



May 26, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

The purpose of this document is to help us take the word beyond our Sunday gathering and to **think through the practical implications of the Scriptures** and then to be intentional about living the word out.

Answers should be thoughtful and thorough to ensure we are truly DIGGING DEEPER.

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Disciples Copy Christ-like Character

2 Timothy 3:10-11; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9; Philippians 2:5-7

Questions Worth Asking

We were created to copy. You can see this in children, siblings, mentor/mentee relationships and especially in discipleship. Timothy was commended by his father in the faith for the way he followed his every movement. Unlike the defectors of the faith, Timothy remained faithful to the teachings of the doctrines of Jesus and he followed the example that Paul lived out before him. There was no need for Timothy to try and be innovative and blaze his own trail. He simply had to copy someone who was following Christ in order to be commended for being one who had a Christ-like character. The key to being like Christ is obeying Christ's commands. Simply put, disciples do what they are told. We become that which we copy: Copy Christ!

1. How have you seen the pursuit of independence create a crippling effect in you and/or others ability to copy?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- Why is it so difficult to relinquish full control and do all that Christ commands?
- When you look at the person you have become, who in your life would people say has had the greatest influence on your character development?
- What examples and/or experiences in your life drive you to do what you do, feel the way you feel, say the things you say?

2. What changes have you experienced in your life when you determined to do as Christ commands?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What compelled you to determine to copy a Christian?
- What was life like when you weren't able to copy a Christian?
- How has your faith walk influenced the walk of someone else in the faith?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you be intentional about who you copy...

1. Identify a believer that is pursuing Christ and ask them if you can interview them. Ask him/her:
 - a. How did they come to know Christ?
 - b. What do they do to daily pursue Christ?
 - c. How do they deal with adversity?
 - d. What would they suggest you do to have a more intimate relationship with Christ?
2. Do this exercise:
 - a. Create a basic obstacle course (i.e. a mini maze of sorts)
 - b. Blindfold yourself and have someone give you instructions to navigate through the course.
 - c. After you finish the course, write out what it took to make it through the course and how you felt.
 - d. Identify how that situation plays out in a spiritual aspect.
 - e. Respond to God's word the same way you need to respond to the persons voice in order to make it through the maze.

Following God is based on faith (a decision) not feelings.

Disciples Continue in Christ

2 Timothy 3:12-17; Galatians 5:1-12; Hebrews 12:1-2

Questions Worth Asking

Paul wasn't just interested in what Timothy had done. He knew that if Timothy was going to finish the race, he would have to continue fighting the good fight. Paul followed his commendation of Timothy's copying with a command for Timothy to continue. It was critical that Timothy continue in what he has learned and believed to be true about the teachings and the person of Jesus Christ. Along with the command, Paul gave Timothy the key to continuing in the faith. He had to line his life up with the word of God. If he did this, he would be complete - lacking nothing - and ready to go and get it for God. Sometimes the hardest part of the race is the middle. We have a boost of energy for the start and we can push through when we sense the finish line is near. But what we do in the middle matters. It is paramount for us to stay focused and continue to run the race that is before us. We must allow the Word to be our coach and trainer in order to run well.

1. What things hinder you from continuing to faithfully live out the faith you have learned and firmly believed?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What or who do you blame for the behaviors you display that don't demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit?
- What practices do you participate in that don't necessarily encourage you in your faith?
- How has being intentional about your faith impacted what you do?

2. How has coming into the knowledge of the truth of God's word changed the way you see things in the world?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has a daily diet of the Word shored up an area(s) that you were previously lacking in?
- Why is it so difficult to allow ourselves to be corrected and even reproved by the word of God and the messengers that he speaks through?
- In what ways can you be more intentional about being trained in righteousness through the word of God?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you continue to keep the commands of Christ...

1. **Old Reliable:** *Read through the Bible* each year. If you aren't doing this yet, start today. You can't keep what you don't know.
2. Connect in community (ask about joining a community group) and be authentic about who you are, where you are, what you are going through, etc. This will allow others to meet you where you are and walk well with you as you look to live for the Lord.
3. Identify a challenge from the sermon and **DO IT!!!** No negotiating or considering your comfort. Obey the Holy Spirit.

Disciples Consistently Mirror Christ

2 Timothy 4:1-5; Galatians 6:1-2

Questions Worth Asking

Having the character of Christ and a conviction to continue in Christ will cause us to keep the commands of Christ so that we may be complete. The completeness that the Christian experiences should cause believers to be consistent in how they reflect the love of Christ in the community. So before closing out the discourse of what disciples do, Paul leaves Timothy with two final commands. Timothy is to be consistent in displaying Christ in his communication and his conduct. What the disciple shares about the Lord should not be determined by what the audience wants to hear. We must share the truth, in love, whether it is popular or considered to be intolerant. And while others have itches that they are looking to get scratched so they can continue doing life on their terms, our conduct should reflect the one who we have committed our lives to. There shouldn't be a hint of wavering for one of The Way. Consistency in a character that is Christ-like must continue until the day we stand before Christ if we are going to get our crown.

1. Why do we shy away from speaking the truth to believers that aren't lining up with the word of God?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has someone's lack of response to the truth impacted your response to the charge to share it?
- What do the words that you speak to yourself and/or others communicate or not communicate regarding your belief in Christ?
- What do you need to do to be ready to share the truth at all times?

2. With a growing dissension towards discipleship, how do you ensure your conduct is in keeping with the character of Christ?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What do you do to keep your mind clear of clutter and your heart full of hope?
- Why aren't you calm like Christ in despairing times?
- How has your conduct communicated to others that you are a copy-cat of Christ?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you be consistent in Christ-like conduct...

1. If you know a professing believer that is living in sin, share the truth of God's word, in love, with that brother and/or sister.
2. Stop ignoring the area in your life that isn't lining up with the Lord's word (i.e. unforgiveness, envy, jealousy, entertainment, thoughts on success, etc.). Respond rightly by making a change now.
3. **Wait for it**...connect in Christ-centered community. The Lord doesn't intend for you to develop Christ-like character and conduct in isolation. We need support to experience the fullness of our salvation.