spirit will one day be glorified as God's adopted sons with new immortal and glorious bodies, equaled in beauty by a transformed creation that will reflect in unrivaled brilliance its Creator. This heavenly existence awaits all who love and trust God through Christ! This is the Christians' destiny and future ... the Hope for which we live and endure.

Love

The apostle Paul declares that 'the greatest of these (virtues) is Love'. Forget the images of romantic affection or sentimental emotions. This Love is none of that. The virtue of Love speaks of what is valued, esteemed and treasured. It describes that to which we devote our heart at its deepest level.

Jesus defined that to which every Disciple must devote themselves in the following passage:

Memorize



- 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"
37 And He said to him,
 "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
 WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
 AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
 AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'
38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.
39 "The second is like it,
 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
 AS YOURSELF.'
40 "On these two commandments
 depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:36-40

1. Describe what it means to love God to the extent Jesus expressed above.

2. Why is this called the 'greatest ... commandment? _____

3. How is the second like the first? _____

4. What did Jesus mean by verse 40? _____

OBSERVATION

Underline what was asked of Jesus.
Underline what Jesus said 'you shall do.

Circle with what we must 'Love the Lord (our) God'.
Circle whom else we shall love.
Underline how we must love them.
Underline on what depends on these two commandments.



Deuteronomy 6:5, 10:12
Leviticus 19:18
Romans 13:9-10

In this passage, Jesus reveals what must be at the core of our lives ... a complete, unconditional and absolute devotion to God. The truth is that we all devote ourselves to some thing or some one. We were created to worship, and Jesus is pointing us to the only One worthy of our worship. To love God is to worship Him ... to make Him the preeminent and absolute focus of all we are and do.

The second commandment is related to the first, not that we are to worship those around us, but to value them because they are created in God's image.

Our goal in discipling others is to develop committed Christians who are not only competent in 'winning, building and sending others for Christ', but who also display the character of Christ in their lives. Discipleship involves the multiplication of not only ministry skills, but of the life of the Master Himself through ours!

The Goal

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Memorize 

*“But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.”*

1 Corinthians 13:13

The Process

'Last words are lasting words.' The final words people utter before passing into eternity are usually full of significance for their audience. Gone are the superficial niceties, for when the time is short, words of consequence are conveyed.

Jesus' last words to His disciples before ascending to His Father's throne are recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. They convey His heart's desire and final instruction to those into whom He poured His life. In these instructions are found both the priority and the program for His disciples' to follow.

Memorize →

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
19 "Go therefore
and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;
and lo,
I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

- ✓ Circle what was given to Jesus.
- ✓ Underline to where this 'authority' extends.
- ✓ Circle each of the four verbs He uses.
- ✓ Underline of what we are to 'make disciples'.
- ✓ Underline into what we are to 'baptize' these disciples.
- ✓ Underline what we are to teach them.
- ✓ Underline where He will be.
- ✓ Circle till when will He be with us.

Matthew 28:18-20, often called 'The Great Commission', is Jesus' 'Job Description' for His disciples. He is not *suggesting* that we undertake this task ... He is *expecting* us to fulfill it! But through the ages, His disciples have not heeded His Commission. Even today, there are multitudes who have yet to hear the life saving message of the Gospel. If Christ were to return today, I would not expect much commendation for our delinquency! But He tarries, giving us time yet to complete the task! And it behooves us to devote ourselves fully to completing this task that we can do only this side of heaven. So let us look afresh at this familiar passage and let it reopen our eyes to the task at hand!

'All Authority'

1. What is the significance of verse 18? _____

📖 John 5:21-27
Ephesians 1:20-21

▶ Jesus has been given authority both to give life and to condemn sinners to eternal punishment. How does this relate to His command for us to 'make disciples of all nations'?

Making Disciples

Jesus' command can be better understood when broken down into its main verb and its participles. These present participles are best understood by prefacing them with the word 'by' and attaching an 'ing'. Jesus is commanding us to:

'Make Disciples' ... by
'going'
'baptizing' and
'teaching'

The Commission is prefaced with Jesus' incredible statement that 'All authority ... in heaven and on earth' has been given to Him. In doing so, He is not only establishing His right to command us but also His absolute authority over 'all the nations'. He has delegated to us the right to invite all people into His Kingdom ... no matter their race, their country, their age, gender or station in life.

'Make Disciples of All Nations'

2. What is meant by the phrase 'make disciples of all the nations'? _____

'Make disciples' is the main verb of this passage. It is the one verb written as a command and is therefore the heart of what Jesus expects us to do. Everything we do as His disciples must ultimately relate to this one purpose for it will be the basis of our accountability when we stand before Him.

Note that the task involves 'all nations'. The word 'nations' is the greek word 'ethnos' which is where we derive the word 'ethnic'. 'All nations' encompasses people from every ethnic group in the world! And then will be fulfilled John's vision when he saw 'a great multitude which no one could count, from **every nation** and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;' Revelation 7:9. Praise God!

'Go, therefore'

3. What is the significance of the command 'Go, therefore'? _____

Jesus did not only command us to 'make disciples of all nations' ... He provided the steps by which we are to complete the task. These steps are best taken in the order they are presented. The first step is expressed by the participle 'Go', or more properly translated, ... make disciples 'by going'. Making disciples of all nations requires going to the nations. **That must be the highest priority for the Church because it was the highest priority of our Lord!**

Unfortunately, for many Christians, this is not a priority but an option. Being a missionary is viewed as a special calling for a few Christians when it is actually a calling for every Christian. Instead of finding reasons not to be a missionary, we should be asking ourselves, 'Why not?!' Can you imagine if every Christian made themselves available to serve overseas as missionaries, teachers, medical personnel, agricultural advisors, health workers, builders, mechanics, etc. and not just for a few weeks? We would fulfill the Great Commission in every generation! That we don't is our failure, not God's.

'in heaven and on Earth'
Jesus stated His absolute authority in two ways for emphasis. First, by the adjective 'All' elevating His authority above all others, and then specifying 'in heaven and on Earth', establishing its scope. In other words, there is no authority that supersedes, nor which we can use to avoid, His. His authority comes from the highest command which is God's Throne itself!

 Acts 7:1, 4-5

► The early church was growing in Jerusalem around the teaching of the Apostles. From Acts 7:1-5, how did they become refocused on the task Jesus gave them?

'baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit'

4. What is the significance of 'baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit?' _____

For many, this step involves the act of water baptism and/or church affiliation. I am convinced that in the context of discipleship, there is more to it than this. The word 'baptize' is the transliteration of a word that means 'to dip'. It is a simple word possessing a profound meaning. It was used to describe the act of dyeing cloth whereby a plain white fabric was baptized into a vat of dye and emerged completely changed, taking on the color of the dye. The word baptism came to symbolize that complete change.

In the context of discipleship, baptizing someone 'in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit' is to bring them into a genuine life transforming relationship with the One True God, resulting in being spiritually reborn as God's child and a corresponding change in their lives. This change is not just a conformation to the accepted mores of a church community, but a transformation of their heart from being self centered to Christ centered. The proof of genuine change is a life characterized by a love for God and a desire to please and glorify Him.

'teaching them to observe all that I commanded you'

5. What is the significance of the phrase 'teaching them to observe all that I commanded you?' _____

The third step can only be taken after completing the second. It does no good to teach people God's commands if they have not experienced a spiritual rebirth and transformation. Doing so may produce a 'disciple' who may be doing the right things but for the wrong reasons. A truly transformed disciple will observe Christ's commands because he wants to, not because he has to!

Please note that Jesus instructs us to teach them to observe *all* of His commands, which includes this one as well! Therefore, making disciples must include expecting them to become involved in this process, until people everywhere have been given the opportunity to receive God's gift of forgiveness through Christ!

Baptizing them in the Name ...'
In the Bible, the 'name' of a person was more than an identifying tag. Names had meaning and represented everything the person was. Jesus' command was more than a ceremonial formula, but an injunction to bring people into a spiritual regenerated relationship with the Living God!

Transformation

It is possible to be baptized in water and not be transformed. It is impossible to be baptized into God and not emerge a changed person ... from the inside out!

Jesus' Commandments

Jesus commanded that we should 'follow' Him, 'love God' supremely, 'love one another' as He loved us, 'love our neighbors', 'take the Gospel' to the world and 'make disciples of all nations'. Can you imagine what would happen if we, and those we teach, fulfilled His commands?

'Spiritual Multiplication'

If Jesus had stopped His instructions before this final injunction, there would probably not be any Christians around today. The Church grows because Believers in every generation obey God and share the Gospel with their generation. The multiplication of disciples making disciples results in an exponential growth which is the only way we will ever reach the entire world.

'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'

6. In light of the context, what is the significance of Jesus' promise to be with us to the end? _____



Hebrews 13:5-6
1 Chronicles 28:20

Jesus closes His great commission with a grand promise. But His Promise must be interpreted in the context of His Command. As we go to make disciples of all nations, we can be assured of this, that Christ will be with us all the way and all the time.

But whether we are venturing across the street or across the ocean, the everlasting presence of our Lord gives us the assurance that because the work is His, not ours, He will do it through us! And let it be clear that from the beginning Christ anticipated this task to continue till the 'end of the age'. There is much to be done and many to reach, therefore let us recommit ourselves afresh to the task, and labor toward its completion, knowing that our Lord and Savior is with us every step of the way!

The Process

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*"The things which you have heard from me
in the presence of many witnesses,
entrust these to faithful men
who will be able to teach others also."*

2 Timothy 2:2

Memorize 

The Cost

Count the Cost

Everything worth doing has a cost. And it is incumbent upon each of us to consider that cost and whether being a disciple of Jesus Christ is worth paying the price. Jesus Himself stated the challenge this way:

- 28 "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower,
does not first sit down and calculate the cost
to see if he has enough to complete it?
- 29 "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish,
all who observe it begin to ridicule him,
- 30 saying,
'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Luke 14:28-30


- ✓ Underline what one does before building a tower. (v 28)
- ✓ Underline why he must first calculate the cost. (v 28)
- ✓ Circle what others will begin doing if he is unable to finish it. (v 29)
- ✓ Underline what they will say. (v 30)

1. What does this passage reveal about Jesus? _____

2. How is this passage related to discipleship? _____

3. Why does Jesus challenge us to 'calculate the cost'? _____

There are many things in this world that keep us from making a total commitment to Christ. Devotion to these things seem justified at the moment, but after we have been ushered into the presence of our Lord, we will discover that they were unworthy of the price they demanded. For Christ's disciples, there is no option nor compromise. **Christ must be preeminent!**

 Matthew 6:19-21
2 John 1:8
2 Peter 2:19-22

► According to the above passages, what happens when we do not 'count the cost' of following Christ?

Memorize 

For He Alone is Worthy of Our Love & Devotion

- 18 A ruler questioned Him, saying,
"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
- 19 And Jesus said to him,
"Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.
- 20 "You know the commandments,
'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,
DO NOT MURDER,
DO NOT STEAL,
DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,
HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"
- 21 And he said,
"All these things I have kept from my youth."
- 22 When Jesus heard *this*, He said to him,
"One thing you still lack;
sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor,
and you shall have treasure in heaven;
and come, follow Me."
- 23 But when he had heard these things,
he became very sad, for he was extremely rich...

Luke 18:18-23

1. Explain Jesus' immediate response to the initial question. _____

2. Which commandment(s) was Jesus testing the ruler on in v 22? _____

3. Why was this person unable to devote himself fully to Christ? _____

Memorize 

This world is littered with the pseudo-precious ~ objects that appear to possess intrinsic worth. They may be inanimate objects (such as our possessions, our homes, our businesses, etc.) or symbolic objects (such as money, social status, awards, degrees, etc.). But their worth is false for they will eventually all 'pass away'. Even our family members, our girlfriends, our boyfriends, and others can take God's rightful place in our lives. But only the eternal God is worthy of our full devotion and worship!

Memorize 

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose!"*

Jim Elliot

Observations

- Underline what 'a ruler' asked Jesus. (v 18)
- Underline what Jesus told him. (v 19)
- Note each commandment listed in v 20.
- Circle from when the ruler had kept those Commandments. (v 21)
- Circle how many things Jesus said he lacked. (v 22)
- Underline what Jesus told him to do. (v 22)
- Circle how he became after hearing these things. (v 23)
- Underline why he 'became very sad.' (v 23)

Interpreting Scripture

A cardinal rule of Bible Interpretation is to interpret a passage in light of its context, both immediate and remote. Taken at face value, in verse 19 Jesus seems to be implying that He is not deity. But numerous other passages clearly teach the opposite (John 1:1; cf. Isaiah 44:24 w. John 1:3 & Colossians 1:16). So what is Jesus really implying? He is stating in a cryptic (some would say sarcastic) way, that even though the ruler was not aware of it, he was declaring Jesus to be truly divine!

This truth is underscored when Jesus calls on the ruler to obey the first commandment ...

"You shall have no other gods before Me."
(Exodus 20:3)

... by selling all his possessions and following Him. Only if Jesus was truly God would His challenge be relevant. As it turned out, the ruler had missed the most important Commandment of them all.

Following Jesus is Worth More Than ...

... Our Possessions

Memorize 

33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple
who does not give up all his own possessions."
Luke 14:33

- ✓ Circle what we must give up in order to be Christ's disciple?

Explain why Jesus requires this condition for discipleship. _____

... Our Comforts

19 Then a scribe came and said to Him,
"Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

20 Jesus *said to him,
"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests,
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."
Matthew 8:19-20

Memorize 

- ✓ Underline where a scribe said he would follow Jesus.
- ✓ Circle where the Son of Man has to lay His head.

Explain what Jesus meant by His answer. _____

... Our Obligations

21 Another of the disciples said to Him,
"Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."
22 But Jesus *said to him,
"Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."
Matthew 8:21-22

- ✓ Underline what a disciple said to Jesus.
- ✓ Circle who Jesus said should 'bury their own dead.

Explain what Jesus meant by His answer. _____

 Luke 9:25

After proudly showing off his treasure filled estate, the missionary taking the tour sadly commented to the host, "These are the things that make dying hard." Possessions can dominate our hearts and eclipse God's place in it. As a sojourner in this world, it is best to travel light so that we can more quickly heed our Master's call.

 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

He Never Said It Would Easy! Jesus makes no guarantee that following Him would be easy. When I served on the mission field, I sometimes found myself sleeping in flea infested bush huts, or on concrete floors or while freezing in a jungle camp at 5000 feet. It wasn't easy, but it was always worth it!

 Luke 9:61-62

A Matter of Priorities
What at first seems to be a very inconsiderate request by Jesus, on closer inspection is shown to be a statement about our priorities. Jesus is telling His would be disciple that following Him is of greater importance than burying his father, as horrible as that may seem to our thinking. However, it is not Jesus who must change His thinking, but us!

... Our Families

- 25 Now large crowds were going along with Him;
and He turned and said to them,
26 "If anyone comes to Me,
and does not hate his own father and mother and wife
and children and brothers and sisters,
yes, and even his own life,
he cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:25-26

- ✓ Circle what kind of crowds were following Jesus.
- ✓ Circle each and every person Jesus said one must 'hate' in order to be His disciples.

What does Jesus mean in this passage? _____

How can one be devoted to one's family and Christ at the same time? _____

... Our Own Lives

Memorize 

- 23 And He was saying to *them* all,
"If anyone wishes to come after Me,
he must deny himself,
and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ...
25 "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world,
and loses or forfeits himself?

Luke 9:23, 25

- ✓ Circle whom one must deny in order to follow Jesus.
- ✓ Circle what one must take up in order to be Jesus' disciple.

What does it mean for a person to deny himself and take up his cross daily?

What does Jesus' question tell you about the value of riches vs. a person's life?

Hating Others

Many find this teaching difficult to receive. Remember that Biblical Interpretation must always be done in context. Scripture clearly teaches that we are to love and honor our parents, spouses and children.

Jesus is utilizing the common practice of *hyperbole* whereby exaggerations are used to emphasize a point. He is not calling us to 'hate' our parents, spouses or children, but to love Him so much more that our love for them would appear to be 'hate' in comparison.

Only after we prioritize our devotion in this way will we be unencumbered in our commitment and obedience to Christ as Lord.

Giving to Gain

Many Christians view Jesus' call to discipleship as having to give up valued possessions or relationships. It becomes a burdensome sacrifice that for some is too much to bear.

But Jesus' challenge is really a wake-up call to get us to see what is truly valuable. As His question in Luke 9:25 shows, all the riches in the world are not worth dying for, much less living for. The true treasures are the eternal souls of people.

It isn't a sacrifice to give-up temporal things for eternal purposes. The real loss would be in turning our backs on a lost world to pursue worldly riches!

Therefore, Prize Him Supremely!

- 65 And He was saying,
"For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me
unless it has been granted him from the Father."
- 66 As a result of this
many of His disciples withdrew
and were not walking with Him anymore.
- 67 So Jesus said to the twelve,
"You do not want to go away also, do you?"
- 68 Simon Peter answered Him,
"Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have words of eternal life.
- 69 "We have believed and have come to know
that You are the Holy One of God."

John 6:65-69

- ✓ Underline unless what happens will no one come to Christ. (v 65)
- ✓ Underline what happened as a result of what Jesus said. (v 66)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus asked 'the twelve'. (v 67)
- ✓ Underline what Peter asked Jesus. (v 68)
- ✓ Circle what kind of words Peter said Jesus has. (v 68)
- ✓ Underline what the disciples had come to know and believe. (v 69)

When a person truly comprehends the unsurpassed worth of Christ, all other things become as nothing in comparison. One day we will stand in His awesome presence either ashamed at the things we valued in place of Him, or assured that we calculated the cost and treasured Him above all else!

The Cost

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Jesus' Worth

It is amazing, considering today's preoccupation with numbers and statistics, how little Jesus valued a large following. In fact, He seemed to make it a practice to sift out the less committed.

Here, Jesus not only calmly watches another group of followers leave, but even asks if the Twelve aren't thinking of joining them! Never let it be said that Jesus' standards weren't high.

Peter, as always, responds with an answer that must have brought a knowing smile from his Lord. He recognized that Jesus alone spoke life giving words and was the Holy One from God. For all his faults, Peter was no dummy.

Investing in the Kingdom
Luke 18:28-30 teaches that whatever we give up for Christ in this life, He will return in greater manner in this life and in the age to come, eternal life!

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

Memorize 

*“More than that, I count all things to be loss
in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,
and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”*

Philippians 3:8

The Eternal View

Jesus was unique. He said and did things that set Him apart from the world. One reason was the way He viewed things. Jesus saw everything from an eternal perspective and always lived with eternity in mind.

As a discipler for Christ, it is essential that we live in this world while viewing it from the next. We do this by holding fast what God's Word reveals about our eternal destiny and the destiny of this world.

The Bible says that at the end of time, everyone will stand before God to give an account of their lives.

The Great White Throne

- 10 And the devil who deceived them
was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone,
where the beast and the false prophet are also;
and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,
from whose presence earth and heaven fled away,
and no place was found for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead,
the great and the small,
standing before the throne,
and books were opened;
and another book was opened,
which is *the book of life*;
and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books,
according to their deeds.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,
and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them;
and they were judged,
every one of *them* according to their deeds.
- 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life,
he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10-15

This passage describes events at the end of time ... and most certain. It reveals the destinies of individuals and entities that have actively or passively opposed God and His Purpose.

Observation

Underline where the devil was thrown. (v 10)

Circle who else was there. (v 10)

Underline what will happen to them there. (v 10)

Underline what John saw. (v 11)

Circle who was standing before before the throne. (v 12)

Circle what was opened first. (v 12)

Circle what was opened last. (v 12)

Underline what that book was. (v 12)

Underline how the dead were judged. (v 12)

Circle what 'gave up the dead'. (v 13)

Underline what happened to the dead. (v 13)

Circle how many of the dead were judged. (v 13)

Underline how they were judged. (v 13)

Underline where 'death and Hades' were thrown. (v 14)

Circle what 'the lake of fire' is. (v 14)

Underline what happened to anyone whose name was not found in the 'book of life'. (v 15)

Justice Prevails

At the Great White Throne Judgment, there will not be any plea bargains or shortened sentences. The full punishment for sin will be required of everyone, except the Believers who have contritely accepted Christ's gracious payment on behalf of their sins.

The destiny of all who are without the hope of forgiveness through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ will be an unimaginable eternity of torment in the 'lake of fire'. Were we to glimpse this horrific sight even for a moment, we would be transformed into the most zealous evangelists who would not cease to proclaim the gospel day and night till every person believes! That we do not possess this zeal is a testament to either our ignorance or our unbelief!

Jesus Himself will hold us accountable, for He has already done the work. For it is from His own wrath that He presented Himself as Savior, and we must diligently persuade others to receive Him as Savior lest they stand before Him as King and be found wanting. Then their doom will be sealed and their eternity in the 'lake of fire' of God's wrath be certain.

Do not take these words lightly, for in reading them you have taken on their import, and the consequences of any inaction.

The Bema Seat

- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body,
according to what he has done,
whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

1. What is the significance of this verse knowing that the apostle Paul is writing it to the Christians in Corinth? _____

2. What does this verse say about the place works, good and bad, play in a Christian's life? _____

'Bema' is the greek word translated 'judgment seat'. There is a question whether this judgment, which seems to be directed toward Christians, will occur simultaneously with or before the Great White Throne judgment. There are Bible scholars on both sides, but all agree that it *will* take place.

The prominent place God's grace plays in our salvation sometimes gives the false impression that 'works' plays no part in the Christian's life. Though we are saved solely and absolutely by God's grace through faith, God does expect us to live completely in His power and for His glory ... for which we will be held accountable, judged and rewarded.

Observations

Underline where we must appear.
Circle for what we will be rewarded.
Circle what kind of 'deeds' will be judged.

The Fear of the Lord

Contrary to what some Christians believe, there *is* a place for the fear of God in a Believer's life. (see Acts 9:31; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Philippians 3:12) This is not a fear of losing one's salvation so much as being fearful that our lives may not manifest the salvation we already have. Living a life that discredits Christ should put the fear of God in us, for one day we must stand before His Throne to give an account of *all* our deeds, both good and bad. That fear should cause us to 'work out (our) salvation with fear and trembling' for, ultimately, it is really God working in us, giving us the desire and the power to please Him (Philippians 2:12-13).

At the Bema Seat Judgment, rewards will be bestowed, or withheld, depending on how we lived our lives. Scripture tells us that crowns, or victors' wreathes not unlike Olympic Gold Medals, will be awarded for the following:

Gaining Mastery Over Sin in our Lives

25 Everyone who competes in the games **exercises self-control in all things**. They then *do it* to receive a perishable **wreath**, but we **an imperishable**.

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Persevering Through Trials

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life** which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

Rejoicing in Christ's Coming - Past and Future

8 in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

Faithful Feeding and Shepherding of God's Flock

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the unfading crown of glory**.

1 Peter 5:4

It is unclear what we would do with these crowns, but the twenty four elders in Revelation 4:10 tossed theirs before the Lord in worship. In the end, no matter what we do, we do it all for His glory! Amen!

The Christians' Eternal Destiny

The destiny of Christ's disciples is to live eternally in His presence in a city divinely prepared for them. We are given a glimpse of this future dwelling place in the final chapters of Revelation that we might set this hope before us as we sojourn as temporary visitors in this world. Our real home is with God in His heavenly sanctuary, and we are authorized by our Lord to bring as many people as possible with us!

- 1 Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**;
for the first heaven and the first earth passed away,
and there is no longer *any* sea.
- 2 And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**,
coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying,
"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,
and **He will dwell among them**,
and **they shall be His people**,
and **God Himself will be among them**,
- 4 and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**;
and **there will no longer be any death**;
there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;
the first things have passed away."

The Bema Described

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test **the quality** of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it *remains*, he will receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Our New Home Promised by Christ

1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

John 14:-3

- 5 And He who sits on the throne said,
"Behold, I am making all things new."
 And He said,
 "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
- 6 Then He said to me,
 "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
 I will give to the one who thirsts
 from the spring of the water of life without cost.
- 7 **"He who overcomes will inherit these things,
 and I will be his God and he will be My son.**
- 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers
 and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars,
**their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone,
 which is the second death."**
- 9 Then one of the seven angels
 who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues
 came and spoke with me, saying,
 "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
- 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain,
 and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem,
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 having the glory of God.
**Her brilliance was like a very costly stone,
 as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.**
- 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates,
 and at the gates twelve angels;
 and names *were* written on them,
 which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.
- 13 *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north
 and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.
- 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones,
 and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city,
 and its gates and its wall.
- 16 **The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width;
 and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles;
 its length and width and height are equal.**
- 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards,
*according to human measurements,
 which are also angelic measurements.*
- 18 **The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold,
 like clear glass.**
- 19 The foundation stones of the city wall
 were adorned with every kind of precious stone.
 The first foundation stone was **jasper**;
 the second, **sapphire**; the third, **chalcedony**; the fourth, **emerald**;
 the fifth, **sardonyx**; the sixth, **sardius**; the seventh, **chrysolite**;
 the eighth, **beryl**; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, **chrysoprase**;
 the eleventh, **jasper**; the twelfth, **amethyst**.
- 21 And **the twelve gates were twelve pearls;**
each one of the gates was a single pearl.
 And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.



Artist's Conception
 of the New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem

Our future and eternal home will be unlike anything we have seen on earth. First, its size is beyond comprehension. The city will be 1500 miles in width, in length and in height. It will be made of pure gold clear as glass and crystal clear jasper. The wall surrounding the city will be adorned with 12 gemstones and the gates will be giant pearls.

Inside, the river of life will flow from the throne of God feeding the tree of life which will bear twelve different kinds of fruit. There will no longer be any tears, deaths, crying, mourning or pain. And Jesus Himself will dwell there, sitting on His throne and illuminating the city with his justice and light. The city will be dazzling to those outside as the Lamb's glory radiates through the multicolored gemstones and pure clear gold!

The Eternal View

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,
keep seeking the things above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Set your mind on the things above,
not on the things that are on earth.
For you have died
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

Colossians 3:1-3

Memorize 

Spiritual Multiplication vs Spiritual Addition

Spiritual Addition is Winning people to Christ but never Building or Sending them to Win and Build others.

Spiritual Multiplication is Winning People to Christ,
Building Them Up in Christ and Sending Them out
to Win, Build and Send Others.

Compare how many people are reached for Christ each year
through Spiritual Addition and Multiplication.

Compare the numerical results between

Spiritual Addition and Spiritual Multiplication.

Spiritual Addition <i>(Reach 100 People for Christ Each Day)</i>	Year	Spiritual Multiplication <i>(Win, Build & Send One Person Every 6 Months)</i>
(thousand) 36,000	1	4
72,000	2	16
108,000	3	64
144,000	4	256
180,000	5	1,024 (thousand)
216,000	6	4,096
252,000	7	16,384
288,000	8	65,536
324,000	9	262,144
360,000	10	1,048,576 (million)
396,000	11	4,191,304
432,000	12	16,777,216
468,000	13	67,108,864
504,000	14	268,435,456
540,000	15	1,0736,741,824 (billion)
576,000	16	4,294,967,296
612,000	17	17,179,867,184

One Person CAN Make a Difference!

Practical Discipleship

Discipleship involves **Winning** People to Christ (*Spiritual Birth*), **Building** People in Christ (*Spiritual Growth*) and **Sending** People for Christ (*Spiritual Multiplication*) in order to Win, Build and Send others! The three Discipleship Books (available from BibleStudyCD.com) are designed to help you do just that!

How to Win, Build and Send People for Christ

Download and print the Discipleship Books from BibleStudyCD.com. Prayerfully and diligently work through the lessons in each book, completing all the applications and assignments. When you are confident that you understand the Biblical truths and principles, and have applied them to your life, begin to pray for God to raise up someone for you to disciple. Be prepared to spend a minimum of six months, sharing the Biblical truths and principles in the Discipleship books with that person.

Begin by sharing your faith with all those that God brings across your path. Seek to Follow-up all who come to know Christ by sharing *Discipleship Study One* with them.

Follow-Up:

1. **Print two copies** of *Discipleship Study One* (download free from www.BibleStudyCD.com). If at all possible, schedule to meet people who have come to know Christ **within 48 hours**. Remember, *Satan is there to steal God's Word from the young Believer*. Therefore, we must be there to encourage that Believer to trust Christ. Mark 4:13-15
2. **Invite the person to your Church** and encourage faithful attendance. Surround him with Christians who love God and are walking by His Spirit!
3. **At the conclusion of the final lesson** on Spiritual Multiplication, challenge the young Believer to commit his/her life to "*Winning, Building and Sending*" people for Christ. If the new Believer has led someone to Christ, encourage him to follow that person up on their own doing by doing what you did with him.
4. **Spend time with those you follow up**. Your impact in anyone's life is directly related to your relationship with that person! Remember, Discipleship is not Informing others, it's infecting others with Christ in you ... and the closer you are to anyone, the greater the chance they will catch the real disease!
5. **If you or the person** you are seeking to Follow up cannot meet together, give him/her a copy of the Discipleship Study Book 1 or the Discipleship CD to study on their own.
6. **Pray continuously** for those you follow up. We may teach and encourage those we follow up, but only God can cause them to grow!

Discipleship

In the Great Commission, Jesus Christ commanded us to "make disciples of all nations". But in order to make disciples, we must ask ourselves this question, "Do I really care?" Discipleship is more than just informing people about Christ, it is infecting them with His Life! It is infecting them with our love for God and our zeal to glorify Him in the world!

As we invest our lives discipling others, we will be making an eternal impact in their lives. The following principles will help launch you into a lifetime of "Winning, Building and Sending" people for Christ!

Follow-Up All Who Receive Christ!

Discipleship begins by providing Follow-Up to every new Christian within 48 hours of coming to Christ, and to all Christians who have never learned the Basics of Christian Living.

Disciple All Who Desire to Live for Christ!

Discipleship is the process of reproducing Christ's Life in You into the life of another. (1 Corinthians 11:1) Note that you cannot impart a life of discipleship to another if you do not have one yourself! Discipleship always starts with the discipler! **Luke 6:39-40** Discipleship can be done either Person to Person or in Groups.

Personal Discipleship

If you decide to personally disciple individuals, pay close attention to **whom** you select. You will be investing much of your time in those you disciple, with the hope that they will go on to Win, Build and Send others! The chance of this occurring depends in large part on whom you select.

Use your Follow Up time with the person to help you determine the *readiness* of that person for discipleship. Disciple those who display *three* key qualities: **A Heart for God, a Teachable Attitude and Availability**. There must be a desire to glorify God, a desire to learn from God and a willingness to take the time and make Discipleship a priority.

When you have found someone that possess the three qualities, meet together and work through the lessons in Discipleship Study Books Two and Three. Always keep the Vision of Winning, Building and Sending others for Christ before your disciple!

Encourage your disciple to share Christ with family, friends, fellow students or co-workers. (The most effective time for people to bring others to Christ is often right after they have come to know Him.) Together, follow up anyone who comes to Christ and pray for God to raise up someone for your disciple to also disciple. Again, the purpose of Discipleship is to Win, Build and Send people in order to Win, Build and Send others!

After completing Discipleship Study Three, continue to meet with your disciples in an ongoing Discipleship Group with others you are discipling where they can encourage each other in their Walk with Christ, and motivate one another in their service for Christ. And remember, always keep the Vision of Winning, Building and Sending before the group!

Group Discipleship

It is sometimes desirable and even necessary to disciple people in groups. Whether you meet informally in a home, or in the organized surroundings of a Church, you can train many people using the three Discipleship Study Books.

In the Church setting, available classrooms and teachers will allow an ongoing training course with simultaneous classes on every level. After completing the Discipleship Study Three, students can continue on with Book Studies, Character Studies or Topical Studies (ie. Practical or Systematic Theology, Apologetics, Ministry Training, etc.) Students should be encouraged to retake any level as a review. Repetition enhances Learning!

Discipleship Through the Church

Introduction

We live in trying times that make **Christian Discipleship** an imperative. International events foreshadow the coming conflict that will culminate in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to establish His eternal Kingdom, while cultural changes pressure Believers to abandon their Biblical beliefs in order to conform to worldly principles.

The clock is ticking and night will soon be upon us when our work as Christ's ambassadors will cease. It is therefore imperative that as Christ's Church we prioritize our ministries, in order to complete the task we have been commissioned by our Lord to do: "to make disciples of all the nations".

The Dilemma

The advent of the professional Christian, gifted Believers paid to minister, be they Pastors, Evangelists, Counselors, Administrators, Teachers, etc., has had the undesirable effect of detaching a great number of lay Christians from active involvement. As Dr. Howard Hendricks once wryly quoted in a speech on Leadership, "Our Pastors are paid to be good and our people are good for nothing!"

This has had the most disastrous affect on evangelism as Believers have excused their lack of involvement with the thinking, "Let the Pastor bring people to Christ. That's *his* job!" Nothing could be further from the truth!

It is time for the Church to return to the pattern laid out in Scripture. It is not the task of these gifted Believers to take upon themselves the entire ministry, but to equip the members of Christ's Church to be involved together in ministry. But this will never happen without someone catching the Vision of what can transpire when we return to the Biblical blueprint.

The Vision

Imagine your church in which every member is actively involved in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission in the capacity God's Spirit enables them. Picture them *winning* their family members, friends, co workers and acquaintances to Christ, and bringing them to church in order that they may be *built up* through the church's teaching and equipping ministry. Then imagine these new Believers being *sent out* to win their own friends and acquaintances to Christ, then bringing them to be built up as well!

This process of Believers "Winning people to Christ, Building people in Christ and Sending them to win, build and send still others for Christ" is called **Spiritual Multiplication**. It is a Discipleship Principle taught by our Lord Himself when He first called Peter to become a "fisher of men", *not* just a Believer in Christ. Can you imagine what can happen in a church when every Believer catches this Vision? The 'gates of hell' will not be able to prevail against it!

Win, Build and Send

I have personally witnessed the explosion that can take place when Believers begin to take upon themselves the responsibilities of ministry. In Papua New Guinea, we started an eight week class on Basic Christian Living and Evangelism with 30 students. Every weekend, we applied what we learned with outreaches in the market places. (It is amazing how much more you can learn about living by faith by going out and sharing your faith in the community) After completing the 8 week class, we added an 8 week Intermediate level class on Spiritual Growth while simultaneously training a new group in the Basic level class. Eight weeks later, we added a third level on the Bible Study Method while simultaneously teaching the Basic and Intermediate levels. (The **Discipleship Study Books** available at BibleStudyCD.com may be used as the curriculum for the three levels of a Training Course)

As students completed each level, they had the option of retaking the same level for further learning, or moving to the next level. After completing the third level, they were offered various classes that would contribute further to their spiritual growth, such as Inductive Studies, Leadership Development, How To classes on Teaching, Counseling, Discipleship Training, etc. Those who expressed an interest and possessed the abilities were trained to teach each level of the curriculum, and allowed to teach the classes themselves.

Within a year, the original group of 30 grew to more than 200, but because of the growing group of lay trainers, my sole responsibility became transportation. I'll admit that it felt strange standing outside the classrooms watching former students teach, but extremely rewarding to see how enthusiastic they were as they developed the gifts God gave them.

Our time to leave for furlough arrived at this time and I left this ministry in the hands of the lay leaders. When I returned one year later, I discovered that they not only kept the training going, but had started four other training centers in various parts of the city. On top of this, they had taken the training course into their villages. They had caught God's Vision for their country, for their world and for their lives!

When I was invited to share at a camp put on by one of the new training groups, I was surprised and delighted to find that not only did I not recognize any of them, but that none of them knew who I was. I learned that **Spiritual Multiplication** did not require a charismatic leader to maintain its momentum, but only faithful Christians obedient to Christ's Word and dependent upon His Spirit.

Principles versus Programs

A **Principle** is a statement expressing a fundamental purpose and/or standard. A **Program** is an organized activity based on a fundamental purpose.

It is important to comprehend the relationship between *Principles* and *Programs*. Local churches, like any organization, can lose sight of their purpose and become lost in a proliferation of programs. When we lose sight of where we're supposed to be going, busyness often becomes a substitute. But the only one being deceived is 'us!' At this point, it is better to stop and return to the original mandate to: "make disciples of all the nations" by "winning people to Christ, building them up in Christ and sending them out to win, build and send still others for Christ".

This mandate from our Lord becomes the Principle by which all our Programs must find its reason for being. Like the proverbs "Form follows Function" and "Never let the cart get before the Horse", Principles must always *precede* Programs. Problems arise when Programs outlive their intended purpose but continue on because *'we have always done it that way'*. The first step in aligning our Programs with our Principles is to stop and analyze each Program to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose based on the stated Principle. This can be a very painful process, and result in hurt feelings, but if Christ's original blueprint for His Church is to become a reality, this difficult task must be undertaken.

Just as a surgeon excises or repairs damaged tissue, so the leaders of the church must be willing to cease or change Programs that have lost their reason for existence. The Principle of Christ's Great Commission must become pre eminent if the church is ever to realize its reason for being.

Using Programs to Build a Movement

There are countless church Programs available today. The important thing is to ensure that every Program fulfills the Principle to "make disciples" through "winning people to Christ, building them up in Christ and sending them out to win, build and send still others for Christ".

The variety of available Programs reflect the variety of needs within any congregation. Differences in age, sex, marital status, personal situations or issues, all play a part in determining which Programs will best develop Believers toward Spiritual Maturity and an active involvement in the guiding Principle ~ the Great Commission of our Lord.

NOTE: Care must be taken to guard against seeing Programs as an end in themselves instead of a means to a greater end, as well as members viewing their own welfare as the primary goal of church Programs. We live to Know, Love and Serve our Lord, not ourselves!

An example of a Program is the Discipleship Study Books. These were developed to help Christians fulfill our Lord's Great Commission. But they are simply a Program, among many others. In the course of my ministry, I have utilized studies developed by several Christian organizations, schools and denominations. All of them are Programs as well, and each has its own strengths and weaknesses. I encourage the use of a study curriculum to teach and train Believers in the fundamentals of the Christian faith. However, we should never view any of these studies as an end in themselves, but simply a means to build Believers toward Spiritual Growth, in order that they may be sent out to Win, Build and Send others. The choice of which study you utilize is your option. Becoming involved in building others in Christ is not.

When each church member catches the Vision and understands the Principle that guides the Programs of the whole church, a **Movement of Discipleship** is developed. Then each member supports, not the Programs of the church, but the over arching Principle of making disciples and reaching the world for Christ!

**"The Main Thing
is to Keep the Main Thing
the Main Thing!"**