

Welcome to our 3rd Study in our “Go & Make Disciples” series.

-If you missed our previous lessons, please view them on our website

-Please take notes...we are recording this, but the more you actively taking notes...the more you will learn and be equipped to help others.

-Tonight, we will cover the following:

-Bible Study Tips

-The Goal of the Discipleship study

-The scriptures used in the Discipleship study

-Then we will have a Q&A time.

*Let's get started.

Bible Study Tips

***Teach them to Serve**

-Look for ways you can serve them to show your love for them

-Invite them to join in a service project or serve other disciples with you.

***Be Vulnerable**

-Vulnerability leads to vulnerability

-Set an example by always being open with your life and sin

***Be Flexible with Life**

-If something big is happening in the person's life, listen and be flexible

-You may need to reschedule the study or put off a topic you planned

-Give them scriptures to help them through their circumstance and pray with them.

-The goal is love them like Jesus would...not complete the studies.

The Goal of the Discipleship Study

-In the Seeking God study your goal is to understand their spiritual journey and get them interested in seeking God.

-In the Word study your goal is to establish the scriptures (the Word) as the standard for our lives and help them to start reading the word every day.

-The Discipleship Study takes it one step further:

GOAL: To teach what it means to be a biblical follower of Christ from Jesus' expectations of his disciples.

Before the Study:

- Catch up on life as people arrive
- Start off with a prayer
- Ask them about how their HW or reading in the Gospels is going.
 - Have you been able to read each day?
 - Do you have any questions?
 - Anything interesting you learned?

Intro to the Discipleship Study:

Today, we will go over scriptures that teach us what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Q: How many times do you think the word Christian is used in the Bible? (3 times)

Q: How many times do you think the word Disciple is used in the Bible? (294 times)

Q: Apart from Christianity, what does the word "Disciple" mean?

(A disciple is someone who follows and spreads the teachings of another.)

Q: Do you think there is a difference between a Disciple and Christian?

Q: Do you see a difference in how our society treats those 2 terms?

(most of the time, people will notice that a Disciple is a serious Christian and a Christian is just an average believer)

Today, we are going to look at how the Bible defines these words.

The Scriptures used in the Discipleship Study:

Acts 11:25-26

Let's look at a scripture where Barnabas and Saul teaching in a city called Antioch

-Key Questions:

- What were the disciples called when they were in Antioch?
 - Biblically speaking, is there any difference between a disciple and a Christian?
 - If this is how the Bible defines a disciple/Christian, should there be any difference between the 2 terms today?
- Closing Point: From the Bible we can see that the terms of disciple and Christian are synonymous. There is no difference in the level of commitment between the 2. Therefore, let's spend the rest of our study looking at scriptures where Jesus himself defines the expectations of his disciples. Not what I think or you think, but what Jesus thinks.

Mark 1:16-18

Here we see Jesus calling his disciples.

-Key Questions

- What is the one thing that Jesus asks them to do right away? (follow me)
- What do you think it means to fish for people?
 - Jesus met them where they were at
- What do you think they left their nets at once?
 - They were drawn to Jesus and eagerly followed him.
- Have you personally ever fished for people?

Luke 9:23-26

-Let's look at another scripture where Jesus defines his expectations of his disciples

-Key Questions:

- If someone wants to be a disciple of Jesus, what are the 3 things Jesus says they MUST do? (deny themselves / take up their cross daily / follow me)
- Why do you think Jesus says that in order to follow him you MUST deny yourself?
 - You can't do someone else's will if you are too focused on your own.
- What does it mean to take up your cross daily? (see below)
- What do you think Jesus means by follow him? (see below)
- What is Jesus trying to say when he talks about losing your life to save it?

-Detailed Explanations:

-Take Up Your Cross Daily

- Often people will say they need to die to their sins each day (not accurate)
- Jesus was still alive when he said this so what would people have been thinking about when he mentions the cross? (Roman torture/punishment)
- Why were people crucified? (insurrection / robbery / murder)
- Willing to lay your life down for Jesus and be an outcast – daily**
- Hard to understand in USA, but very real in Middle East, China, and India

-Follow Me

- Greek word: Akoloutheo
- The word a Rabbi would use to call a young man (well known among Jews)
- Means: to immerse/accompany, to conform/imitate, to replicate
- English (follow) falls way short. Best English word: Enlist
- When you enlist in the military you don't get to choose what you follow or do
- Jesus is calling us to immerse ourselves in him, imitate him, and replicate his teaching

-Closing Point: Wow, Jesus sets a really high bar. He is not looking for a casual follower, but someone who is devoted to imitating him.

Luke 14:25-27

-This is a really strong scripture

-Key Questions

-Why in the world would Jesus say that you need to hate your family?

-Jesus comes before anything...he needs to be first in our lives

-He also mentions that we need to carry the cross and follow him again...

-Why do you think he speaks the hardest messages when he has the largest crowds?

-Closing Point: A Disciple needs to love Jesus more than anything else. If we don't we cannot be his disciple.

John 8:31-32

-Key Questions:

-Who is Jesus speaking to here? (Jews who believed in him = rare)

-What does he tell them they need to if they really want to be his disciples?

-According to Jesus, is simply believing in him enough?

-What does Jesus promise us if we hold to his teachings?

-We will know the truth...and that will set us free?

-Closing Point: Jesus had a crowd of believers and he challenged them to not just believe, but to also hold to his teachings. To Jesus this determines whether or not we are his disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20

-This is the last thing Jesus tells his disciples before he ascends to heaven so this is extremely important. He gives them direction of what to do: Go and Make Disciples.

-Key Questions:

-You have to be made into a disciple. Can you be born a disciple?

-As you are going, make disciples – share your faith with your friends

-Jesus' vision is for all nations to be reached (diversity)

-Why do you think he says to teach them to obey everything?

-a disciple of Jesus has a learner's heart.

-Closing Point: Jesus' last expectation of his disciples is that they go and make disciples. This is not a surprise to his disciples because he also told them this at the very beginning when he said to be a fisher of people.

Closing Questions:

At this point in the study, you want to acknowledge how high of a standard Jesus has for his disciples before you ask them the hard questions about their life.

-After reading Jesus' standard for a disciple, are you a true disciple of Jesus?

-Would you like to become one?

-Would you be willing to come to a church that believes in making disciples?

Homework for the Person Studying:

- Continue Reading: Taking notes & questions
- You can also encourage them to start living as a fisher of men. Is there anyone you want to invite to know Jesus?

Close out in Prayer

Set up the Next Study

Additional scriptures

- Here are some additional scriptures that you can use in this study:
 - Matthew 22:35-38 (The Greatest Commandment)
 - Matthew 7:21-23 (We must do the will of God to go to heaven)
 - 1 Corinthians 11:1 (We imitate Christ-like characteristics in other disciples around us)
 - 1 John 2:3-6 (We must walk as Jesus did)
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OPEN Q&A (20 minutes)

Homework for December 16th

- Review scriptures and suggested questions.
- Be prepared to teach them when we get together next. (role play)
- Be prepared to take a Bible Study Quiz (harder than last weeks)