

Session 1

Introduction to discipleship: the objective of discipleship.

1. What is this class about?: 12 week class on the subject of discipleship, giving an overview perspective of discipleship and the foundations necessary. We'll gain a big picture perspective that hopefully will excite us to be discipled and disciple others. We'll gain some fundamental thinking on discipleship so that we have some idea in our minds of what this might look like. So, we'll be looking for interaction as a group. In addition to what you will be learning over these 12 weeks, we'll also provide you with some resources at the end of the course. Today we'll **define** it, see its **Biblical mandate**, learn what the **objective(s)** is, consider **why this matters to us** and conclude with resolving if **I can do this**.
2. **Discipleship**: how would you define it?
 - a. Defined: Disciple =

Discipleship =
3. **Biblical mandate**: We can find various passages that encourage and command us to make disciples. Ex. Mt. 28: 19-20. We see Jesus doing it throughout the gospels. We see Paul doing this with Timothy and Titus. Jesus taught that it would be costly to be His disciple. Lk 14. But in spite of that cost, many came to the Lord and sought then to follow Him as a disciple. Some turned back, not counting that cost Jn. 6:66.
 - a. **Here and there in the Scriptures**:
 - i. Mt. 27:57 shows that one becomes a disciple =
 - ii. Qualities of a disciple found in the Word:
 1. Abiding in the Word shows one is indeed a disciple. Jn. 8:31
 2. Love shows that one is a disciple. Jn. 13:35
 3. Discipleship takes commitment and sacrifice for both the disciple and mentor. Lk. 14:26-27, 33; Mt. 16:24.
 4. Priority of relationships: God vs others. Lk 14:26
 5. Willing to deny self. Lk. 14:33
 - iii. John often referred to himself with this term. Showed humility.
 - iv. Acts 9:10, 36 indicates that being a believer and being a disciple would normally be synonymous. However, unfortunately this is not necessarily the case in our culture today. This is why we have to now define a disciple since it is no longer synonymous. Jn. 12:4 even Judas was called a disciple.

- v. Many times, Christ's disciples showed or expressed an interest in learning more, of clarifying their understanding by asking questions and seeking answers.
- 4. **Objective:** What is God's desire in one being discipled? What is He aiming for? Where can you support your conclusion in Scripture?

5. **Why does this matter?**

- 6. **Can I do this?** Our class is designed to help lay the foundations necessary in a disciple's life. As you learn of these, you will become better equipped mentally to have a plan for discipling another and for where you might pursue further discipleship for yourself. We hope that you will gain confidence that God can use you through this course.
 - a. But even without it, be assured that God can and desires to use you in this capacity. His command expects that from you and His invitation invites you to believe Him for that.
 - b. It is simply sharing what God is teaching you with another person, endeavoring to see God use your sharing to help another grow in transformation as the life of Christ is further displayed through their lives. You are simply a tool and a vessel for His use. You don't need to carry the burden of discipleship since God Himself has said that He will make you to become fishers of men. Mk. 1:17
- 7. Next week: Consider the foundations of discipleship.