

# DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. — Luke 5:27–28 (TNIV)  
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” — Jesus, Luke 9:23–24 (TNIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

## THE CALL: MAKE DISCIPLES

1. What did Jesus call his followers to do? Matthew 28:19

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2. What specifically did Jesus say we must do after baptizing a new believer? Matthew 28:20

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3. As the word of God spread in first century Jerusalem, what was the result? Acts 6:7

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4. What did Paul command Timothy to do with the things he had been taught? 2 Timothy 2:2

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Read 2 Timothy 2:3–6. Paul compares the life of a disciple to the life of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. He then promises that if Timothy will reflect on these things, the Lord will give him insight.

5. What do each of these illustrations teach you about discipleship?

Soldier: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Farmer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the Scriptures useful for? 2 Timothy 3:16

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7. How did Jesus say we can know we are truly a disciple? John 8:31

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8. How can disciples become like their teacher? Luke 6:40

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9. How does Jesus describe the person who hears his teaching and acts on it? Luke 6:48

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10. How does he describe the person who hears and does not act on his teaching? Luke 6:49

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Jesus compares those who put his words into practice to a man who dug down deep, then laid a foundation on the rock. This is the most critical part of any house. This is why, as a disciple, you must lay a strong spiritual foundation. These Bible studies are intended to do just that — to help lay the foundation for the Christian life. If you are discipling someone else, you have the opportunity to help them lay the foundation for a never-ending relationship with Jesus Christ.

11. What has Christ called us to? Why? 2 Timothy 1:9

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12. What does the Bible say about those who are “in Christ”? 2 Corinthians 5:17

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We are called to a whole new life. We are not only forgiven of our sins; we are given new hearts. And our new hearts will yearn to follow Christ.

**Matthew 28:19–20:** <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” <sup>21</sup>Amen.

**Acts 6:7:** <sup>7</sup> Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**2 Timothy 2:2:** <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**2 Timothy 2:3–6:** <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure <sup>4</sup>hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. <sup>5</sup> And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

**2 Timothy 3:16:** <sup>11</sup> Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>12</sup>instruction in righteousness,

**John 8:31:** <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

**Luke 6:40:** <sup>40</sup> A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

**Luke 6:48–49:** <sup>48</sup>He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup>But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

**2 Timothy 1:9:** <sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

**2 Corinthians 5:17:** <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

## THE COST: ABSOLUTE SURRENDER

1. What three things did Jesus say all his disciples must do? Mark 8:34

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2. How often should someone who wants to be a disciple take up their cross? Luke 9:23

Taking up your cross is the ultimate act of surrender — a conscious choice to deny yourself and live for Christ. It means a willingness to follow and obey Christ to whatever end.

3. Jesus once compared discipleship to a war. Why? Luke 14:31–33

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4. What else did Jesus compare being a disciple to? Luke 14:28

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5. What should we do before we start “building”? Luke 14:28–33

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6. What does it mean to count the cost of being a disciple?

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7. What has it cost you to follow Jesus? What are you willing to give up in order to follow him?

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8. When it comes to discipleship, why is it so important to be able to finish what we start? Luke 14:29–30

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9. Who cannot be a disciple? Luke 14:27, 33

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It is very critical to understand what is being said here, as well as what is not being said. God has called us into his kingdom through his grace. Being “born again” (John 3:3) means that we have new life. Though salvation is a free gift, it costs us everything. Make no mistake: we cannot buy God’s love and forgiveness. But Jesus doesn’t beat around the bush: it will cost us everything to follow him. If we want to be Jesus’ disciples, we can have no other gods before him.

- **Mark 8:34:** "When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"
- **Luke 9:23:** "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow Me.'"
- **Luke 14:27:** "And whoever does not **bear his cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

**Luke 14:28–30:** <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— <sup>29</sup> lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’?

**Luke 14:31–32:** <sup>1</sup> Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

- **Luke 14:33:** "So likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple."

## DISCIPLESHIP AND THE CROSS

There is a difference between the cross of Christ and the cross we pick up when we become his disciples. Because of Christ's victory on the cross, we are freed from sin and made "slaves" of righteousness (Romans 6:17–18). He gives us the power to pick up our cross and follow him.

1. What happened at the cross? Colossians 2:13–15

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2. How did Paul describe his message to the Corinthians? 1 Corinthians 2:1–2

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3. What is the message of the cross to the perishing? What about to those who are being saved? 1 Corinthians 1:18

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The cross is "foolishness" because it destroys self-effort. We marvel at the greatness of God's work in paying our sin debt and delivering us from the power of evil.

4. What did Paul boast in? Galatians 6:14

Paul previously bragged about his religious accomplishments. After encountering the cross, he could only brag about what Christ did for him, not what he supposedly did for God.

5. What happened in Paul's life as a result of Jesus' death on the cross? Galatians 6:14

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6. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "I have been crucified with Christ"? Galatians 2:20

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Colossians 2:13–15: <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup> having wiped out the <sup>14</sup>handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

1 Corinthians 2:1–2: And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the <sup>the</sup>testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 1:18: <sup>18</sup> For the <sup>the</sup>message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 6:14: <sup>14</sup> But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by <sup>the</sup>whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 2:20: <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.