

BE ONE. MAKE MANY!
DISCIPLES

"Discipleship According to the Apostle John"

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Big Idea: A true disciple experiences Jesus and the eternal life to come through true fellowship, truth, love, and unwavering perseverance.

I. True Discipleship _____ In Jesus As
the Messiah and Son of God
(John 20:30-31; 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:64; 7:37-38; 8:24; 11:25-26)

II. Fellowship With the _____, the _____,
and the _____ Are Essential for a Disciple of Christ

1 John 1:3-4 "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."

A. Fellowship Entails Not Continuing In _____

1 John 6-8 "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 3:8-10 "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother."

B. Fellowship Entails Not Loving the _____

1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

C. Fellowship Entails Loving Your Brother/Sister In _____
(1 John 3:23)

1 John 3:15 "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."

1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."

D. Fellowship Entails Testing the _____
(1 John 4:1)

E. Listen to the Scriptures
(1 John 4:6)

III. Godly _____ is Essential for Discipleship

A. True Love Delightfully Obeys the Father's Commands
(2 John 4-6)

B. A True Disciple Encourages People In the _____ and
Warns Others of _____ Examples
(3 John 8-10)

C. A True Disciple Trusts God's Sovereign Control By _____
Through a Rebellious World

1. God is Sovereign and Sits On His Throne

•Note: The word "throne" appears some 37 times in the book of Revelation

Revelation 4:2 "At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne."

Revelation 7:10 "and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Revelation 13:2 "And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority."

Revelation 20:4 "Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed."

2. True Disciples Persevere While In the World's Fiery Trials
(Revelation 1:3; 13:10)

Revelation 14:12 "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus."

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!"

Revelation 22:7 "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."



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1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage and the Gospels

- a. Read John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

Historical/Literary Context: The Gospel of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation, whom we attribute its content and authorship to the Apostle John, wrote about 20 percent of the New Testament. Of the twelve disciples, this is by far the most. The early church fathers from A.D. 100 to about A.D. 600 gave the Gospel of John the symbol of the eagle because it appears that John wanted to take his readers to the spiritual heights of heaven helping them understand Jesus, not from just a physical human perspective, but from the spiritual perspective of heaven.

John's gospel does not include the transfiguration where Jesus revealed his divine glory, but it would appear that John's goal in his writing's was to show us more fully what Jesus revealed in the transfiguration.¹ The Gospel of John opens up prior to creation, with the eternal relationship of the Father and the Son (John 1:1-3). John takes us into the spiritual dimension focusing on how the spiritual dimension invades the earthly realm whether it is through the person of Jesus in his gospel or end times events in Revelation.

In the three letters (1, 2, and 3 John) John emphasizes practical avenues of the spirit-filled life through realities of fellowship, love, and truth. More than anything else, John, through his pastoral heart, wanted the believers to experience true, genuine Christian fellowship (1 John 1:3). He writes the entire letter of 1 John to explain what that looks like.

3. Questions About the Passage

- a. How do you understand the word "believe" as used throughout John's writings. What does he mean by believe? (John 3:16)
- b. How does one have fellowship according to John in the book of 1 John? Does John challenge your current understanding of fellowship? (John 3:16)
- c. What is love according to the Apostle John and how does it fit with other biblical passages of love? (1 Corinthians 13)

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. John said, if you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father (1 John 2:15). What aspects of the world do you struggle loving? How is the Lord helping you to love the world less?
- b. What is challenging in your own life about John's understanding of love? How is John convicting you?
- c. How do you respond to evil in the world, knowing that God is still on the throne ruling the universe? What is comforting and transforming about this truth in our day?

¹The New Testament in Its World (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019), 648.