

# The Distinguishing Marks of a Disciple (pt. 1)

GBC Wed. PM  
3/9/22

We make disciples here at Greentown Baptist Church because it is part of the Great Commission given to us by Jesus Christ and is modeled throughout the Scriptures – Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:2.

The following goals encompass the four main goals for a disciple. These \_\_\_\_\_ are taken from key Bible verses and are a good measure for us all about our journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ – John 8:31.

## 1. Disciples are Established in the Word of God & Prayer – John 8:31; Luke 18:1-8; Col. 4:2

### a. Key understandings of this goal:

- God talks to us through His word, and we talk to Him through prayer. It is as simple as that! This goal is for every disciple to have a **meaningful** relationship with God...as Adam and Eve once did in the garden before the fall!
- The **word of God** is equated to Jesus Christ Himself. The closer we get in our life to everything in that book...the closer we are to \_\_\_\_\_ Himself– John 1:1-5, 14-15; 1 John 5:7.
- **Prayer** demonstrates our daily, moment by moment, \_\_\_\_\_ for God – Rom. 12:12; 1 Pet. 5:6-7; Php. 4:6-7.
- We model and teach that disciples have a diligent, daily discipline of time with God in the word of God and in prayer – Luke 4:4, 11:3; Acts 6:4; 1 Thess. 5:17.

**KEY** All disciples should come to understand that the Bible is not like any other book on Earth. There has never been, nor will there ever be, another book like the Bible.

- ✓ As we read the Bible, it reads us – Heb. 4:12-13
- ✓ It is a mirror that gives a true \_\_\_\_\_ of us – James 1:22-25.

### b. Practical ways this goal is accomplished

- There are many ways to interact with God's word on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis (reading, writing, memorizing, meditating, journaling, etc.)...Discuss them all with your disciple.
- ✓ Our GBC *Journey lessons* give examples of how to read, write, and memorize God's word.

**KEY** Don't be limited by the *Journey* lessons with what you might do to accomplish this goal!

- ✓ Remember, the goal is to establish us in the word of God and prayer...\_\_\_\_\_ *Journey*.
- ✓ What works for you, what you know works for others, and what might work for your disciple? The key is to have **personal interaction** with God and His word!

- In discipleship, take time every session, apart from the lessons themselves, to discuss questions, observations, promises, etc. from God's word that **each of you** has seen that week. This may sometimes take up the **entire time** which is **entirely OK!**
- ✓ Encourage them to ask you questions they find during their reading that they don't understand. Demonstrate use of the rules of Bible study in explaining answers.
- Pray together \_\_\_\_\_ (start and close especially) to demonstrate your need for God and how to pray. Ask them how/when they are praying and give suggestions.
- Our ***Walking with God*** and ***How to Study the Bible*** classes reinforce and build upon this goal's establishment.

c. Measuring growth and accomplishment of this goal

- In discipleship, **periodically** ask your disciple to rate themselves in being established in the *word of God and prayer* on a scale of 1-10 (10 being strongest). After they give their rating, YOU tell them where you see them on that same scale. Be **loving** and **honest** in this discussion.
- Growth in God's word/prayer is demonstrated by a consistent and personal quiet time with God in life. **As a discipler**, ask often how it is going and don't be afraid to ask probing questions if something seems amiss with your disciple. \_\_\_\_\_ is the time to be honest and establish good patterns.
- Questions from God's word should diminish over time as we are \_\_\_\_\_ *to observe all things*. There becomes more fellowship among disciples in God's word through time and the sharing of what is found (*blessings/promises/etc.*) replaces questions – Heb. 5:12-14.

2. **Disciples are Established in Fellowship with other Believers** – John 13:35; 1 John 1:3,7

a. Key understandings of this goal

- There will be holes, gaps, and trouble in a disciple's former relationships on Earth because of their salvation – Matt. 10:34-37; John 15:19; 1 Pet 4:3-4, 1 John 1:3, 7.
- A discipler needs a disciple who loves them, makes them a priority, and connects them to other believers for fellowship in the church – John 13:35; 2 Cor. 6:14.
- *Fellowship* = \_\_\_\_\_, mutual association, and partnership. We are like "*fellows on a ship*," journeying through this world together. We need each other for fellowship, strength, and accountability – Gal. 5:13; 6:10.
- Discipleship is a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship at its very core (*much more than just physical lessons*)! There will be times you won't open the lessons as you work through life's issues. You will likely bear much of your soul with a fellow-disciple – 1 Thess. 2:8.

**KEY** When a disciple becomes established in *fellowship with other believers*, their spiritual growth will accelerate as they become friends with other likeminded, mission-oriented disciples.

b. Practical ways this goal is accomplished

- Encourage your disciple to attend Bible studies/events through the church.  
✓ There are many events coming in our future here at GBC for them to participate!
- Go with them and seek to connect them with other believers. Be that \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Measuring growth and accomplishment of this goal

- You should have a bond with your disciple and should see them bonding with others.
- In discipleship, **periodically** ask your disciple to rate themselves in being established in *fellowship with other believers* on a scale of 1-10 (10 being strongest). After they give their rating, YOU tell them where you see them on that same scale. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and **honest** in this discussion – 1 Thess. 2:7.