



WHAT

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

“18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

If an individual was asked, “what is a disciple?” on the street today, their answer would most likely come from a Christian worldview of the term.

Disciple - mathéteuó, which means to follow or be a learner of.

But the term is not unique to the New Testament.

“Plato. . .used the term freely to refer to ‘learners’ and ‘adherents’ where there was no danger of misunderstandings. . .Five hundred years before Jesus was born, a disciple was one who committed his all to follow a master teacher.” (Hull, Bill The Complete Book of Discipleship 2006, 54).

Hebrews had a structure of discipleship set up called talmidh and limmudh, meaning taught one. (Ex. 24:13, Deut. 31:1-30; Josh. 1:1,2, 1 Chron. 25:8, Is. 8:16, 50:4, 54:13).

“[R]eligious leaders were using the same kinds of activities in the Semitic world. This culture actually pre-dated the Greco-Roman world. The words: mathetes as talmidh: The Hebrew equivalent to mathetes [Greek for – disciple] is talmidh, which means ‘taught one’.” (Hull, 55).

NOTES: _____

THREE GROUPS OF DISCIPLES IN THE NT

It all had to do with _____ and _____ rather than _____.

“[D]isciples could attach themselves to individual Pharisees in order to study with them and to become involved in their projects. . .If a person was a disciple of the Pharisees, then that one was adherent of the teachings of the Pharisees, was in training to become a part of that group, and possibly even belong to one of the academic institutions. The disciples of the Pharisees, therefore, would have centered their activities on traditional interpretations that would lead to a more complete understanding and personal application of Torah.” (Wilkins, Michael, Following the Master 1992, 85).

WHEN Jesus came into the New Testament Scripture mentions three sects of disciples: The _____, _____ disciples, and the _____ (Jn. 1:35, 3:25; Lk. 5:33, 7:19).

NOTES: _____

MAKE LEARNERS

NOTES: _____

IMMERSE

This idea of baptism as initiation was what Jesus instructed in the Great Commission.

“The first mark of a disciple is baptism. It is one of the first acts that identifies us as a follower of Jesus Christ and initiates us into a life of obedience. . .baptism is the initiatory rite of the Christian. . .the symbolism of baptism serves as a public statement

of the believer's personal commitment to Christ. . ." (Koessler, John, True Discipleship 2003, 14).

The mature or experienced are to take others with lesser knowledge and help them grow in Jesus is the entire command in Matthew 28:18-20.

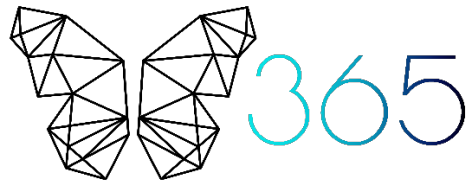
Scripture uses the terms of being a baby, infant, or child to describe one's faith (John 3 'Born again, 1 Cor. 13:11 'Child', 1 Pet. 2:2 'Newborn babes', etc.) God says this because His intention is growth through mentorship (Eph. 4:13-15).

NOTES: _____

THE POINT IS 'DO IT!'

To answer our initial question, what is discipleship? It is making learners of those that have God's gift of salvation in Christ Jesus, it is growth.

NOTES: _____



WHO

Who is the most important person on a sports team?

In the "Great Commission", we are told to go out and _____ !

Matthew 28:18-20 "18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

You see a lot of people when they read this, they only focus on one part, "go and make" and they love to go and share Jesus with others, but they dread the idea of having to lead someone. But Jesus so beautifully states, "Go and make disciples," and then later, "teach them to obey".

"1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you." (1 Corinthians 11:1,2).

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4

John was speaking of a personal joy of seeing those that he had worked with, coached, lead, disciplined, grow and live for Jesus.

"17 Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

In your own ministry look for those willing to grow and take the time to invest.

"37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.""
Matthew 9:37,38

NOTES: _____

But a big question is who do we disciple?

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1,2).

Paul starts with verse 1 pointing right back to the original _____.

Faithful

NOTES: _____

ABLE

But _____ will kill you.

NOTES: _____

What you have taken in and learned yourself, give it to someone else.

TEACHABLE.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 “10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. 12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three {strands} is not quickly torn apart.”

NOTES: _____

Personal Application:

Have you had that personal experience with Jesus? _____

(If not, maybe discipleship would benefit you.)

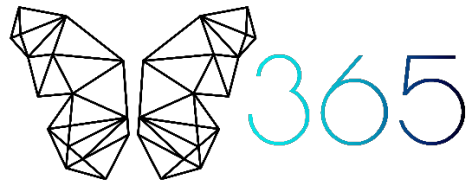
Have you had a “Spiritual Coach” in your past? How did it benefit you? _____

Are you ready to follow Christ, lead by example and be a “Spiritual Coach”? _____

Small Group Discussion:

What stood out to you the most in the last two session? Why? (Please share) _____

What does discipleship look like in your life? In your ministry? _____



HOW

Discipleship is _____ what you have _____ !

So far we have talked about WHAT discipleship is, WHO can discipleship and Who it is for. Now we get to the heart of the workshop HOW do we go about discipleship?

NOTES: _____

In small group discipleship a group of 20-10 individuals from all aspects of live and spiritual walk come together with the common goal to learn, share, encourage, and grow.

It is vital to lay ground rules to a small group:

We are here to encourage one another

We are here to learn

We will respect one another's privacy, what is said as long as it does not hurt others remains here

We will each share to help others and help ourselves

We will not speak on controversial topics that the Bible does not directly address

We will endeavor to pray for one another

Our goal is a clear Biblical understanding

Small group are not for _____ book by book teaching.

NOTES: _____

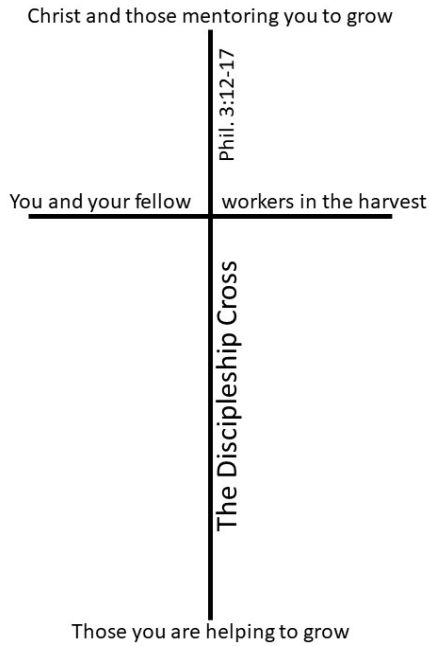
You will notice as you develop small group discipleship you will have one or two individuals that you bond to in a special way. These people are the perfect ones to do one-to-one discipleship with.

You can only take someone as far as you have gone!

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1).

NOTES: _____

“Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing I do: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Therefore, all who are mature, let’s have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; ¹⁶however, let’s keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.¹⁷Brothers *and sisters*, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.” (Philippians 3:12-17).



NOTES: _____

As you break for another break out session Please us one of the chapters, found after the bibliography, from the manual to guide your discussions.

Challenge: As a result of this workshop I plan to _____

Bibliography:

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