

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE

week 13



NOTES

We finally made it! You have arrived at the very last lesson of this discipleship program. The beauty of seeking to become a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ is that it never ends. The contents of this program are simply a foundation for you to begin to build upon.

As we close out this program, our desire is to give you a model for continued growth after the completion of this course. What should characterize the life of a disciple? How can you continue to grow outside of this weekly schedule? How can you move on to the point where you can help someone else? Let's take a look at what God's Word teaches us about continuing to be a fully committed follower of Christ.

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD.

As we mentioned in the very first lesson, the Bible is the foundation of everything that we believe and practice. Staying in God's Word is crucial to our discipleship journey.

John 8:31

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.

Hopefully, the last several weeks have given you a foundation for applying God's Word to your life. Don't stop now! These lessons barely touch the surface of all that God's Word has for our lives.

Let's look at some ways that we can ensure that we are keeping the Word of God as a vital part of our life.

RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD.

Each time the Word of God is opened we should have the desire to learn and receive it with a willing and teachable spirit.

Acts 17:11

When the Word of God is taught or preached, our minds should be engaged with what God is trying to show us. We should always remain hungry for more of the Word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

The power of the preached and taught Word of God is not the "messenger." Rather it is the authority of the Word of God. When a principle or challenge is derived

from the Word of God, we should approach it with a willingness to obey

STUDY THE WORD OF GOD.

Each of us should be a student of the Word of God.

II Timothy 2:15

The attitude of receiving the Word of God with a willingness to obey will only assist in our study of the Bible. Remember to make Bible reading and study a part of your regular routine.

Bible Reading

Finding an organized way to study God's Word will help you maintain daily Bible reading time. There are several Bible reading plans located in the back of this book for a guide. Stay committed to one of these plans even though you will not be accountable to your discipler each week.

Bible Memory

Memorizing God's Word is important to continuing to grow. Verses are broken down by topics in the back of this book for your convenience. We would advise you to set some goals and choose categories that will help you in your spiritual walk.

Bible Study

In lesson 8, we taught about how to effectively study the Bible. You may consider finding a topic to study at this time. Following the completion of this course, you may also join us for our Wednesdays in the Word Bible Study in the Auditorium each Wednesday. By now, we hope you've gotten plugged into a LifeStage Adult Bible Class which meets each Sunday at 10:00. This is a great place for you to study topics that are applicable to your stage of life, but neither replace the benefit of personal Bible study.

APPLY THE WORD OF GOD.

All of our knowledge and study of God's Word is vain, if we never apply it to our lives. The more we learn; the more we should obey.

James 1:22-25

Being characterized by study of the Word of God is paramount to the discipleship process. Although, our goal in studying and understanding the Word of God should always be that we might obey it!

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLESHIP SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY A SEPARATION TO JESUS CHRIST.

Discipleship is not just a course that you complete, it is actually a lifestyle. Not only is it a lifestyle that will require us to change, but it is God's will that this discipleship lifestyle will continue for our lifetime.



Luke 9:23

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

How can we ensure that we are continually separating ourselves to Jesus Christ during our life on earth?

BE FULLY SURRENDERED.

It is difficult to surrender our lives to God sometimes. In those moments we must remember that God is completely responsible for the life that completely surrendered to Him. Are there any areas of your life that you are withholding from God?

Matthew 10:37-39

Romans 12:1-2

As a disciple, we do not pick and choose what areas we give over to God. We simply surrender to His will and His ways. For some, this may seem difficult, but the result of our surrender is that we gain in ways far greater than what we “give up” to follow Jesus.

Luke 6:46

Missionary Jim Elliot once said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

John 6:66-69

By surrendering our lives and specific areas of our lives to God, we are making a commitment and investment to God that is a mark of true discipleship.

Conversation Starter: Are there any areas of your life you need to God because of the work He has been doing in your life? Take the time to share a personal testimony of something you “gave up” for God and the reward God gave you in return.

BE FULLY SEPARATED.

The more we study God’s Word and surrender our lives to God, the closer we become to Christ and the further we become from the world and the sins of the world.

I John 2:15-18

Satan tries to tempt us to bring us to destruction in our spiritual life.

James 1:13-15

Because Satan is seeking to destroy us, he will use every tactic in his power to destroy our lives. Each day, we must prepare ourselves for the spiritual battle that occurs in our day to day lives.



Ephesians 6:11-13

The Bible warns us to be aware of the attacks of Satan.

I Peter 5:8

The result of our surrender to God and living a godly life can sometimes bring about certain trials that Satan uses to discourage us.

II Timothy 3:12

Whatever the Devil hurls your way, we are instructed to stay committed and strong in God's grace.

II Timothy 2:1; 3

*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY THE SHARING OF THE GOSPEL.

You've invested the last several weeks into growing in the Word of God. Hopefully, you've learned and had some of your questions answered, but the purpose of discipleship does not end with one disciple. It is process of multiplying disciples.

The result of this program and seeking to become a fully committed follower of Christ is so that you can take a new Christian under your wing and teach them how to be a fully committed follower of Christ for themselves. As each of us do that, we will multiplying disciples.

When we begin to multiple disciples, not only are we following the Biblical model, but we are also using the most effective way of reaching our World for Christ. Consider the following illustration:

If someone were to lead 1,000 people to the Lord each day for a year, at the close of a year they would have reach 365,000 people in one. On the other hand if one person, were to reach five people and train and disciple them to reach five people in a year, at the end of the first year, this person would have reached and trained 6 total people. However, because of the process of multiplication, the number change over the course of several years.



365,000	6
730,000	36
1,095,000	216
1,460,000	1,296
1,825,000	7,776
2,190,000	46,656
2,555,000	279,936
2,920,000	1,679,616
3,285,000	10,077,696
3,650,000	60,466,176

At this rate, it would take the person reaching and training 5 people every year, eleven years to reach the population of the United States. By the thirteenth year, the one who was discipling new Christians to disciple someone else would have reached 13,060,694,016 which is more than the current population of the world! In the same year the one reaching and never discipling, would have reached 4,745,000.

God gave us the model of discipleship because it works! We see the results of effective discipleship in the book of Acts.

Acts 2:41; 47

Acts 5:14

Acts 6:1; 7

The full Great Commission is to share the Gospel with them, but also to lead them in following the Lord in baptism (and being added to the church) and teach them in becoming a disciple of Christ. The Bible gives us the following process for reaching our world:

Salvation

Baptism

Church Membership

Discipleship

Service/Reaching others

Part of the life of a disciple is that it is characterized by the creation of more disciples through the process of multiplication. How you be a part of this multiplication process?

SHARE THE GOSPEL.

We have mentioned the Great Commission several times throughout this program. Obeying This commission given to us by Christ will involve us in the beginning phases of the discipleship process.

Matthew 28:19-20

SHARE YOUR STORY.

Someone once said, "There is no greater proof of the Gospel than the story of a changed life." Sometimes people refer to this as your Testimony. The example of your



life could be the deciding factor for someone to accept Jesus as their Savior. We should never get over the story of our Salvation.

As a result of sharing your story with others, your example and your life must be uniquely Christian to a lost world.

II Timothy 3:10-11

Do unbelievers around you know that you are a Christian? Does your lifestyle show a separation to Christ and from the world? If someone were to follow your life, would it lead them to Christ?

I Corinthians 11:1

SHARE YOUR GROWTH.

Just as someone invested in your life, you now have the opportunity to invest in a new Christian. When you are sharing the discipleship process that helped you grow, it is a commitment to love, pray for, and lead another Christian. This model is the model given to the local church

II Timothy 2:2

As a church, we are committed to multiplying disciples. As one of those trained by Franklin Road Baptist Church, we want you to begin to share the Gospel and your testimony with others so that you can pass on all that you have learned with them.

One of the most important sections of this book is found at the very end. It is called "Discipleship Connections." These pages are not only for you write down people's contact information, but it should also give you a place to see who you have invested in over the years. It is God's plan and the desire of this church that over the years, we would see disciples multiplied the "Discipleship Connections" of many books filled with names of faithful disciplers.

APPLICATION

Because the life of the disciple is characterized by the study of the Word of God, as a committed follower of Christ, I commit to staying in the Word of God. Would you determine to make God's Word a regular part of your life? Would you decide that your life will be characterized by study and growth in the Word of God?

Because the life of a disciple is characterized by a separation to Jesus Christ, I commit to live a life that is surrendered and separated to God. Our lives are not our responsibility. Would you surrender every aspect of your life to Christ? Would you separate from the world and to Christ?

Because the life of a disciple is characterized by sharing the Gospel, I commit to seeking to reach and train others through the power of the Gospel and my story. Would you begin now asking God to allow you to reach someone else with the Gospel? Would you begin now asking for opportunities to share your testimony with others? Would you commit to seeing the process of multiplication played out in your life by developing discipleship connections during your life?



