



Lesson Title: Discipleship



Key Concept: We are motivated to pursue our mission of ALL making disciples of ALL by our core values. They are our why. This lesson examines Discipleship as demonstrated by following Jesus, the study and application of scripture, and the ongoing transformation of ALL.



Scriptures:

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

(1 Peter 2:21 *New Living Translation*)

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

(2 Timothy 2:15 *New Living Translation*)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

(Romans 12:2 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Matthew 28:19–20, 13:24–30; John 8:31, 14:15; Colossians 1:23



Lesson Thoughts:

Making disciples is at the heart of the Great Commission in Matthew 28. But what is a disciple, and how do we recognize one? The word “disciple” literally means a learner or pupil. Discipleship is shown, not by declaration, but by application to learning and improving. A Christian disciple is not someone who is devoted to learning in general, but is constantly working toward knowing more about, and being more like, Jesus.

True disciples attempt, even imperfectly, to be more and more like their teacher and master, Jesus. Those who are not attempting to be more like Jesus, both internally and in relation to the world around them, are not really disciples. The numerous examples found in the Gospels give us a broad outline of how we should approach the issues and challenges of life. Following in the footsteps of Jesus will keep us safe from many of the landmines which are a daily endangerment to our souls.

A Christian disciple will spend time in the study of the Bible. How can one know the way life is intended to work without reading and understanding the instructions? We have examples all around us of those who are just “winging it,” or copying the ideas of the surrounding culture. It is not enough to just have head knowledge of the scriptures. A true disciple also looks for ways to apply the directions of the Bible. Though the Word was revealed in a largely agrarian society, its principles are still applicable in our modern digital age.

Another sign of discipleship is change. While Jesus invites us to come as we are, he also calls us to be more like him. This should not just be from trying to follow a set of rules, but through our relationship with Jesus, our way of thinking is transformed. As in a math class we did not always grasp a new concept right away, so also it may take time to come to an understanding of how the Lord wants us to think and react to the world around us. Disciples will see things differently as they grow closer to God and become more like him. Someone who does not continue to change is not truly a disciple.



Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why do you think Discipleship was chosen as one of our core values?
- 2) How should disciples treat the sinners they come in contact with (neighborhood, work, traveling) and why?
- 3) How much study of the Word is necessary to qualify as a disciple?
- 4) How should we react to others who are not changing as quickly as we think they should?

Next Lesson: Honesty

Notes and Reflections

- 1) How can I more effectively demonstrate Jesus in my daily life?
- 2) Is there a way I can improve my understanding of the teachings of the Bible?
- 3) In what ways do I need to currently change my life?

Notes and Reflections, cont.