

DISCIPLESHIP 101

A Basic Lesson on What Discipleship Is All About

Lesson Goal

To help every student understand what discipleship is, why it matters, and what it looks like in real everyday life as a follower of Jesus.

What Is Discipleship?

Discipleship is the process of learning Jesus, following Jesus, and becoming more like Jesus—day by day. A disciple isn’t just someone who believes Jesus is real; a disciple is someone who **responds** to Jesus with obedience, growth, and commitment.

Key Scripture (NKJV):

Matthew 28:19–20 — “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”

Simple definition:

Discipleship = becoming a student of Jesus and living what you learn.

What Discipleship Is NOT (Let’s Clear This Up!)

Discipleship is not:

- Just going to church and leaving unchanged
- Only listening to sermons but never applying them
- Knowing Bible facts without growing in Bible fruit
- Being “perfect” before you start (none of us qualify then!)

Discipleship IS:

- Learning the Word
- Growing through the Word
- Being shaped by the Word
- Living out the Word

Key Scripture (NKJV):

James 1:22 — “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...”

The Heart of Discipleship: Follow Me

Jesus didn't say, “Come hear Me one time.” He said, “**Follow Me.**”

Following Jesus means we let Him lead our choices, our attitudes, our relationships, and our purpose.

Key Scripture (NKJV):

Luke 9:23 — “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Biblical Point #1:

Discipleship is a **daily** decision, not a Sunday-only moment.

What Discipleship Produces in Your Life

When you truly grow as a disciple, you will start to see:

- More hunger for God's Word
- Stronger prayer and trust
- Real changes in habits and thinking
- More love, patience, and self-control
- Courage to stand for Jesus
- A desire to share the Gospel

Key Scripture (NKJV):

John 15:5 — “He who abides in Me... bears much fruit...”

Biblical Point #2:

Discipleship produces **fruit**, not just feelings.

The Basic Building Blocks of Discipleship

Here are the basics we build on:

A) Word

You learn who God is through Scripture, not just opinions.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV) — All Scripture is given... that the man of God may be complete...

B) Prayer

Prayer keeps your relationship with God alive and strong.

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) — “In everything by prayer... let your requests be made known...”

C) Obedience

Discipleship grows best when we obey what we learn.

John 14:15 (NKJV) — “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

D) Community

Disciples are formed in fellowship, not isolation.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) — not forsaking the assembling... exhorting one another...

Biblical Point #3:

Discipleship is built through **Scripture + Prayer + Obedience + Community**.

Holy Highlights

1. Jesus calls ordinary people—and makes them strong through His Spirit.
2. You don't have to know everything to start. You just have to be willing to learn and obey.
3. Discipleship isn't about being flawless—it's about being faithful.

Wisdom Nuggets to Remember

1. **You can't follow Jesus closely if you only visit Him occasionally.**
2. **The Word you apply becomes the life you live.**
3. **Discipleship is not speed—it's consistency.**
4. **Growth may be slow, but it's still growth. Keep showing up!**

Life Application: What You Can Do This Week

1. Pick one Gospel (start with John) and read a small section daily.
2. Start a simple prayer habit: "Lord, teach me and help me obey."
3. Write one truth you learned and one action step you'll apply.
4. Choose one thing to surrender to God this week (attitude, habit, fear, offense).
5. Tell someone what you're learning—disciples share the journey!
- 6.

Reflection Questions

1. **What is discipleship?**

Answer: Following Jesus, learning from Him, and becoming more like Him.

2. **What is one sign you're growing as a disciple?**

Answer: You're applying the Word and bearing fruit, not just gaining knowledge.

3. Why is obedience important in discipleship?

Answer: Because love for Jesus is shown through obedience (John 14:15).

4. What role does community play in discipleship?

Answer: Community strengthens us, teaches us, and keeps us encouraged (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Guided Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me to be Your disciple. Teach me to love Your Word, obey Your voice, and follow You daily. Help me grow in prayer, build godly habits, and become more like You. Give me a willing heart, a teachable spirit, and the courage to live out my faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Notes:

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