

5-Day Devotional: Growing as Disciple-Makers



Day 1: The Daily Commitment of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 9:23-24

Devotional:

Discipleship isn't a one-time decision—it's a daily surrender. Jesus calls us to take up our cross *daily* and follow Him. Just as disciples aren't grown overnight but through consistent, intentional investment, our spiritual formation requires daily commitment. Think about the areas of your life where you've said "yes" to God on Sunday but returned to your own way by Monday. True discipleship means giving up our own way every single day, trusting that in losing our life for Christ's sake, we truly find it. The cross isn't just an event; it's a lifestyle. What does taking up your cross look like today? Where is God asking you to surrender control and follow Him more closely?

Day 2: Shaped by Those Who Disciple Us

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Devotional:

Paul's instruction to "imitate me as I imitate Christ" reveals a profound truth: we become like those we follow. Discipleship happens not just through teaching but through life-on-life relationships. Paul didn't just share God's word with the Thessalonians—he shared his very life. Who has shaped your faith journey? Whose life reflects Christ in a way that draws you closer to Him? More importantly, who is watching your life? Your walk speaks louder than your words. The greatest compliment isn't perfection but consistency—being the same person in private as you are in public. Today, consider: Is your life worth imitating? Are you following Christ closely enough that others can safely follow you?

Day 3: The Power of Patient Persistence

Reading: Galatians 6:9-10

Devotional:

"Let's not get tired of doing what is good." These words speak directly to the weariness that comes from investing in others. Discipleship is exhausting because people don't always "get it" the first time—or the tenth. Like training a child or mentoring someone at work, spiritual growth takes time and repetition. You may feel like giving up on that person you've been praying for, that family member who keeps making the same mistakes. But God's promise is clear: at just the right time, we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. Your faithfulness isn't measured by immediate results but by consistent obedience. Keep sowing seeds of truth, love, and grace. God handles the growing.

Day 4: You Have Help for the Hard Work

Reading: Matthew 28:19-20; John 14:16-18

Devotional:

Jesus never sends us out alone. His final words in Matthew 28 include this promise: "I am with you always." Discipleship is hard—it requires sacrifice, patience, and perseverance—but we have divine help. The Holy Spirit isn't just a doctrine; He's our Advocate, Helper, and Comforter who walks alongside us. When you feel inadequate to disciple others, remember: you're not doing this in your own strength. God is working in you, giving you both the desire and power to do what pleases Him. You can't change anyone, but you can create environments where change is likely and trust the Holy Spirit to do the transforming work. What burden are you carrying today that you need to surrender to God's capable hands?

Day 5: Investing for Eternal Returns

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:2; Philippians 2:13

Devotional:

Paul instructed Timothy to entrust the gospel to faithful people who would teach others also—four generations of discipleship in one verse. This is God's multiplication plan: disciples making disciples who make disciples. When you invest in someone spiritually, you're not just impacting one life; you're potentially impacting generations. Your pain, struggles, and victories aren't wasted—they become the very tools God uses to minister to others. The divorce, the layoff, the loss—God redeems it all when you allow Him to use your story. Who has God placed in your path? Don't wait until you're "perfect" to pour into someone else. When you invest faithfully, God does the rest. Start today with one person, trusting that God will multiply your faithful obedience beyond what you can imagine.