

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE | 8-Week Discipleship Course

*"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."
— Luke 9:23 (KJV)*

Name:	
Date Started:	
My Church:	
My Group / Class:	

Welcome to Discipleship 2026! Over 8 weeks — across two sessions — you will explore what it truly means to follow Jesus Christ with your whole life. This is not a passive course. It is an invitation to be transformed from the inside out as a genuine disciple of Jesus.

COURSE MAP AT A GLANCE

WK	TITLE	SCRIPTURE	SESSION
	The Call to Discipleship	Matt 4:18–22; Luke 9:23–26	SESSION 1 — APRIL
	The Cost of Discipleship	Luke 14:25–33; Matt 10:37–39	SESSION 1 — APRIL
	The Character of a Disciple	John 13:34–35; Gal 5:22–25	SESSION 1 — APRIL
	The Community of Discipleship	Acts 2:42–47; Heb 10:24–25	SESSION 1 — APRIL
	The Word in the Disciple	2 Tim 3:14–17; Ps 119:9–11	SESSION 2 — OCTOBER
	The Prayer Life of a Disciple	Matt 6:5–13; 1 Thess 5:16–18	SESSION 2 — OCTOBER
	The Witness of a Disciple	Matt 28:18–20; Acts 1:8	SESSION 2 — OCTOBER
	The Maturing Disciple	Phil 3:12–14; Col 1:28–29	SESSION 2 — OCTOBER

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Session 1 builds the biblical foundation of discipleship. You will encounter the call of Jesus, count the cost of following Him, examine what a disciple looks like from the inside out, and discover why community is essential to growing in Christ.

 **Matthew 4:18–22; Luke 9:23–26 (KJV)**

 **BIG IDEA:** Following Jesus is not a program — it is an entire way of life.

 ***"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily, and follow me."
— Luke 9:23 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE***



Jesus calls Peter and Andrew: "Follow me." Their response: "straightway" — immediate, decisive, complete.

James and John leave their father and their livelihood. The call to follow has a cost — in relationships and resources.

Three conditions: Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Follow me. Each is daily, personal, and progressive.

The paradox: to save your life, you must lose it. The world's gains cannot compensate for a soul unsundered to Christ.

We are saved by grace through faith — not works. But we are created for good works. Discipleship is the outworking of salvation, not the means of it.



- Q1** What is the difference between believing IN Jesus and actively following Jesus?
- Q2** What "nets" (habits, ambitions, relationships) might God be asking you to leave behind?
- Q3** Why does Jesus say "daily" (Luke 9:23)? What does that tell us about discipleship?
- Q4** "What is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself?" What are you tempted to gain at the cost of wholehearted discipleship?
- Q5** How would your daily routine look different if you genuinely treated every day as a day of following Jesus?



Reflection:

"What has following Jesus meant to me so far — church attendance, or whole-life following? What needs to change?"

My Commitment this week:

"This week I choose to follow Jesus in _____ — a specific area where I have been holding back."



Journal Prompt:

"What is one area of my life that is still outside the lordship of Christ? What would it mean to follow Jesus there?"



Action Step:

Set a specific daily time for Bible reading and prayer this week. Tell someone what time it is — accountability deepens commitment.



 **Luke 14:25–33; Matthew 10:37–39 (KJV)**

 **BIG IDEA:** Discipleship requires a decisive, calculated surrender of the whole life to Jesus Christ.

 ***"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."***
— **Luke 14:33 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE**



	No relationship can outrank Christ — not parents, spouse, or children. This is comparative priority, not emotional hatred.
	Bear the cross and follow. The cross symbolizes death to self-ambition and self-preservation.
	Two parables: the builder and the king both CALCULATE before committing. Jesus invites informed, genuine devotion.
	Non-negotiable: "Forsaketh not all that he hath." Total lordship — not partial subscription.
	Anyone who loves family more than Jesus is not worthy of Him. To find your life, you must lose it.



Q1 Why did Jesus give this hard teaching to large crowds (v. 25)? What does that reveal about His honesty?

Q2 What does it mean to "hate" father and mother for Christ's sake (v. 26)? Give a real-life example of when loyalty to Christ may conflict with family expectations.

Q3 Jesus uses the parable of the builder. Have you ever fully calculated what following Christ will cost you in your current season?

Q4 "Forsaketh not all that he hath" (v. 33). What specifically does this mean for you right now — career, finances, relationships, time?

Q5 Is there a "rich young ruler" moment in your own life — a specific thing you know Christ is asking you to release but haven't?





Reflection:

"What is the one thing Jesus is asking me to surrender that I have been holding onto? What would forsaking all look like TODAY?"

My Commitment this week:

"I surrender _____ to Christ this week, trusting that what I lose I will find in Him."



Journal Prompt:

"What would my life look like 12 months from now if I fully surrendered everything to Christ today? What would be different?"



Action Step:

Write one specific area of surrender on a card. Put it somewhere visible. Pray over it daily this week.





John 13:34–35; Galatians 5:22–25 (KJV)

 **BIG IDEA:** A disciple is not defined by what they know, but by how they love and what their life produces.

 ***"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."***

— John 13:35 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE



	A new commandment — with a new standard: "as I have loved you." Christ's self-giving agape is the bar.
	The world identifies our discipleship by our love — not our theology, buildings, or programs.
	One fruit (karpos), nine expressions: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.
	Character formation requires the ongoing death of self-centered living — "crucified the flesh."
	"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Discipleship is a daily walk, step by step.



- Q1** "As I have loved you" (v. 34). What specific acts of Christ's love does that standard point to?
- Q2** Is your church easily identifiable as a community of disciples by its love? Is your own life?
- Q3** Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most consistently in your life? Which are you least growing in?
- Q4** Galatians 5:24: what specific fleshly patterns are you still in the process of putting to death?
- Q5** 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 says without love, all gifts are worthless. Does this change how you evaluate your discipleship?



 **Reflection:**

"Which fruit of the Spirit does the most important person in my life most need to see from me right now? What specific action would it require?"

My Commitment this week:

"This week I will practice _____ (name a fruit) toward _____ (name a person)."



Journal Prompt:

"Describe the most loving thing someone has ever done for you. Now the most loving thing you've done for someone else. What gap do you notice?"



Action Step:

Perform one specific act of love or kindness this week for someone who cannot repay you — and do it in secret.





Love Agape — choosing others' good	Joy Spirit-sustained delight in God	Peace Shalom — inner wholeness
Longsuffering Patient endurance without retaliation	Gentleness Kindness in considerate action	Goodness Active moral integrity
Faith Faithfulness and reliability	Meekness Strength yielded to God's purposes	Temperance Self-control over appetites and reactions

Circle the fruit you are MOST growing in: _____ Circle the one you MOST need:



 Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25 (KJV)



BIG IDEA: Discipleship was never designed to be a solo journey — God forms His people together.



"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

— Acts 2:42 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE



	Four pillars: Doctrine (Scripture) · Fellowship (shared life) · Breaking of bread (communion) · Prayers.
	Radical generosity — selling possessions and distributing to needs. Discipleship changes your relationship with stuff.
	DAILY — they met daily. Discipleship was a lifestyle, not a Sunday schedule.
	Authentic community produces witness: "The Lord added to the church daily."
	"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves." Isolation is the enemy's tool. Community is God's design for endurance.



Q1 Of the four pillars in Acts 2:42, which is most present in your church? Which is weakest?

Q2 They met DAILY (v. 46). How does that compare to your current engagement with your church community?

Q3 "Provoke one another to love and good works" (Heb 10:24). Who is actively provoking you toward Christlikeness? Are you provoking anyone?

Q4 How do you respond to Christians who say they can follow Jesus without a local church?

Q5 Authentic community in Acts 2 led to daily conversions (v. 47). What does that say about the relationship between depth and outreach?



Reflection:

"On a scale of 1–10, how invested am I in my local church community? What is one specific step I can take this month to go deeper?"

My Commitment this week:

"I commit to _____ as my next step of community investment in my local church."



Journal Prompt:

"Write a letter to your October self: What do I want to be true of my discipleship by the time Session 2 begins?"



Action Step:

Invite one person to join you for Discipleship 2026 Session 2 in October. Disciples multiply when shared.





Apostles' teaching — Scripture at the center	koinonia — shared life, shared struggles	Communion + shared meals — embodied community	Corporate and personal — dependency on God
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Disciplines & Mission of Discipleship | October 2026 | Weeks 5–8

Session 2 builds on Session 1's foundations — moving from WHO a disciple is to HOW a disciple lives and multiplies. You will develop a life of Scripture, prayer, witness, and lifelong pursuit of Christlikeness.

2 Timothy 3:14–17; Psalm 119:9–11 (KJV)
BIG IDEA: Scripture is the disciple's daily bread — without it, spiritual growth is impossible.

 ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."***
— 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE



	Continue in what you have learned. The Scriptures make us "wise unto salvation."
	Theopneustos — God-breathed. Every word of Scripture carries the very breath of God.
	Four purposes: DOCTRINE (what to believe) · REPROOF (what is wrong) · CORRECTION (how to fix it) · INSTRUCTION (how to stay right).
	Goal: "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished." Scripture forms us for action.
	"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin." Memorization is protection and power.



Q1 Is the Bible your primary source of guidance, or do other sources (feelings, culture, social media) compete with it?

Q2 Give a specific example of when the Word has served as doctrine, reproof, correction, or instruction in your life.

Q3 Psalm 119:11 says hiding the Word in your heart prevents sin. Do you memorize Scripture? Why or why not?

Q4 2 Timothy 3:14 says "continue." What is the danger of spiritual knowledge without spiritual continuance?

Q5 What is your current personal Bible reading practice? What one change would make it more consistent?



Reflection:

"Honestly, how much of God's Word am I taking in regularly? What would it look like to treat Scripture as my daily bread?"

My Commitment this week:

"My Bible reading plan this week: _____ (book/passage) at _____ (time) each day."



Journal Prompt:

"Describe a time when a specific verse changed your thinking, decision, or behavior. What did the Word DO in you?"



Action Step:

Choose a Bible reading plan. Commit to it in writing. Share it with your accountability partner.



What to believe	What is wrong	How to fix it	How to stay right



 **Matthew 6:5–13; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (KJV)**

 **BIG IDEA:** Prayer is the disciple's breath — the ongoing conversation that keeps us alive in God.

 ***"Pray without ceasing."***
— **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE**



	Pray in secret to your Father — not for performance, but for relationship. God who sees in secret rewards openly.
	Avoid "vain repetitions." God knows your needs before you ask — prayer is relationship, not information delivery.
	The Lord's Prayer: a MODEL for prayer — not a script, but a structure covering adoration, alignment, provision, pardon, protection.
	"Pray without ceasing" — a posture, not a program. Living in constant, conscious awareness of and dependency on God.
	Be anxious for nothing — instead, pray with thanksgiving. The peace of God will guard your heart and mind.



Q1 Jesus says "pray to thy Father which is in secret" (Matt 6:6). What is the difference between public prayer and private prayer?

Q2 Of the Lord's Prayer's seven elements, which do you spend the most time on? Which do you tend to skip?

"Q3 "Pray without ceasing" (v. 17). What does a ceaseless prayer lifestyle look like practically in

your daily schedule?

Q4 James 5:16 says "fervent prayer availeth much." Does your prayer life reflect fervency? What would fervency look like for you?

Q5 Have you experienced a specific, undeniable answer to prayer? What did that do to your prayer life?



 Reflection:

"If God answered every prayer I prayed this past week, what would have changed? What does my answer reveal about the scope of my praying?"

My Commitment this week:

"My daily prayer time: _____ (time), for _____ (duration), using the Lord's Prayer structure."



 Journal Prompt:

"Describe your most memorable prayer experience — a time when prayer was a real encounter, not a routine. What made it different?"

 Action Step:

Set a prayer alarm on your phone for a specific time daily. When it goes off, pause — wherever you are — and pray for 60 seconds.





ELEMENT 1. Adoration	SCRIPTURE Hallowed be thy name	HOW I USE IT Praise God for who He IS today...
2. Alignment	Thy kingdom come, thy will be done	Surrender my plans: Lord, Your will in ____
3. Provision	Give us this day our daily bread	Today I trust You for ____
4. Pardon	Forgive us our debts	I confess ____ . I forgive ____ today.
5. Protection	Deliver us from evil	Guard me today against ____
6. Doxology	Thine is the kingdom and the power	I end with worship: Lord, You are ____
7. Continuous	Pray without ceasing	Throughout today I will pause and pray at ____



Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8 (KJV)
BIG IDEA: Every disciple is a sent one — the Great Commission is a personal calling, not a suggestion for specialists.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." — Acts 1:8 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE
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	All authority belongs to Jesus. The Commission flows from His authority — we go because He has the right to send us.
	The primary command: MAKE DISCIPLES. Go, baptize, and teach are how we do it.
	"Lo, I am with you alway." We do not witness in our own strength — He goes with us.
	Holy Spirit power enables witness. Jerusalem = home. Judaea = city. Samaria = uncomfortable others. Uttermost = global mission.
	We are ambassadors for Christ. God makes His appeal through us.



Q1 Matthew 28:19 says "Go ye." In what specific contexts does "going" happen for you right now?

Q2 Name someone in your "Jerusalem" (those closest to you) who does not yet know Christ.

Q3 "I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Romans 1:16). Are there situations where you have stayed silent when you could have spoken?

Q4 What is YOUR personal salvation testimony in 3 minutes or less? Can you tell it clearly?

Q5 Who is the person God used to bring you to faith? What did they DO? How does that change how you think about your own witness?



Reflection:

"Who in my life right now is specifically waiting for me to be the person God uses to point them to Christ? What has held me back?"

My Commitment this week:

"The three people I am committing to pray for and witness to are: _____, _____, _____."



 Journal Prompt:

"Describe the moment you became certain the gospel was true for YOU. Write it as if telling someone for the first time."

 Action Step:

Take one intentional step toward one of your three names this week — a call, a meal, a verse, a note. Obedience opens doors.





PART 1 — BEFORE Christ:

"Before I came to faith, my life was characterized by..."

(What was your life like? What were you searching for?)

PART 2 — HOW I came to faith:

"I came to faith in Jesus Christ when..."

(What specific moment, person, or event brought you to Christ?)

PART 3 — AFTER: The change:

"Since following Christ, God has..."

(What has changed? What has He done in you?)



Home & Nearest	Work & City	The Uncomfortable	Global Mission
Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____



 **Philippians 3:12–14; Colossians 1:28–29 (KJV)**

 **BIG IDEA:** Discipleship is not a destination — it is a lifelong, Spirit-powered pursuit of Christlikeness.

 ***"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."***

— Philippians 3:14 (KJV) ♦ MEMORY VERSE



	Paul says "Not as though I had already attained." After decades of ministry — still in process. Maturity does not mean arrival.
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	Two postures: FORGETTING the past (failures, successes, former identities) and REACHING FORWARD.
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	The "mark" (skopos) is Christlikeness. The "prize" is the fullness of God's purposes for us.
	Paul's goal: present every person "perfect (mature) in Christ." The goal is everyone — not just the gifted few.
	Paul works hard — but it is God's power working in him. Discipleship is Spirit-energized, not self-powered.



Q1 Paul says he is "forgetting those things which are behind" (v. 13). What specific things from your past might be holding you back from pressing forward?

Q2 Colossians 1:28 says Paul's goal is to present every person mature in Christ. Who are you currently helping to grow as a disciple?

Q3 Col 1:29 — Paul works, but it is God's power. What does it look like to work hard at discipleship while depending on the Spirit?

Q4 Hebrews 5:12–14 describes believers who should be teachers but are still on milk. Where are you on the maturity scale?

Q5 What is your ONE commitment from Discipleship 2026 that will define your discipleship going forward?



Reflection:

"As I complete Discipleship 2026, the most significant shift in my understanding of following Jesus is..."

My Commitment this week:

"Because Jesus called me, I commit to _____ as my next step of lifelong discipleship."



Journal Prompt:

"Write a letter to someone who is exactly where you were spiritually before Discipleship 2026 began. What would you tell them?"

 Action Step:

Invite one person — a family member, friend, or new believer — to do Discipleship 2026 with you as their guide. Disciples make disciples.



MY PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN — DISCIPLESHIP 2026

1. My current spiritual growth focus (what I am working on):

2. My daily Bible reading plan: _____

3. My daily prayer structure and time: _____

4. My three witness names (Acts 1:8): _____, _____,

5. My accountability partner: _____

6. One person I will invest in as a disciple: _____

7. My discipleship commitment sentence: "Because Jesus called me, I will..."

*"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." —
Philippians 3:14 (KJV)*