



NORTHSTAR CHURCH | THE DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE | SESSION 1
LEADER'S GUIDE

● Introduction

- *Have everyone introduce themselves.*
 - *Can include personal details, testimony, questions, favorite ice cream flavor, etc.*
- *Give an overview of how each week will go, including homework and expectations.*

● Northstar's vision for discipleship

- *Colossians 1:28 (have someone read)*
 - *"We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."*
- *Cast the vision.*
 - *A church of individuals on meaningful mission with God, growing in their own personal love relationship with Jesus, and making disciples themselves.*
- *Catch the vision.*
 - *Individuals understanding and internalizing this vision and beginning to see how God can use them to make disciples.*
- *Embrace the mission.*
 - *Matthew 28:18-20 (have someone read)*
 - *Our mission from Jesus himself.*

● John 15.1-8

- *Have someone read.*
- *Explain Discipleship Wheel.*

● Three Words:

1. Intimacy
2. Humility
3. Obedience



● "The greatest of these is love."

- An affection for Jesus.
 - *Intimacy = Love.*
 - *Foundational for our lives. We don't do things because we have to but because we want to.*
- A commitment to others.
 - *How does our love relationship with Jesus impact others?*

● What is discipleship?

- Ask your group what they think discipleship is.
- Followup question: what has been your experience (if any) with discipleship?)
- *A disciple is devoted to becoming a student and follower of Jesus.*
- Faith means following.
- Disciple means learner.

Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it. For what does it benefit someone if he gains the whole world, and yet loses or forfeits himself?"

Luke 9:23-25

● John 15:1-8 Suggested Questions

- Where do you see Intimacy, Humility, and Obedience in this passage?
- According to this passage, what is the most important aspect of our relationship with Jesus?

● Leader Notes

- Abide = Intimacy
- Humility comes from understanding our place, HE is the vine, WE are the branches.
- Obedience: We will listen and organize our lives around our relationship with Jesus, and bear fruit.

● Planning

"So my plea to you is that you set aside time each week to plan, especially to plan your life of prayer and Bible study...Give some thought how God might want to use you that week in a special way. Plan the letters you need to write, the Bible verses you want to teach your children, the visit you want to make, the book you want to read, the neighbor you want to talk to, etc. The Proverbs teach us to plan. The greatest missionary who ever lived was a planner. God is a God who does all things according to plan. And Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem because of the most loving plan ever devised. He planned for our joy; we ought to plan for his glory.

(John Piper)

● TAWG, QT, PDL

- The Christian's devotional life is foundational to his spiritual maturity and capacity to know God and to make Him known to others. More than just having devos - it is a call to *devotion* - an opportunity to cultivate an intimate love relationship with Jesus.
- *Help the group understand that it is not about being legalistic or just checking a box. It is about developing a life rhythm to grow our love relationship with our Savior.*
- *To daily seek God and His Word and presence through a focused time on Him, with Him, for Him and posturing yourself to hear and to apply. Then, be listening, stopping, inquiring, and open to Him, with Him, all day.*
- *Have each member share about their current devotional life. How is going (or not going)? What are some practices and things they do regularly?*
- *What adjustments do they need to make to have a more consistent devotional life?*
- *Discuss: How does someone have a quiet time?*

"Remember, it's not hasty reading, but serious meditating upon holy and heavenly truths, that make them prove sweet and profitable to the soul. It's not the bee's touching of the flower which gathers honey—but her abiding for a time upon the flower, which draws out the sweet. It's not he who reads most—but he who meditates most, who will prove the choicest, sweetest, wisest, and strongest Christian."

(Thomas Brooks, Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices)

● BEFORE NEXT WEEK

- *Recap homework expectations (accountability).*
- Read the Gospel of Mark.
- Commit to praying for one another daily. (text, call, get requests, praises)
 - *Get contact info before everyone leaves.*
- Take the assessment and give to your leader.
- Identify three things you'd like to know/grow.
 - *Bring to next group.*
- List names of three non-Christians you know and pray for them daily.
 - *Bring to next group.*

Wrap up the group with prayer and be clear on when and where the next meeting will be held.