

INTRO TO DISCIPLESHIP

Following Jesus to look like Jesus.

Facilitated By: La'Ryon Witherspoon, Pastor

Session Overview

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE

PURPOSE

Matthew 28:16-20

INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF DISCIPLESHIP AND THE GREAT COMMISSION.

KEY TERMS

- DISCIPLE
- **DISCIPLESHIP**
- THE GREAT COMMISSION
- BELIEVE/FAITH
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- **BAPTISM**

TARGET QUESTIONS

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

WHAT DO DISCIPLES DO?

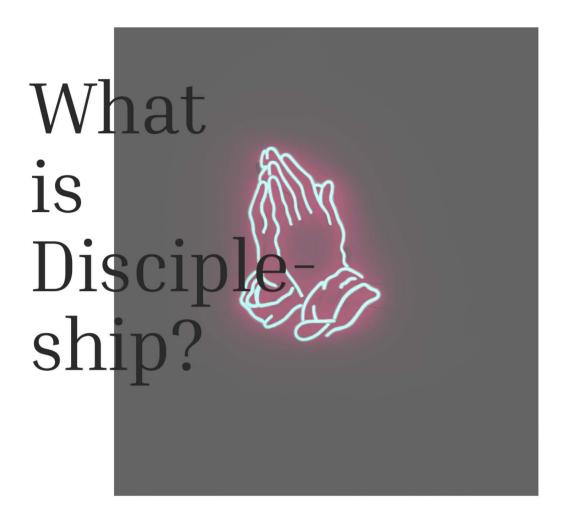
HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

Turn &

What does discipleship mean to you?

Reflect on how you have experienced or observed discipleship in your life or the lives of others.

Talk



What is Discipleship?

The **process** of following Jesus Christ, learning from His teachings, and living according to His example. The point is to grow from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity to become more like Him.

Discipleship is not just about acquiring knowledge but about **transformation**—allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through a person to shape their thoughts, behaviors, and attitudes to reflect Christ.

What is a

A believer who takes part in the spiritual developmental process of progressively learning to live all of life under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

(Evans, 2019)

Disciple?

What do Disciples do?

FOLLOW JESUS

A disciple is someone who <u>follows</u> Jesus, seeking to understand His will and align their life with Him. Proximity is important. This involves a personal relationship with Christ, marked by faith, obedience, and devotion.

LEARN & GROW

Discipleship involves a commitment to <u>studying Scripture</u>, <u>prayer</u>, <u>and</u> <u>fellowship with other believers</u>. It's a lifelong journey of learning, where a disciple continually seeks to deepen their understanding of God and His Word. Your walk will suffer if you stop growing.

IMITATE CHRIST

A disciple strives to imitate Jesus in their daily life, embodying His love, compassion, humility, and righteousness. This means <u>adopting</u> a Christ-like attitude in relationships, decisions, and service to others. God made us in His image & likeness (Genesis 1:26).

MAKE DISCIPLES

Part of being a disciple is helping others become disciples. This involves sharing the gospel (evangelism), teaching others about Jesus, and encouraging them in their faith journey. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) calls all believers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded.

EMBRACE COMMUNITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Discipleship often takes place within the context of Christian community, where <u>believers support</u>, encourage, and hold each other accountable. This mutual growth and support are vital for spiritual development and perseverance in the faith. (1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:24-25; 3:13; 2

Timothy 2:1-2)

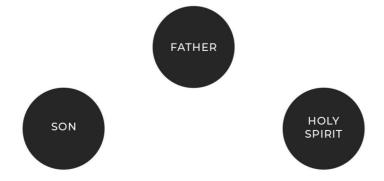
HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

SEEKING HIS FACE, NOT HIS HAND

Our <u>belief</u> in God (not in what He can produce) through Jesus Christ, is the strongest weapon we have against the enemy and guarantees life (John 3:16). It's the only thing the enemy is after (Genesis 3).

GOD IS JESUS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are to recognize Jesus as the Son of God, Lord, and Savior, who died for our sins and rose again.



HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE? (cont.)

Our belief is affirmed by:

Repentance
(To turn or change your mind)

Repentance involves turning away from sin and turning toward God (Acts 3:19).

Commitment to Christ

Following Him in all areas of our lives involves the willingness to submit to His Lordship, obey His teachings, live according to His example, and commit their lives into His hands (Luke 9:23-26).

Confession of Faith

Publicly declare your Faith (Romans 10:9)

O4 Baptism

Is our outward expression of our inner faith and commitment to Christ. Baptism represents the death of who were and the birth of who we are to become, in Christ. Symbolizing our identification with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, marking the beginning of your new life in Him (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12).

HOW DO I BECOME A DISCIPLE? (cont.)

Our belief is affirmed by:

Spiritual Growth

- Study The Word/Biblical Literacy (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- · Prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)
- Worship: To kiss (the hand) toward
 (John 4:23-24)

6 Community

- · Fellowship (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- · Accountability (Proverbs 27:17)
- Following Christ through others (1 Corinthians 11:1)

7 Faith Lived Out

- · Obedience (John 14:15; James 1:22)
- Serving others (Mark 10:45; Galatians 5:13)
- · Sharing the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20)

08 Perseverance

- Endurance: This walk is forever; trials & warfare will come (Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 12:1-2)
- Ongoing Transformation (Romans 12:1-2;
 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:22-23, 2
 Timothy 1:12-17)

Turn &

How do you see the relationship between discipleship and spiritual maturity? Discuss the signs of spiritual maturity you have observed in yourself or others.

Talk

DISCIPLESHIP

Everyone's Discipleship journey starts & continues differently



Where did your journey start?

| is about |
|------------------------|
| a life that |
| honors God, influences |
| others for Christ, and |
| contributes to the |
| of God's |
| kingdom on earth. |

ADVANCEMENT | LIVING | DISCIPLESHIP

Let's Reflect!

Share <u>your</u> thoughts.

How can you actively make disciples in your daily life? Think about specific actions you can take at work, in your community, or within

| your family. | | | |
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Notes

Write it down!

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