

Bible Study Discussion Guide

Series: Fully Devoted

Message: The Discipleship Pathway — Lead Yourself & Be Led

Primary Texts: 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Timothy 4:7–8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14–15

Sermon Summary

Continuing the series **Fully Devoted**, this message defined how we grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus. Our church highlights four traits that increasingly mark a mature disciple: *biblically rooted believer*, *deeply connected friend*, *missions-minded servant*, and *faithful disciple-maker*. These traits are not a scorecard for salvation; our standing with God is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ. As we walk with Him, the Spirit forms these qualities over time (**2 Corinthians 3:18**). The first two steps of our discipleship pathway are: **Lead Yourself**—own your growth through Scripture, prayer, and worship (**1 Timothy 4:7–8**); and **Be Led**—choose Christian community where others can encourage, correct, and pray for you (**1 Thessalonians 5:14–15**). As we practice these rhythms, God transforms us to reflect Jesus.

Key Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 — As we behold the Lord's glory, we are transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory.
- 1 Timothy 4:7–8 — Reject myths; train yourself for godliness. Physical training has some value, but godliness holds promise for now and eternity.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14–15 — Warn the idle, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone; pursue what is good for one another.
- Exodus 20:12 — Honor your father and mother (balances zeal with God's broader commands).
- Matthew 13:20–21 — Rocky soil receives the word with joy but withers when trouble or persecution arises.
- John 6:26, 60, 66 — After hard sayings, many turned back and no longer followed Jesus.
- Genesis 12:1 — Abram called to go to the land God would show him (obedience before full clarity).

The Four Traits of a Fully Devoted Follower

- **Biblically Rooted Believer:** Beliefs and behaviors shaped by God's Word, not trend or opinion.
- **Deeply Connected Friend:** Pursues meaningful friendships in the body of Christ that point one another to Godliness.
- **Missions Minded Servant:** Notices physical and spiritual needs and serves while sharing the gospel.
- **Faithful Disciple Maker:** Grows in Christ and intentionally helps others do the same.

Key Takeaways

- 1 **Grace, Then Growth:** Salvation is by grace through faith; growth is the Spirit's transforming work as we behold Christ (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).
- 2 **Training Matters:** Godliness grows through practiced rhythms—Scripture intake, prayer, and worship (**1 Timothy 4:7–8**).
- 3 **Community Is Not Optional:** We are shaped in community where encouragement, correction, help, patience, and doing good are normal (**1 Thessalonians 5:14–15**).
- 4 **Use the Pathway:** A simple loop—Lead Yourself → Be Led → Lead Others—helps you discern the next faithful step.
- 5 **Realistic Next Steps:** Consistent habits beat sporadic spurts; start small, stay steady, and invite accountability.

Discussion Questions

- 1 Which of the four traits most needs attention in your life right now? Why do you think the Spirit is highlighting it?
- 2 Practically, how will you 'behold the Lord's glory' this week (**2 Corinthians 3:18**)? Name the times/places you will meet with God.
- 3 Design a simple 30-day training plan (**1 Timothy 4:7–8**): What is your daily Scripture plan? When will you pray? What will corporate/personal worship look like?
- 4 Where will you place yourself to be led (**1 Thessalonians 5:14–15**)? Name a specific group or relationship for encouragement, accountability, and prayer.
- 5 What barriers usually derail your disciplines or community engagement? What small, concrete adjustments will you make this week?

Personal Reflection

- Write a 'Rule of Life' for the next month: (1) Daily Scripture & prayer, (2) Weekly corporate worship, (3) One set meeting for spiritual friendship.
- List two people you will invite to speak into your life. Text or email them today to set a time to connect and pray.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Lord, thank You for saving us by grace and for transforming us as we behold Your glory. Strengthen our resolve to train for godliness in Your Word, in prayer, and in worship. Plant us in relationships that encourage, correct, and sustain us. By Your Spirit, make us fully devoted followers of Jesus. Amen.