

Develop Disciples.

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The Mission, according to Jesus, is to become disciples who develop disciples. Today we discover some simple, consistent ways to start developing disciples of Jesus in our own homes.

onlinenotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

✓ **Developing disciples is the mission Jesus gave His first followers (Mat 28:18-20)**, who passed it on to their disciples - the same mission WE are to continue.

☀ The late **Dallas Willard** wrote, "The word 'disciple' occurs 269 times in the New Testament; the word 'Christian' occurs 3 times."¹

Sadly, many have dissected DISCIPLE from CHRISTIAN, somehow thinking one can be a Christian WITHOUT being a disciple. This is NOT the teaching of Jesus, however.

DEFINE a Disciple.

"Disciple" refers to more than the 12 that Jesus chose to train most closely. Jesus had many more than 12 disciples.

Luke 6:12-13 During those days he went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God. When daylight came, **he summoned his disciples, and he chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles:**

Disciples of Jesus included both men & women. The goal of a disciple was more than just listening to a professor to deepen their knowledge. Here is the goal of a disciple:

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Disciple Defined: *A Disciple is an Imitator of the Teacher.*

As children mirror image their parents, so mature disciples **act & react** like the one who has trained them.

☀ **Bill Hull** writes, "Every Jewish boy by age thirteen had studied and memorized much of the Pentateuch [first 5 writings] and the prophets. If he was among the best and the brightest, he would be accepted into **a rabbinical school**" and be further tested to determine if he was worthy being the disciple of a rabbi.

5 characteristics of Rabbinical Disciples

1. submit to the Rabbi (teacher).
2. memorize the rabbi's words.
3. learn the rabbi's way of ministry.
4. imitate the rabbi's life and character
5. find his/her own disciples.²

☒ **Disciples weren't just committed to a philosophy, principles, or rules. They were committed to a PERSON.**

Understanding what was expected of disciples in Jesus' day, help make sense of Paul's words:

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.

A Disciple is an Imitator of the Teacher.

My Notes

¹ Dallas Willard. *The Great Omission*.

² Bill Hull. *Jesus Christ, Disciplemaker* (p. 13). Kindle Edition.

✿ Francis Chan writes:

*"That's the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus: we imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process. Yet **somehow many have come to believe that a person can be a "Christian" without being like Christ.** A "follower" who doesn't follow. How does that make any sense?"³*

If folks were to follow your current example, would they be maturing disciples or make-believe disciples? Learning how to play church...or pursuing Christ? Is it time for a halftime course correction in YOUR life?

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 ESV You shall **love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Teach them diligently is one Hebrew word meaning "**repeat**."⁴ From beginning of the day to the end of the day, in the home or walking down the road, parents were to **teach** their children God's commands. That includes teaching:

- **WHO God is.** He is the Creator of all - powerful & pure.
- **WHAT God has done.** God had freed them from captivity. Christians remember what Jesus has done for us.
- **WHAT God expects.** Moses taught the people what God expected, and later Jesus commanded His disciples - 'teach them all that I have commanded you.' (Mat 28:19-20)

Diligence is not about a conversation, but about many conversations, not a weekly event, but a DAILY practice. Parents & grandparents were to

BIG TRUTH: Love God Passionately & Lead Children Diligently

Look at Timothy's faith story.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. **You know those who taught you,** ¹⁵ and you know that **from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures**, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Timothy had **learned** and **firmly believed** in Jesus from childhood through the influence of those whom had trained him to know **the sacred Scriptures** (Old Testament⁵). *"Jewish parents were expected to teach their children the Law from the age of five onwards."*⁶

Who trained Timothy?

2 Timothy 1:5 I recall **your sincere faith** that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and now, I am convinced, is in you also.

Timothy's **mother & grandmother** both had a tremendous influence on his life in at least 2 ways:

1. **They demonstrated Sincere Faith.** **Sincere** = Greek '*without hypocrisy*'.
*These ladies weren't playing church. They were pursuing Christ. They LOVED Jesus passionately and their **faith** in Him was demonstrated wherever they went. They loved God and they loved people, in obedience to Jesus.*
2. **They made sure Timothy knew the sacred Scriptures.** From an early age, and in obedience to Deut. 6, they taught Timothy to know WHO God was, what God had done, and what God expected, in their home, on the roads, and throughout the day.

These precious ladies were carrying out the timeless command to **Love God Passionately & Lead Children Diligently.**

❓ **What if WE modeled that for children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces? What if we did more than just raise them in church? What if we raised them in Christ?**

My Notes

³ Chan, Francis; Beuving, Mark (2012-11-01). *Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples* (p. 16). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

⁴ John D. Barry et al., *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2012), Dt 6:7.

⁵ ἱερά γράμματα, "holy scriptures," is not used elsewhere in the NT and is probably used here because of Timothy's Jewish background, since the phrase was used among Greek-speaking Jews to designate the OT

⁶ J. N. D. Kelly, *The Pastoral Epistles*, Black's New Testament Commentary (London: Continuum, 1963), 201.

✘ Timothy's father is briefly mentioned in Acts 16:1, but he seems to play NO ROLE in leading Timothy to love Jesus.

MEN, this command, to **Love God Passionately & Lead Children Diligently** is OUR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TOO!

❓ How are our little boys going to grow into MEN who LOVE JESUS - if they don't see MEN who LOVE JESUS?

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

The word translated **Fathers** is also used to refer to both parents, but there is no question that Christian Fathers are expected to follow this command. Men are to **bring** their children **up in the training and instruction of the Lord.** This is a balance of correction & encouragement.

• Men are **commanded to correct** children, NOT crush them. The goal is not to make them mad, **but to make them mature.**

• Men, *is it enough to say you provided & protected...* or do you want your family & friends to point back to YOU as one who chose to... **Love God Passionately & Lead Children Diligently?**

✓ ***If we're going to Develop Disciples @ Home, it's going to take commitment and consistency. You aren't always going to 'feel' like talking about spiritual things. Your schedule might dictate a lack of time with your family...or YOU can begin to dictate what what matters most in your schedule.***



Take 3 nights this week to focus on these 1 truth per night with your family OR a friend:

- **WHO God is (Night #1):** Read John 1:1-17 and spend a short time thanking God for Who He is.
- **WHAT God has done (Night #2):** Share how YOU came to trust Jesus with your life and what the crucifixion of Jesus means to you. Share about how God has answered prayer.
- **and WHAT God expects (Night #3):** Read the 10 Commandments in Deut. 5 (all but the Sabbath command are taught in the New Testament) and discuss the importance of obeying God's commands.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives:** Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888) , Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282) , Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (673-1387).

discussion questions

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

1. Share what most challenged or surprised you from today's teaching.
2. **Read Deuteronomy 6** and see how God commanded His people to raise their children to love Him. Share what stands out to you along with questions this stirs up.
3. Take a few minutes to discuss these topics in more detail, remembering that discussions like these are the kind of discussions that we should have with those we attempt to disciple.
 - **WHO God is** (characteristics - holy, compassionate, forgiving, etc.)
 - **What God has done** (miracles, daily provision, answered prayers, etc.)
 - **What God expects** (pure living, seeking Him, loving enemies, sharing gospel etc.)
4. Remember what **Dallas Willard** wrote: "The word 'disciple' occurs 269 times in the New Testament; the word 'Christian' occurs 3 times."⁷
 - Why do you think that some who consider themselves "Christians" are slow to refer to themselves as "disciples"?
 - How might asking if one is a FOLLOWER of Jesus challenge them to consider their relationship with Jesus more so than asking, "Are you a Christian"?
 - Have you ever asked someone if they are a FOLLOWER and what was the result?
5. Share prayer needs & lift them up together! Make sure to prayer for our political and spiritual leaders during the Coronavirus.

⁷ Dallas Willard. *The Great Omission*.