INTRODUCTION

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of One Step Disciples is to help people know the truth of Jesus Christ and learn to walk as He walked. Although there are many biblical truths to discover, they all point toward one central purpose: following Jesus and becoming more like Him.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6, KJV).

These lessons are designed to move us beyond simply knowing what the Bible teaches. They are intended to help us believe God's truth and live it out in our everyday lives. As we put His truth into practice, we grow in our relationship with Jesus and learn to help others follow Him, too.

2. THE ONE THING

The One Thing is to follow Jesus by learning to walk as He walked. That means bringing our thoughts, beliefs, choices, and actions into alignment with God's Word.

Faith is more than agreeing that something is true or feeling confident about it. Biblical faith means trusting God and allowing that trust to shape the way we live. We don't simply learn what Jesus taught; we learn to put His teachings into practice.

Our focus is not merely on gaining knowledge, following religious traditions, or agreeing with a set of doctrines. Our focus is Jesus Christ—trusting Him, following Him, and learning to live according to His truth.

This is a lifelong journey. We take one step at a time, learning one truth and practicing it until it becomes a more consistent part of our lives. We won't do this perfectly, but we can continue growing as we trust and obey Him.

3. TO BECOME LIKE THE MASTER

These teachings provide a roadmap for a journey into a new life—a life that increasingly reflects the life of Jesus. The Bible describes this as the life that is truly life.

"So that they may take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:19, ESV).

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10, ESV). This abundant life is found in Him as we grow in our relationship with God and learn to trust and follow Jesus.

As we learn to live God's truth, He transforms our character. We begin to think differently, make wiser choices, and respond to people and circumstances in ways that increasingly reflect Jesus. We learn to trust God rather than be controlled by fear, worry, or doubt. Even when life is difficult, we can experience His peace and joy.

Our goal is not simply to know what Jesus taught, but to live as He lived. Jesus said, "It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher" (Matthew 10:25, ESV). First John 2:6 also reminds us that whoever claims to abide in Jesus ought to walk as He walked.

This transformation doesn't happen all at once. It takes place as we learn the truth, believe it, and put it into practice. Trust and obedience are essential to following Jesus.

One truth at a time, one step at a time, we learn to become more like the Master.

4. BELIEVING

The journey into the One Thing does not come through wishful thinking, making commitments, attending church, or participating in religious activities alone. It begins when we believe God and trust His truth enough to live according to it.

The foundation of the Christian life is faith in Jesus Christ. There is a difference between knowing what God says, agreeing that it is true, and actually trusting Him in the way we live. We may know what the Bible teaches and agree with it, yet still make choices that show we are relying on our own understanding instead of trusting God.

That is why it is important to understand what faith and believing really mean. Genuine belief affects our thoughts, choices, and actions. As we learn to trust God's Word and put it into practice, our lives increasingly reflect what we profess to believe.

These lessons will help you understand faith and believing, recognize the difference between knowing the truth and living it, and learn to put your faith into practice in everyday life.

5. THE OUTCOME OF THE ONE THING

As we learn to believe God's truth and put it into practice, we begin to experience the life that is truly life. We can develop a deeper, more consistent sense of peace and contentment, even when circumstances are difficult. The Holy Spirit renews our faith and hope as He helps us know the Father more deeply and understand His Word and His will for our lives.

This journey leads us into a deeper relationship with the Father and the Son. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one with Him and the Father (John 17:21). As we grow in this relationship, we learn to trust God with all our hearts, stop relying on our own understanding, and surrender our will to His. We learn to seek His will above our own and obey His truth, even when we don't fully understand His ways.

This journey calls for a willingness to surrender, trust, and obey. It is easier to learn what the Bible teaches than to put its truths into practice. But as we yield our lives to God and follow His direction, we discover that His way leads us toward the life He desires for us—the life that is truly life.

One truth at a time, one step at a time, we learn to walk more closely with God.

6. HOW LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES REVEAL OUR CHARACTER

One of my favorite authors, Oswald Chambers, wrote that "crisis reveals character." Our character is revealed not only by what we think about ourselves, but also by how we respond to the situations and events in our lives.

God, in His sovereignty, allows situations and events that test our faith and reveal what is in our hearts. We see an example in the life of Job. Although Job experienced tremendous loss and suffering, his circumstances revealed both the depth of his faith and the struggles he faced as he sought to trust God.

These experiences can reveal whether we are trusting God's Word or relying on our own understanding. They can also expose the ways fear controls our thinking or the attitudes and behaviors that do not align with God's truth.

The purpose of recognizing these things is not to condemn ourselves, but to see where we need to grow. When we recognize an area of weakness, we can turn to God, learn to trust Him more fully, and take the next step toward living His truth.

7. HOW TO APPROACH THESE TEACHINGS

These teachings are not simply intended to give you more knowledge about the Christian life. Their purpose is to help change the way you think, believe, and live so that your life increasingly reflects the life of Jesus.

This is a lifelong journey. We all have beliefs, thought patterns, and habits that need to change. Some may be so familiar that we don't even recognize them as problems.

Some of the difficulties we face may involve spiritual opposition. Others may result from wrong beliefs, unhealthy ways of thinking,

unwise choices, or circumstances beyond our control. Whatever we face, God's Word provides the truth we need to respond in ways that honor Him.

As you work through these lessons, don't focus only on understanding what each lesson teaches. Ask yourself how the truth applies to your life and what you can begin doing differently. Recognize where your thinking and choices need to change, learn to trust God, and put His truth into practice.

The goal is not simply to know more about Jesus, but to grow in faith, trust, and obedience so that we increasingly learn to walk as He walked.

8. THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship means following Jesus, learning to obey His teachings, and helping others do the same. Jesus said:

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" John 8:31–32 (ESV)

Notice that Jesus connects being His disciple with abiding in His Word. We are not simply to know what He taught; we are to live according to His teachings. As we put His truth into practice, we begin to experience the freedom that comes from living in the truth.

Having someone walk alongside us can help us understand God's Word, recognize areas where we need to grow, and learn to apply His truth in everyday life. We also have the opportunity to encourage others and share what God is teaching us.

You don't have to know everything or have your life perfectly in order to help someone else grow. As you learn to live out a truth, you can help another person understand and begin practicing that same truth. Together, you can keep growing as you follow Jesus—one truth at a time and one step at a time.

9. BASIC CONCEPTS

The most important principle in these lessons is learning to believe God's truth and live according to what we believe. The goal is not simply to gain knowledge, but to put God's Word into practice until it increasingly shapes the way we think, choose, and live.

These lessons explore several areas of the Christian life:

Knowing God and Following Jesus

- Discovering the truth about Jesus and experiencing a personal relationship with God.
- Understanding salvation, being born again, and what it means to be a disciple.
- Learning what it means to follow Jesus and count the cost.

Learning to Believe and Trust God

- Understanding truth, faith, and genuine belief.
- Learning to trust God, obey Him, and understand His will.
- Learning to distinguish God's wisdom from the wisdom of the world.

Learning to Live God's Truth

- Developing right thinking and making godly choices.
- Learning to pray, read God's Word, and grow in spiritual disciplines.
- Understanding biblical love, including how to love God, others, and ourselves.
- Learning to forgive, deal with sin and negative emotions, and develop godly character.

Growing in Spiritual Freedom

- Recognizing attitudes and habits that interfere with our walk with God.

- Learning to respond to life's difficulties in ways that honor God.
- Addressing challenges involving relationships, physical difficulties, addictions, and spiritual opposition with biblical wisdom and appropriate help.

Helping Others Follow Jesus

- Learning to share God's truth with others.
- Helping others put biblical truths into practice.
- Making disciples who learn to follow Jesus and help others do the same.

These are many important truths, but you don't have to master them all at once. We will approach them one step at a time, focusing on one truth and putting it into practice before moving on to the next.

10. ONE TRUTH AT A TIME

This journey is not simply about learning biblical truths, agreeing that they are true, and then moving on to learn more. The approach is to learn one truth at a time and focus on putting that truth into practice until it becomes a more consistent part of your life.

It can be tempting to read through all the lessons, thinking you will come back later to apply what you have learned. But knowing many truths without putting them into practice will not produce the change God desires in our lives.

As you begin to recognize areas where your life doesn't line up with God's truth, you may feel overwhelmed or discouraged. You may realize how much you still need to learn and how far you have to go. If that happens, remember that you are not alone. We all have room to grow.

You don't have to change everything at once. Begin with one truth. Ask God to help you understand it, believe it, and put it into practice in your everyday life. As you grow in that truth, take the next step.

Know the truth → Believe the truth → Live the truth → Help someone else do the same.

One truth at a time. One step at a time.

11. A LIFELONG JOURNEY

Becoming more like Jesus is a lifelong journey. Learning a truth is only the beginning; we must keep practicing it until it increasingly shapes the way we think, choose, and live.

We will not get everything right, and we will not grow in every area at the same pace. But as we continue trusting God and putting His truth into practice, we can grow in godly character, experience His peace and joy even in difficult circumstances, and discover greater freedom in our walk with Him.

As these truths become more evident in our lives, others may notice the difference and want to know what God is doing in us. We can then share what we are learning and help them begin their own journey of following Jesus.

We don't become like the Master overnight. We keep taking one step at a time, one truth at a time, as we follow Him throughout our lives.

Brother Michael