



Growing in His Likeness

Why Make Jesus the Center of all Living?

Session 1 - September 10, 2023

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus Christ **invites us** to share a life with him, asking us to **participate** with him in his **ongoing mission** for the **sake of the world**.

SUMMARY

The word disciple means to **be a learner, a student, or a mentee** of another. The goal of Christian discipleship is:

1. **to learn from Jesus** such that his character transforms our character;
2. to grow in the Holy Spirit **to do the things that Jesus does**; and
3. to deepen our desire and capacity **to help others become disciples** as well.

SOMETHING TO READ TOGETHER

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:16-18)

Read it again. What is one word that sticks out to you in this passage?

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT TOGETHER

Who has been the most important mentor or teacher in your life and why?

SOMETHING TO TRY AT HOME

10 Minutes of Daily Centering Time with God

(see description on reverse)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Jesus Christ came to make it possible that we live the life for which we were created, abundant life lived to the fullest (John 10:10). It is a life the world cannot give. Rather, it is a gift of divine grace that invites a personal relationship with Jesus and participation with him in his ongoing mission for the sake of the world. Christian disciples are those who have made it their highest commitment to grow continuously in this very life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

This renewed emphasis on basic discipleship is central to our vision at SJD. We want to be a welcoming church of Christ-centered vitality with new Christians and members in our times of declining church engagement and cultural fragmentation. We also discern a strong call to be “A Light to the City” wherein our members are empowered to be Christ’s ambassadors in all spheres of life in Houston, loving our neighbors as ourselves. This vision cannot depend on more church programming, services, or activities. It will only be fulfilled by our members learning more and more how to grow in Christ and to go forth for Christ. The name for this learning and growing is discipleship.

LIFE APPLICATION FOR THE WEEK

10 Minutes of Daily Centering Time with God

In this coming week, schedule 10 minutes of quiet time first thing in the morning before you do anything else (although by all means feel free to get a cup of coffee!). If possible, set a timer.

Take the first half of these ten minutes simply to sit in silence. Rest and seek to be aware of the presence of God. Imagine God wants to be with you and is already with you. Do not feel the need to compose prayers. Just close your eyes and rest in His presence. The mind will wander, and that is okay. When you realize it, just come back to a desire to be with God.

After five minutes or so, begin to bring before the Lord the faces of those whom you love as if you are simply showing him photographs. Slowly, and in a widening circle of concern, bring before God others such as neighbors or co-workers. Finally, lift-up those nearby and yet not so close, such as someone you noticed recently in the grocery store. Bring before God brothers and sisters in the city of Houston.

At the end of 10 minutes, quietly thank God for being with you as well as for blessing those whom you have lifted-up. After six days, think about what effect this spiritual discipline may have had on you and others, and consider continuing for another week.



**ACCESS STUDY VIDEOS
& HANDOUTS ONLINE**