

NEXT STEPS

The purpose of biblical discipleship is to reproduce spiritual sons of God. Now that you have been taught the basic doctrines found in God's word, it is time for you to fulfill God's command to reproduce in others what has been reproduced in you.

The key word of this lesson is:

REPRODUCE

The key question this lesson answers:

Is it my responsibility to make disciples?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To impress upon you the commandment to make disciples.

The key point of this lesson:

You have the responsibility to reproduce your relationship with Jesus into another believer.

MEMORY VERSES:

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." – 2 Timothy 2:2

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." – Luke 17:4

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

A. You have been given the responsibility to lead the lost to salvation.

You have been given the ministry of reconciliation as God's ambassador to this world. You are responsible to seek out the lost in Christ's absence so that they might be reconciled to God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Luke 19:10

B. You have been given the responsibility to fulfill the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20

1. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires personal evangelism.

1 Corinthians 9:16

2. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires personal discipleship.

1 Corinthians 11:1

C. You have been given the responsibility to abound in the work of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

God commanded every believer to share the gospel with the lost and disciple the saved. You have the responsibility to reproduce your relationship with Jesus into other believers. Jesus gave us the example in glorifying the Lord by finishing the work of making disciples.

*"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."
– John 17:4*

1. Jesus EVANGELIZED by making God's name and nature known to the lost.

John 17:6

2. Jesus DISCIPLED believers by teaching them to know and do the word of God.

John 17:8

3. Jesus REPRODUCED himself by training believers, and sending them out to do the same in others.

John 17:18

UNDERSTANDING HOW TO APPROACH DISCIPLESHIP

Biblical discipleship is the lifelong discipline of being a hearer and doer of the word of God, so that the believer might be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

A. Understand what you are teaching.

1. You are to teach your disciple about Jesus.

You are making a disciple of Jesus, so it is important for you to teach your disciple to observe all the things that Jesus taught and then follow him.

Hebrews 12:2-3; Matthew 11:29-30

2. You are to teach your disciple sound doctrine.

The only way to teach sound doctrine is to teach the rightly divided word of God. Be diligent to teach God's word and not your own opinions and traditions.

Titus 2:1; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2 Timothy 3:16

B. Understand that Discipleship is not a program, it is a ministry philosophy.

Church programs come and go, while biblical ministry will produce fruit that remains. Discipleship is not a series of bible study lessons, it is the process of teaching another believer how to follow Christ. The lessons are only a tool to help you teach the word of God.

John 15:16

C. Understand that Discipleship is not only the transfer of knowledge, it is also the transfer of spiritual maturity.

The mark of spiritual maturity is application of biblical truth. Immature believers tend to get prideful because of what they know about the bible, and yet have little understanding of how to follow Jesus with their lives. Through practical examples, you must share how the biblical truths you are teaching your disciple are being carried out in your life.

1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:1

D. Understand that Discipleship requires you to be completely committed to share your life with your disciples.

You are to take on the role of a parent who lovingly provides whatever is necessary for your disciples to grow. This means that you must become open and transparent about your walk with God to be able to better teach your disciples. You are to give your soul. Your disciples need to know that you really care, and want to be there to help them grow.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-10

THE ELEMENTS OF COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP

1. Discipleship requires you to make the choice.

“If any man will...” – Luke 9:23

2. Discipleship requires you to do what Jesus did.

“...come after me...” – Luke 9:23

3. Discipleship requires you to be a living sacrifice.

“...let him deny himself...” – Luke 9:23

4. Discipleship requires your daily dedication to eternal things.

“...and take up his cross daily...” – Luke 9:23

5. Discipleship requires you to follow Jesus for the rest of your life.

“...and follow me.” – Luke 9:23

UNDERSTANDING THE GOALS OF DISCIPLESHIP

A. Established in Worship: *The focus of your life*

As you begin to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, you will begin to live your life with an eternal perspective. You will desire to honor and glorify God by following Christ personally and passionately.

B. Established in the Word of God: *The authority of your life*

Your understanding of who God is should lead you to study his word. It is important for you to submit and live out the truths of the bible as you study it, and discover what God is saying to you.

C. Established in the Local Church: *The context of your life*

God’s will for your life is found in the word of God, and you are to fulfill it through your local church. You have a God-given, and specific role within your church that you are responsible to carry out through the time, abilities, and resources God has given you.

D. Established in the Ministry: *The purpose of your life*

It is important that you live your life committed to fulfilling God’s will. God’s will for your life is for you to BE A DISCIPLE (live a holy, Spirit-filled life apart from sin) and to MAKE DISCIPLES (sharing the gospel, and committing these things to faithful men).

UNDERSTANDING THE FOCUS OF DISCIPLESHIP

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2

A. Focus on making doctrine the priority.

The relationship between the disciple and the discipler will determine whether discipleship will take place or not; however, the ultimate goal of discipleship is to equip faithful believers with sound biblical doctrine. Bible doctrine will always be centered around following Jesus.

“And the things...” – 2 Timothy 2:2

B. Focus on maintaining a teacher and student relationship.

There must be a disciple for it to be discipleship. This will normally happen one-on-one; however, it is possible to accomplish discipleship with two or three people, as long as there is only one teacher, and the rest are students. Discipleship is not simply a bible study, or two individuals spending time together. It is focused on teachers pouring their lives and the word of God into their students.

“...that thou hast heard of me...” – 2 Timothy 2:2

C. Focus on having accountability.

Discipleship requires a close relationship between the disciple and the discipler. However, discipleship should not be carried out in isolation. There must be accountability from others who are able to witness the process, and identify the goals being accomplished.

“...among many witnesses...” – 2 Timothy 2:2

D. Focus on teaching in a way that can be repeated.

Present biblical truth in a way that is simple to understand, and in a way that will be easy for your disciples to reproduce and present to their disciples.

“...the same commit thou...” – 2 Timothy 2:2

E. Focus on discipling faithful believers.

Discipleship is built upon one disciple of Jesus entering into a relationship with another believer who has been found to be faithful. There must be some time to establish faithfulness, and discipleship cannot be fully applied to a new believer.

“...to faithful men...” – 2 Timothy 2:2

F. Focus on making disciples who are able to make more disciples.

The reason we commit “these things” unto faithful believers, is so that they can teach others to do the same. Your main goal is to make a disciple who will make more disciples.

“...who shall be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Can God use me to make disciples even if I am not a pastor or leader in the church?

Yes. God has made you an able minister because you have the Spirit of God dwelling inside you. God is glorified through your weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

B. What do I do if my disciple chooses to quit before we are finished with the lessons?

It is important to remember that your labor is not wasted when you are doing the work of the Lord. Disciples do quit sometimes. Jesus was a perfect teacher, and he had disciples turn and walk away from him.

1 Corinthians 15:58; John 6:66; Proverbs 20:6

C. How do I get connected with someone to disciple?

Clear off a segment of time that you can devote to preparing to make disciples. Then trust your local church leadership to assign someone for you to disciple.

Start by praying for God to give you a disciple. The best way to get a disciple is lead someone to Christ and then begin pouring your life into that person.

1 Corinthians 9:16

FINAL NOTE:

Making disciples is hard work, but it is work that will matter in eternity. If you are not careful, the things of this world will be a constant temptation to distract you from enduring the hardness of making disciples. Satan will also attempt to stop you from fulfilling the Great Commission with your life.

2 Timothy 2:2-4; 1 Peter 5:8

DISCUSSION:

How are you fulfilling the Great Commission with your life right now?

Have you been approaching these lessons like a bible study, or by being prepared to make disciples with your life?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. What are the two main requirements for fulfilling the Great Commission?

- a. _____
- b. _____

2. According to 2 Timothy 2:2, what six areas should you focus on when meeting with your disciple?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

3. What are the four goals of discipleship? How would you say you are doing in accomplishing those goals in your life?

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

- d. _____

4. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read *1 Thessalonians 3:1-3*. The Apostle Paul wanted to make sure that the new church in Thessalonica would last, so he sent Timothy there to disciple them. What are the different character qualities that Paul mentions about Timothy that qualify him to go and make disciples in Thessalonica?

Read *1 Thessalonians 4:1*. What did the Apostle Paul beseech and exhort the Thessalonian church to do with the discipleship they received? Do you think it is your responsibility to do the same? What are the next steps you are trusting God to lead you to take within this next few years?

What are the two greatest lessons the process of discipleship has taught you?
