

THE *Way*

HOW TO LIVE DAILY AS
A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

TEACHER'S NOTES



DON MACLAFFERTY

THE Way

HOW TO LIVE DAILY AS
A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

TEACHER'S NOTES

Special thanks to the following volunteers:

Dr. Joe Milholm for the beautiful photograph on the cover.

Kevin and Kerryn Booth, Gerard and Felecia Carter, Dani and Leslee Desjardins, Louis Dias, Don and Connie Jones, Dr. Edith Kiggundu, April MacLafferty, Sharon and daughter Shane Rivera, Evie VanScheik, and Barbara Wear for their thoughtful reading, encouragement, prayers, and helpful suggestions.

Lynne Macias for praying while she edits for clarity in presenting these life-changing principles of following Jesus as Friend, Savior, and Lord.

Don MacLafferty

Copyright 2021
In Discipleship
All Rights Reserved

Scripture taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Why Follow Jesus?	3
What is a Disciple of Jesus?	9
Principle 1 - Come to Jesus as You Are	12
Principle 2 - Honor Jesus as Lord	16
Principle 3 - Discover Jesus in His Word	21
Principle 4 - Receive a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit	24
Principle 5 - Love Your Family Intentionally	27
Principle 6 - Disciple Others to Jesus	32
Principle 7 - Live Your God-Given Dream!	37

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Night of Prayer	44
Appendix 2 - Ideas for Creating Family Worship	46
Appendix 3 - Finding Your God-Given Dream: Five Questions to Ask	48
Helpful Resources for Disciples	50

WHY FOLLOW JESUS?

He made me, and He's so helpful.

Tyras, 3

I love Him.

Katya, 5

The Bible made me believe in Jesus, and I want to be one of His children.

Samantha, 5

I follow Jesus because my parents taught me to.

Adelynn, 5

I love Him because He first loved me.

Rosie, 5

He shows love, and He helps us show love.

Ezra, 6

To trust Him.

Flynn, 7

He is my Father.

Ellie, 7 with no daddy

I trust Him.

Charlotte, 7

I love Him, trust in Him, and He is my God.

Annika, 7

I want to hear His stories in Heaven.

Brielle, 8

I love Him and He is my Lord!!!

Allison, 8

He is the One who made everything.

Joel, 8

He made this very pretty world.

Danny, 8 1/2

He died for me.

Ruby, 9

I want to help Him spread His love.

Ashlyn, 9

He died on the cross for us.

Paul, 9

Because I was raised to and I want to.

Timotheus, 9

He made me.

Uriah, 9

He promised to take us to heaven and I look forward to that.

Ava, 9

God loves me, and I got taught to love Him.

Lillian, 9 1/2

He is my Lord and Savior, and I want to live eternally with Him in heaven!

Melissa, 10

Jesus is my Savior, and I love Him.

Lexi, 10

He is loving and kind.

Faith, 10

He is kind and good and stuff.

Crusoe, 10

He died for me and forgave my sins.

Maleah, 10

He loves me and gives me mercy.

Myles, 10

Over the years, I have learned much about Him. Now I am a friend of Jesus.

Iva, 10

I love Him and want to be a fisher of men.

Zoe, 11

I want to be in heaven with Jesus.

Ailine, 11

He makes our lives filled with joy and happiness.

Ivy, 11

I like to know the truth, and Jesus is the Truth.

Sadie, 11

He is my prophet.

Raadiya, 11

Like the song says, because He first loved me.

Lamech, 11

He helps me stay calm because it has been a month, but I still miss my dad. He died.

Alexie, 11

In my darkest time, He helped me.

Kyla, 12

To live forever with Him.

Derek, 12

He saved me.

Asa, 12

My parents do.

Trevvor, 12

He is my Father and Christ.

Carlee, 12

I've followed Jesus since I was well...since my whole life.

Kai'lana, 12

I want a nice and strong relationship with Him.

Jashae, 12

He gives me hope and love that no one else could.

Geneina, 12

I want to be as close to God as possible.

Steven, 12

He is the Creator, the Savior, the Best.

Pedro, 12

I want to see God and be with Him forever. I also want to help people come to Him.

Liesl, 13

He is the Source of light and life.

Shane, 14

Jesus is my dedicated Protector.

Joelle, 14

He came and died for me, so that I can have eternal life in heaven.

David, 15

I love Jesus.

Jojules, 18

Jesus is my Home and my Life; I wouldn't want to go anywhere else.

Danielle Kate, 19

He is my Lord and I want to become more like Him.

Ayu, 19

Jesus is the eternal God who showed me what true love means.
Jemima, 20

I know that He will never forsake me.
Charles, 20

Jesus knows what's best for me.
Dane, 20

Jesus is the Sunshine when my life gets stormy.
Czarina, 21

He is my Life.
Dorotea, 22

I live my life with Jesus because without Him life is nothing.
Peter, 22

His way is liberty.
Dani, 36

He enables me to truly love and serve the people around me.
Leslee, 36

Jesus is my Hope and Peace.
Mina, 38

He is the only Path I have found to bring True Lasting Joy.
Luke, 44

Jesus is my Redeemer.
Adiona, 51

Jesus is my Rock, His love and faithfulness never fail me.
Kerryn, 53

Jesus is my Healer.
Edith, 53

He never gave up on me.
Karen, 54

He is my Forever Friend who gave His life for me, so I can have life with Him forever.

Judith, 54

Jesus changes my heart. He is my Great Hope!

Mercy, 54

Jesus is my Strength.

Lolly, 56

Jesus is my Hiding Place.

Siphiwe, 57

He is my Refuge.

Ruth, 58

There is no one to follow who loves me more!

Lynne, 61

He reflects my love for Him one hundred fold.

Gerard, 64

No matter what He brings to me, He has never let me down, and He is my All in All.

Felicia, 65

I follow Jesus because of His sacrifice of love and His faithfulness to me.

Connie, 66

He will make me like a watered garden...whose waters do not fail!

Donnie, 66

I want Jesus to be my best Friend.

Fred, 69

Jesus is my Comfort. He gives me Peace.

Mazie, 77

I follow Jesus because He is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE!

Barbara, 84

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

A disciple of Jesus...

Matthew 4:18-20	Follows Him wherever He leads. Trusts Him to be their Master Commander. Leaves whatever gets in the way of following Him. Is in meaningful relationship with Him. Longs to be like Him in every way. Learns from Him to become a fisher of men.
John 8:31,32	Continues in Jesus' Word. Knows the Truth. Finds freedom in the Truth.
John 13:35	Loves others.
John 15:8	Bears much fruit.
Matthew 16:24	Denies themselves and puts Jesus above what they want. Takes up their cross and is willing to suffer to be true to Jesus.
Matthew 28:19,20	Goes to make disciples of all the nations. Baptizes in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Teaches disciples to obey all Jesus commanded.
Acts 1:5,8	Is baptized by the Holy Spirit. Is a powerful witness everywhere.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is a teaching tool. Jesus says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations...” Matthew 28:19

1. Use this book as an interactive way to teach 7 principles of being a disciple of Jesus to individuals and/or groups. Each principle uses this format:

CARE

- A question to grow friendships and to understand each other’s needs
- An opportunity to share how God helped us to apply the challenge from the previous meeting

CONNECT

- An interactive activity to invite your group to prepare for the written Word of God. These connect activities provide a hook to hang the Biblical truth on.
- A debrief about what we can learn from the activity
- An introduction to the purpose of the lesson of discipleship

DISCOVER

- A prayer, worshipping God and asking for the Holy Spirit to teach the Word
- Exploration of God’s Word to know Jesus Christ and serve Him

PRACTICE

- An opportunity to act on God’s Word
- Seeking the blessings of God in prayer as we commit to following the discovered truth

CHALLENGE

- A practical assignment to foster a relationship with Jesus and to apply it daily
2. Split up into groups, no larger than 6 members. You can present to many small groups of six or less if you have disciples leading the small groups.
 3. Make a commitment to teach only what you are living by the grace of the Lord Jesus. In other words, if you don’t live

it, don't teach it. Now, we are all broken, imperfect people—sinners in need of the Savior—so don't wait until you are perfect before you teach them. We would all be waiting a very long time. Rather put these principles into your daily life practice, and then teach out of your ongoing journey to walk, talk, and share Jesus.

PRINCIPLE 1

Every Day...

COME TO JESUS AS YOU ARE

CARE

1. Share one word that best describes your day so far. Be attentive: celebrate the good things and have compassion for the not-so-good,
2. Starting with the next meeting, we will report what God helped us to do with last week's challenge from the lesson.

CONNECT

1. Partner with someone. Silently act out what you are doing when you are most comfortable. Have your partner guess what you are doing.
2. When do we feel the most comfortable? (Allow for open dialogue.) When do we feel the most comfortable with Jesus? (Be attentive and validate participation.)
3. Sometimes we think we have to be in a certain condition before we can come to Jesus. Maybe we think we have to be positive, happy, responsible, or cleaned-up. Today we will explore what it means to come to Jesus without changing anything first.

DISCOVER

Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to teach the Word of God.

1. Keep coming to Jesus as you are every moment.

Jesus says, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Jesus as you are. When you are sick and wonder why He does not intervene, when you are exhausted and don't feel like caring about anything or anybody, when you have sinned against God or people and feel too ashamed to approach the

spotless Son of God—come to Him anyway! Come to Him when you are discouraged and feel alone. Come to Him when darkness presses around you and you feel overwhelmed with depression. Come to Him when you are angry that He did not show up, did not protect you, and when your requests are met with silence. Come to Him in every and under all circumstances.

When I was a teenager, I had a bad accident while racing on horseback with my friend. We were racing bareback (no saddle) across a plowed field. As my horse lunged forward across a rough stretch of field, I lost my grip and slipped under her pounding hooves! She trampled my right leg very badly. My friend took me back home where I tried to take care of my leg while my parents were out of town. A day later, my parents returned. My mother looked at my badly swollen leg and noticed that my foot was very swollen and had a strange color.

She took me to see the doctor...just as I was. My doctor examined my leg and my foot and asked me seriously, "Son, do you want to keep your foot?" "Yes sir!" I said. "Then you need to go immediately to the hospital so they can work to save your foot before it has to be amputated! There is almost no blood flow to your foot!"

I am thankful for my doctor who saw me just as I was but did not leave me that way. I still have my leg and foot and joyfully walk or hike almost every day! Thank God for doctors who take us as we are! Thank God for Jesus who does the same! Jesus said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17

Jesus takes you just as you are. You do not need to try to heal yourself before coming to Him. He is the Healer. He offers to heal you inside and out! He is the Doctor who stays with you throughout your healing process and forever. He says to you: "...I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Hebrews 13:5 This is His promise to you. So believe.

You can trust Jesus right now and throughout eternity. He is looking forward to coming to take you back to be with Him. He says, "I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3 But you may be wondering, "Am I ready?"

If Jesus came back tonight, would you go to heaven? Why or why not?

Come to Jesus as you are—to be sure about your salvation. And when you come to Jesus, know you are coming also to God the Father who gives you salvation in Jesus!

2. Discover how you can BE SURE of your salvation.

- Become familiar with these steps so you can use your own words rather than the script.
- I encourage you to read the Bible verse with the student and ask the question *before* you state the step. In this way, you will lead the student to hear God's Word first and to think about its meaning *before* stating the conclusion of the step.
- Add the Bible promises that are meaningful to you.

Read: Romans 8:38,39

Ask: How do you know that God loves you?

Step #1 *BE SURE nothing can separate you from God's love.*

Read: Romans 3:23; 6:23 (first part)

Ask: What problem do we all have?

Step #2 *BE SURE we are sinners in need of God's help.*

Read: Romans 6:23 (last part); Ephesians 2:8,9

Ask: What free gift does God offer you?

Step #3 *BE SURE God offers you the free gift of salvation and eternal life.*

Read: John 3:16

Ask: How does this gift of eternal life become yours?

Step #4 *BE SURE to BELIEVE in Jesus as your Savior.*

Read: Revelation 3:20

Ask: What is your answer to Jesus' request?

Step #5 *BE SURE Jesus is ready as your Savior to live in your heart.*

Read: I John 1:9

Say: When we invite Jesus to be our personal Savior, He comes into our heart immediately by faith. He comes in His righteousness, purity and perfection. We realize like never before

we need Jesus to clean our hearts.

Ask: What does Jesus do for you when you confess your sins?
Step #6 *BE SURE Jesus completely cleans your heart.*

Read: I John 5:13

Ask: What does this verse tell you that you can KNOW for SURE?
Step #7 *BE SURE Jesus gives you eternal life!*

God tells us in Revelation 7:9 that there will be a countless multitude of the saved! God has planned for you to be there!

Coming to Jesus as we are leads us to live in His peace. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." John 14:27

Coming to Jesus as our Savior leads us to live in His joy! "And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." I Peter 1:8,9

Our Father God is the Giver of all good gifts to you! James 1:17

PRACTICE

1. Read Revelation 3:20 again privately, and invite Jesus into your heart as your Savior.
2. Ask: "Who will trust their life with Jesus as Savior?"
3. Pray: "Dear Father in heaven, You are the Giver of the gift of salvation. We are sinners in need of Jesus as our Savior. We thank You for sending Jesus to die so we may have eternal life. We choose to believe that this Gift of Salvation is ours now. We ask Your Son Jesus to come into our hearts and be our Friend, Savior, and Lord. We confess our sins and claim His forgiveness and cleansing from all our unrighteousness. We are sure about our eternal life with our Savior. In Jesus' name, amen."

CHALLENGE

Every moment practice coming to Jesus as you are: happy, sad, worried, peaceful, defeated, or victorious. Being sure of our salvation in Jesus calls us to run to Him always.

PRINCIPLE 2

Every Day...

HONOR JESUS AS LORD

CARE

1. What is the best thing that happened to you today? (Take time to listen; celebrate the good things and have compassion for those having difficult days.)
2. What was last week's challenge? (Every moment practice coming to Jesus as you are: happy, sad, worried, peaceful, defeated, or victorious. Being sure of our salvation in Jesus calls us to run to Him always.)
3. Partner with someone. Ask: "How did God help you live the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Gather in teams of two. Ask "What person do you respect the most and why?" After 2-3 minutes sharing, ask if anyone would like to share with the larger group.
2. What qualities in a person do we respect the most? (Allow for open dialogue.) How do these qualities relate to our relationship with Jesus? (Be attentive and validate participation.)
3. Today we will explore what it means to honor Jesus as Lord.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Father in heaven, please send the Holy Spirit to teach us Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen."

1. What do the following Bible passages tell us about Jesus?

Read Mark 1:35.

In the early morning Jesus would get up while it was still dark and would leave the house and go to a secluded place to pray.

Read Isaiah 50:4.

Who is testifying in this verse - Isaiah the prophet or someone else?

Read Isaiah 50:6 to discover the answer.

This is a Messianic prophecy pointing toward what Jesus would experience every morning on this planet.

Every morning God would awaken Him to disciple/teach Him. God would give Him the tongue of a disciple/teacher so that He could give a word to sustain the weary. This early morning time was pivotal to Christ's life on earth.

Our Father God loves us enough to awaken us as He did the Messiah!

It is the love of the Father that moves His heart to wake us up each morning to have unrushed time with Him, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Part 1: Honor Jesus as Lord by asking God every night to wake you the next morning to have unrushed time alone with Him in the Word and in prayer.

2. What does God's Word teach us about Jesus as Lord?

Read Matthew 28:18.

Jesus proclaimed that ALL authority had been given to Him in heaven and in earth.

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

Jesus humbled Himself to be obedient to God the Father to the point of dying on the cross. Jesus died and was resurrected from the grave. God exalted Jesus to His right hand and gave Him a name above all names. At Jesus' name all knees will bow and every tongue will confess Him as Lord.

We know that soon everyone in the universe will bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ...so why do we not honor Jesus as Lord now? How can we stop doing things we are convicted are wrong?

Read Ezekiel 36:26,27.

Jesus is ready to cut out the hard places in our heart that refuse His Lordship. We must surrender to Jesus as our Master Surgeon so that He can do this surgery for us.

Read Colossians 1:27.

The secret of the Christian is found in this verse! The secret is contained in a three-word phrase. What is it? (Christ IN you) Jesus lives IN us, and He IS our SURRENDER!

Jesus lived a life of surrender to His Father in heaven every moment of every day.

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." John 4:34 Jesus' passion was to do the will of God the Father.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was overwhelmed with carrying the weight of every sin committed by every child, youth, and adult who has ever lived. He wanted a way out from His Father — but notice what He prayed as He fell on His face: "...My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; *yet not as I will, but as You will.*" Matthew 26:39, italics supplied. Three times He wrestled with what He wanted personally and chose to give up His will to His Father.

This same Jesus, who daily gave up His will to His Father, lives IN you. This same Jesus, who wanted to LIVE and not DIE, gave up His will to His Father, stretched out His hands, and submitted to die on the cross in your place!

What can we do each morning to honor the Lordship of Jesus?

Part 2: Every morning, make it your first priority to surrender all that you are, all that you have, and your whole attitude to Jesus as Lord.

This same Jesus, who has all power and authority, lives IN you; He gives you strength and power to submit your will to Him. Jesus will help you do this and will not fail you on this!

3. What does God's Word teach about the Source of our power to live for Christ?

Read John 14:17,23.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live IN us by faith. It is the grace of God Himself that empowers us to surrender!

Read John 14:18.

We are not on our own to wrestle, worry, and strive to try to honor Jesus throughout the day. We are NOT spiritual orphans! Jesus promised, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Read Philippians 4:13.

"I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me."

Christ is our Strength to LIVE each moment to honor Him. Read Philippians 4:8.

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

Part 3: Every moment, practice honoring Jesus with your choices.

PRACTICE

We often know Jesus as Savior and Friend, but do we know Him as *Lord*?

1. Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper.
2. On one side of the line, draw a crown at the top and underneath the crown, write "What is surrendered to Jesus." In that column, list the things you have given to the Lordship of Jesus (what you have surrendered to Him).
3. On the other side of the line, write "What is NOT surrendered to Jesus." In that column, write down those things you are struggling to surrender.

 <p><u>What IS surrendered to Jesus</u></p>	<p><u>What IS NOT surrendered to Jesus</u></p>
--	--

What is not surrendered to Him holds us captive. Put this chart by your bed, and every day this week, surrender what is not yet surrendered to Jesus.

Who needs Jesus to perform surgery on your hearts? Who needs Jesus to do what He promised in Ezekiel 36:26,27—to give you a new heart and to take out your heart of stone?

If God is calling you to have this heart surgery, please join me on your knees before the Lord. I invite you to have a private prayer to ask Jesus to cut out whatever is in your heart that should not be there: bitterness, hatred, lust, or love for anything or anyone that replaces Jesus as Lord. (Give a quiet moment for this private prayer time.)

Pray: “Dear Father in heaven, thank You for loving us so much! Thank You for Jesus, our Master Surgeon. We ask that Jesus would come, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and cut out the hard places in our heart. Please cut out our bitterness, our hurt, and our love for anything or anybody that has replaced Jesus as Lord. Give us a new heart! We ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.”

CHALLENGE

This coming week, ask God to awaken you each morning to have unrushed time alone with Him. When God wakes you up in the morning, surrender all that you are, all that you have, and your attitude to Jesus as Lord. By the power of Jesus who lives within you by faith, follow His lead in all your choices through the day.

PRINCIPLE 3

Every Day...

DISCOVER JESUS IN HIS WORD

CARE

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?
2. What was last week's challenge? (This coming week, ask God to awaken you each morning to have unrushed time alone with Him. When God wakes you up in the morning, surrender all that you are, all that you have, and your attitude to Jesus as Lord. By the power of Jesus who lives within you by faith, follow His lead in all your choices through the day.)
3. Team up in pairs. Ask: "How did God help you live out the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Have everyone stand in a circle. Invite everyone to think of something they've done that has required their intense concentrated focus. Invite each one to act out that focused activity while the group guesses.
2. What kinds of things in life take great focus? What kind of focus should we have when reading God's Word?
3. Today we will explore how to read God's Word and to pray with a clear focus.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Dear Father in heaven, we ask that You will send the Holy Spirit to teach us what our focus should be in Your Word and in prayer. In Jesus' name, amen."

1. How may we have meaningful time with God in His Word and in prayer?

The Written Word

Read John 16:13.

Who can help us understand truth?

Ask God for the Holy Spirit to guide you into all TRUTH

(Jesus IS the TRUTH John 14:6) in His written Word.

Read John 5:39.

What did Jesus say was the focus of all God's Word?

(All Scripture points to and testifies of Jesus.)

Read Matthew 7:24.

What priority should we have after finding Jesus in God's Word?

(The Word of God must be practiced, not merely heard.)

God the Father loves to give us the Holy Spirit, so we can see Jesus Christ in every part of the written Word!

Prayer

Read Psalm 100:4.

How should we begin our time in prayer?

(Come into God's presence with thanksgiving.)

After entering into prayer, what should thanksgiving lead to?

(Come into His courts with praise.)

Praise declares WHO God is: strength, character etc.

Read I John 1:9.

When we praise God for who He is, we come deeper into His pure Presence. As we do, we realize our own sinfulness. What should we do with our sense of sin?

(Confess your sins and find your forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus.)

Read Matthew 7:7.

What does Jesus invite us to do? What does He promise?

(Jesus invites us to ask. He promises to give to us. He teaches us to ask in His name. See John 14:14.)

Every day, discover a fresh picture of Jesus in the written Word of God and in prayer, and apply what you discover to the way you live.

ACTIVITY

1. Set a timer for 1 minute and sit still, waiting for it to ring without looking at the clock.
2. Afterwards, ask yourself how long that minute felt. Did it seem like an eternity? Was it awkward to sit still for that long?
3. Yes, we humans don't deal well with silence—we feel a need

to “fill” empty space with music, busy-ness and other noise. But God is calling us out of all those distractions, in the early morning while all is quiet, to be STILL and to WAIT on Him. (See Ps. 46:10.)

4. God teaches us to wait on Him in Psalm 25:4,5: “Make me know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day.” When we ask God to teach us, we must invest time to hear what He has to say.

PRACTICE

1. Give everyone 7 minutes to:
 - a. Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal a fresh picture of Jesus in God’s Word.
 - b. Read Matthew 14:13-21. Look for a fresh picture of Jesus.
 - c. Read this passage again. Ask God what He wants you to apply from this passage to your life right now.
 - d. Share your discoveries and convictions in twos.
2. Invite all who are convicted to have a deeper walk with God in His Word and in prayer to kneel.
3. Pray: “Dear Father God, forgive us for the times we have lost the true focus of searching for Your Son in Your Word. Help us to find Jesus in Your Word daily and to apply what we read to our lives. Deepen our prayer life, so that it becomes the most life-giving, meaningful conversation in our day! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

CHALLENGE

Every day search for a fresh picture of Jesus in God’s Word and in prayer. Ask God to impress you with what you should apply to your life for that day. Live accordingly!

PRINCIPLE 4

Every Day...

RECEIVE A FRESH BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CARE

1. What is your favorite thing that has happened to you this week?
2. What was last week's challenge? (Every day search for a fresh picture of Jesus in God's Word and in prayer. You were to ask God to impress you with what you should apply to your life for that day and to live accordingly!)
3. Partner with someone. Ask: "How did God help you live the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Gather in teams of two. Each team has five minutes to use whatever objects are at their disposal to demonstrate what it means to be "completely immersed." Encourage them to share their demonstration with another team of two.
2. What does this experience have to do with the Holy Spirit? As believers today, would you say we are fully immersed in the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?
3. Today we will explore what it means to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Dear Father in heaven, bring us a thirst for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Please send the Holy Spirit to teach us about this Gift. In Jesus' name, amen."

1. How can we be baptized by the Holy Spirit? Here are five steps to being daily baptized by the Holy Spirit:

Read John 7:37-39.

1. Come to Jesus with thirst and believe in Him.

Read Acts 2:38.

2. Repent.
3. Be baptized with water.

Read Acts 5:32.

4. Obey God.

Read Luke 11:13.

5. Ask God the Father for this Gift.

2. There are two major results from receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- a. We receive the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22,23
- b. We have the power to BE a witness for Christ. Acts 1:8

The baptism of the Holy Spirit transforms us on the inside to give us the character of Christ and transforms us on the outside so that we are a witness for Christ in all we say and do. God the Father is the Giver of all the good gifts and takes great joy in giving us the Gift of the Holy Spirit every day.

3. Demonstrate the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Materials: Large bowl, large sponge, large rock, and pitcher of water (or two), small plastic cup or glass.

A Soft Heart:

- Pour water over the rock. Say: "If we have a hard heart—one of stone—we can't absorb the water of the Holy Spirit. Things like pride, bitterness, anger make our hearts hard."
- Read Ezekiel 36:26-27:
- "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgements and do them."
- Pour water over the sponge and say: "God will give us a new heart and a new Spirit, and our soft heart will be like a sponge that can soak up the Spirit who will transform our ways. And He can flow (be squeezed) from us, so we are like Jesus in our interaction with others." Demonstrate how

easily the Holy Spirit can be “squeezed out” to others when we have a “soft” heart of flesh.

Filled to Overflowing:

- Hold a cup over the large bowl. Say: “This is us.”
- Have someone fill the cup halfway with water. Ask: “Is this how much of the Holy Spirit we want?” (No!) Fill it up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way and ask the same question. (No!)
- Ask: How much of our hearts do we want filled with the Holy Spirit? (Completely!)
- Have the person pour the water, letting it overflow abundantly over the glass into the bowl. Say: “When we are filled to overflowing with the Spirit, He can’t help but run over into other people’s lives in our sphere of influence.”
- Don’t forget to ask daily for the baptism of the Holy Spirit so you can be effective witnesses for Him!

4. Personal Testimony: Teacher, if you have a short (5 to 10 minute), personal testimony about how God changed your hard heart to a soft heart, share it at this point.

PRACTICE

1. Give everyone 7 minutes to pray through the 5 Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Come to Jesus with thirst and believe in Him.
 2. Repent.
 3. Be baptized with water.
 4. Obey God.
 5. Ask God the Father for this Gift.
2. Pray: “Dear Heavenly Father, forgive us for not longing after the Gift You promised. Help us to ask for and to receive the baptism of Your Holy Spirit every day. Transform our hearts to have the loving character of Jesus. Make us a fearless witness for Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

CHALLENGE

Every day ask for and receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Practice receiving this Gift by faith, not by feeling. Follow His lead every day.

PRINCIPLE 5

Every Day...

LOVE YOUR FAMILY INTENTIONALLY

CARE

1. Think of a song that best describes your week. Share the title of the song with your group.
2. What was last week's challenge? (Every day ask for and receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Practice receiving this Gift by faith, not by feeling. Follow His lead every day.)
3. Partner with someone. Ask: "How did God help you live the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Team up everyone in twos. Ask each other: "What is your favorite family memory and why?"
2. What ingredients make up a good family memory? What would God love to do with our families before Jesus returns to take us all home?
3. Today we will explore how to love our family intentionally.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Dear Father God, thank You for our family. We find both the greatest love and the greatest hate within families. Thank You for being the Healer of every hurt. Open our hearts to receive what the Holy Spirit teaches us through Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen."

1. How to Love Your Family Intentionally

Read Romans 13:8.

Ask: *What kind of debt does God ask you to keep?*
(Owe nothing except to love each other.)

Read Ephesians 4:29-32.

Ask: *What filter should we use for all our conversations?*
(Speak only what builds up.)

Ask: *What should we do with resentment and bitterness?*
(Put away all bitterness.)

Ask: *To what level should we forgive each other?*
(Forgive each other as Christ forgave you.)

Ask: *What do you do when you do not feel like you can forgive someone in your family?*

Read Ezekiel 36:26,27.

Ask: *Who performs this heart surgery – you or someone else?*
How many promises does God give you in this passage?

(God does this surgery. He is the only one who could do it! He makes 6 to 9 promises in this passage depending what translation of the Bible you are reading.)

Ask God to do heart surgery on you to remove your bitterness towards that person. Ask God to completely free you from resentment. Ask God to give you a new heart of love and forgiveness and to flood your heart with the Holy Spirit.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33.

Ask: *How is verse 21 the key to a Christlike marriage?*

(Submit to each other out of reverence for Christ. This counsel gives context for the rest of the counsel. If followed, all desire for supremacy over another would be surrendered to Christ!)

Ask: *What counsel does God give wives in verses 22-24? How does verse 33 provide the summary?* (Love your husband with respect.)

Ask: *What counsel does God give husbands in verses 25-29? How does verse 25 summarize the role of the husband?*

(Love your wife sacrificially as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.)

Read Malachi 4:5,6.

Ask: *What two promises does God give parents and children in the last days?*

(God will turn the hearts of fathers (parents) back to their children and the hearts of children back to their fathers (parents).)

Humbling ourselves before God, so that He can restore our hearts with our children and parents, needs to happen before we can be a part of the Deuteronomy model of discipling the new generations for Christ.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Ask: *How do verses 4 to 6 call us to a revival with God?*

(God calls us to love the Lord our God with ALL our heart...)

When God does this revival in our hearts, we are ready for His counsel in verse 7.

Ask: *Who is to teach our children?*

(Parents, teach God's Word to "your sons" (children).)

Ask: *In what way are parents to teach/disciple their children?*

Teach and talk about God's Word:

"When you sit in your house"

Ask: *When do parents and children sit together today?*

(Commuting to school, church, and so forth, eating a meal, watching something, playing a game, working on a craft or project)

"When you walk by the way"

Ask: *When do parents and children walk together?*

(Getting groceries, walking from the car, bus stop, going on a hike, working in the garden or lawn, cleaning the house)

"When you lie down"

Ask: *What conversations for Christ could you have with your children before they sleep?*

(Worship God as a family.) (See Appendix 2.)

Before your children fall asleep, ask them about their day. What was their favorite part of the day? What was the worst part of the day? Ask them how you can pray for them.)

"When you rise up"

Ask: *What conversations for Christ could you have when your children start their day?*

(Model to your children how to:

- Surrender to Jesus as Lord first thing in the morning.

- Find Jesus in God's Word.
- Apply God's Word to their lives.
- Ask for and receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Don't forget to pray a blessing over your children before they leave the house for the day.)

2. Bind God's Word to your actions and thoughts.

"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand."

Ask: *What do you think it means to bind God's Word to our hands?*

(Our actions should be true to God's Word.)

"And they shall be frontals on your forehead."

Ask: *What do you think it means to have God's Word on your forehead?*

(Our thoughts and attitudes should be true to God's Word.)

3. Make God's Word the welcome and witness of your front door.

"You shall write them on the door posts of your house."

Ask: *How can you make God's Word into a welcome and witness to all who come into your home?*

(For example: Place a Bible promise above an inside door.

Prayerfully place Bible promises in different rooms of your home.

Using dry erase markers, write a Bible verse on the mirror of a bathroom.)

4. Make God's Word the welcome and witness of the entry to your property.

"You shall write them...on your gates."

Ask: *What can you do to make God's Word the welcome and witness of your property?*

(Invite your guests to join you on a Bible prayer walk on your property. See *Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks* at indiscipleship.org.)

Our Father God, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are united in love and in living in our hearts to be our LOVE to difficult family

members. God always has enough love to pour out THROUGH us to family members who are challenging to forgive. God IS our FORGIVENESS to the unforgivable people in our lives. God IS our HEALING to restore in our marriages and family relationships what man could never have the power alone to restore!

PRACTICE

1. Pray and ask God:
 - a. What specific thing does each one in your immediate family need from you to know that you love them?
 - b. Who in your family needs to be forgiven or needs your apology?
 - c. What is your next step?

2. Hear what God promises you:

"Ah Lord God! Behold, You Yourself have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! *Nothing is too difficult for You.*" Jeremiah 32:17

"And my God will supply ALL your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

3. Pray: "Dear Father God, when you think of our families You remind us that nothing is too difficult for You! You tell us in Your Word that You will supply all our needs according to Your riches, not ours. We surrender our fears and worries as well as our deepest wounds to you - trusting ourselves and our families to Your healing love. Give us Your love so that we may love each one in our family more than we ever could by ourselves. Thank You for hearing this prayer. In Jesus' name, amen."

CHALLENGE

Take your next step this week, trusting God to help you do what He has convicted you to do to love your family intentionally.

PRINCIPLE 6

Every Day...

DISCIPLE OTHERS TO JESUS

CARE

1. If you could have anything you needed right now, what would you ask for?
2. What was last week's challenge? (Take your next step this week, trusting God to help you do what He has convicted you to do next to love your family intentionally.)
3. Partner with someone. Ask: "How did God help you live the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Invite everyone to team up in groups of two. Give each team a small object that has a known purpose (ex, a tool, fruit, comb etc.). Give each team 4 minutes, 2 for each person, to demonstrate the value of the object, how to care for it, how to practice using it in a meaningful way and to teach someone else to do the same.
2. What did someone do that you found effective in helping you become interested in the item, want to use that item, and share it with others? (Share.) What can we learn from this activity that we can apply to making disciples for Christ?
3. Today we will explore what it means to disciple others to Jesus.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Eternal Father, Your Son Jesus called us to make disciples all around the world. Please send the Holy Spirit to help us be faithful to our calling. In Jesus' name, amen."

1. Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth! Matthew 28:18-20 He commands us to make disciples.

Disciples = Disciple-makers. The two must be ONE.

2. Follow the ways of Jesus, the Master Disciple-Maker.

- a. Read Luke 6:12-16.
Spend a night of prayer before choosing “the 12.” (See Appendix.)
- b. Read Matthew 4:18-20.
Go invite disciples where they live/work.
Invite them to follow you.
Make them fishers of men.
- c. Read Mark 3:13-14.
Invite your disciples to be with you.
Send them out to preach.
- d. Read Luke 9:1,2.
Call them to ask God to receive power and authority over all demons and to heal.
Send them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

Our Father God disciplined Jesus morning by morning while He was on earth. (See Isaiah 50:4.) Our Father God and the Holy Spirit are just as interested and invested in discipling us to be disciple-makers as Jesus is Himself.

PRACTICE

“Disciple Me” Game

1. Ask each person to write down one simple principle that they have added to their routine to foster their relationship with Jesus.
2. Clarify that this principle should be:
 - a. meaningful to building your relationship with Jesus.
 - b. simple, and
 - c. easily adopted by anyone.
3. Have participants form two lines facing each other, roughly 10 feet (3 meters) apart. Both lines should be equal in number.
4. Explain to both lines that the person directly across from them will be their disciple in the game.

5. Describe the scene: "There is a gulf 1000 feet (300 meters) deep that separates you from each other. God has appointed you to disciple the other across this deep chasm."
6. Have participants crumple their papers and throw them to their respective partners on the count of 10. It is important that these papers do not fall in the gulf that separates them. If it does, the teams on either side must work together to pick these up without anyone going into the chasm.
7. *Now transition to active and intentional discipling between partners.*
8. Highlight the following steps:
 - a. Read your partner's note.
 - b. Have each partner explain what they wrote.
 - c. If questions arise, answer your partner's questions.
 - d. Have each partner challenge the other to practice what is written down and then say "See you next week!"
9. *Have partners turn away from each other as if to be apart for the week and pray for their respective disciple that each would practice what was shared with them.*
10. Say: "One week has passed. Face your disciple."
11. Engage in dialogue and ask both lines: "What could this great divide, chasm, gulf represent in our lives? What kind of things can separate us from someone we are trying to disciple?" (Possible answers: age, race, language, socio-economics, level of education, etc.)
12. Say: "Although there are obstacles that create this divide, the Holy Spirit is eager to build a bridge from us to anyone He has called us to disciple. Take your imaginary shovel and fill in the gap between the lines." Afterwards, say, "When we ask for His help, He will fill in the gaps that separate us."
13. Now that the chasm has been filled, invite the disciples to meet together. Using their imaginations, have partners ask

- and answer, "How did the challenge go for you last week?"
14. Have them tell each other a testimony about what they had written down and how it has impacted their relationship with Jesus.
 15. Have them challenge their partner again to practice this principle and this time, pray with their partner.
 16. *Have partners turn away from each other to represent time apart. Then, have them face each other again.*
 17. Say: "After you know your disciple understands, makes it personal, and practices it, challenge them, in turn, to share it with someone else in the room. Note that how you disciple them will be how they disciple others. Therefore, be intentional."
 18. Invite each disciple to find their partner. Ask each other, "How did it go as you shared what I gave you with someone else?"
 19. Explain: "Over time, you want to see that this principle goes
 - a. from head (understanding)
 - b. to heart (desire)
 - c. to hand (practice)
 - d. to feet (moving to go tell others)."
 20. Invite everyone to form teams of fours. Ask "How much of this discipling process are you currently doing with others?" After 2-4 minutes, ask for a few volunteers to share their answer to the question they have been discussing. Again, affirm the importance of the process outlined in 18.
 21. Make a call: "Who will go and make disciples for Christ?" Invite them to kneel in humility before their Lord Jesus.
 22. Pray: "Dear Father in heaven, we have little time left to follow our Savior's command to go and make disciples around the world. We have given others information about Jesus, yet made few disciples of Jesus. Forgive us for not being willing to pay the price that disciple-making costs. To make a disciple costs our time, when we have too much to do. It costs our

comfort, when we are weary. It costs our reputation when the Holy Spirit sends us to someone we do not want to see. It cost Jesus His life to make the way to disciple us. Send us the Holy Spirit to empower us to make disciples of Jesus who walk with Him, talk with Him, and share Him with heart-pounding power. In Jesus' name, amen."

CHALLENGE

Take the idea you received in this game and spread it out before the Lord. Pray on it. Practice it. Ask God who He wants you to share it with. Pray, and go share it with that person.

PRINCIPLE 7

Every Day...

LIVE YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAM!

CARE

1. Which principle of living as a disciple is the most meaningful to you? Why?
2. What was last week's challenge? (Take the idea you received in this game and spread it out before the Lord. Pray on it. Practice it. Ask God who He wants you to share it with. Pray, and go share it with that person.)
3. Partner with someone. Ask: "How did God help you live the challenge from last week?" Give pairs 2-3 minutes to share. Ask the larger group if anyone would be willing to share what God did in their life as they accepted the challenge.

CONNECT

1. Team up everyone in groups of two. Say: "Imagine that a billionaire tells you that he will build you the house of your dreams and pay for it along with land up to ten acres anywhere in the world. What would you say?"
2. After each group of two has shared with each other for 2 minutes, ask if anyone would like to share with the larger group.
3. It can be fun to dream of what house we would love to live in! What dreams do you think God has for you? (Take responses.) We know God has something special planned for us in heaven, but do we take the time to discover what God has dreamed up for us to do for Him NOW--before He comes to take us home to heaven?
4. Today we will explore our unique and special calling. God has a dream for your life and for mine. There is a reason why He chose us to live and serve Him NOW.

DISCOVER

Pray: "Dear Creator God, You created the heavens and the earth with limitless beauty. You created us as Your children, each of us unique and special. Awaken us to the dreams and plans You have for our lives. Please, Father, do not let us miss the holy reason You brought us into this world to live and serve You now. In Jesus' name, amen."

What does God know about you?

Read Psalm 139:1-6,13-15. List what God knows about YOU.

Read Psalm 139:16. What does God have in writing? (God has the days of your life written. He has dreams and plans for YOU!)

PRACTICE

Let's explore who God created us to be and how we may serve Him in our own unique way now.

Part 1: Discover your God-given Dream

ACTIVITY: Exploring Questions to Learn Where to Serve God

Please humbly pray before you begin exploring. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ. Ask God to send you His Holy Spirit to guide you in this process.

1. What are my spiritual gifts?

List all that you think you have. Circle the top 3-5.

I Cor. 12:4-11

Rom. 12:6-8,13

Eph. 4:11,12

I Peter 4:9-11

Ex. 31:1-5

2. When did I feel the most:

1. Free--to be who God made me to be?
2. Flow--to serve in congruence with my gifts, people I love to help, issues I care about?
3. Joy?
4. Used of God?
5. Positive feedback from people who responded to my service by moving towards God?

Briefly share 3 times in your life when those 5 things were present for you.

3. Who do I like to help?

List all the types/categories of people you have a heart to help. Circle the top 3-5.

4. What issues do I care about?

List issues that are being neglected in your world that make you angry. Or list issues that you have passion to address.

5. What do others see in me?

Send your answers to the last 4 questions to 5 people who have the following criteria:

- They know you well.
- They care about you.
- They walk with God.
- They have discernment.
- They will spend 3 days praying and reflecting on your answers and will respond to this question: "In what specific ways do you think I could best serve God with my gifts, with a focus on people, and on issues I care about?"

Pray about the input these five people give you. Seek God's wisdom from James 1:5-8. Take steps of faith to serve God in the way that He is calling you!

Part 2: Live the Lord of the Harvest Prayer

Matthew 9:35-38; 10:16

v35 Jesus taught, proclaimed the gospel, and healed. These three went together!

v36 Jesus felt compassion for the crowd.

v37 Jesus saw the harvest as plentiful but the workers as few.

v38 Jesus tells His disciples to beg the Lord of the Harvest to ekballo--that is to hurl out workers into His harvest.

10:16 Jesus goes a step further by calling us to pray that He send others out into the harvest. He tells US to go ourselves!

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give us ALL good gifts and send us out to be fearlessly faithful in His mission!

Closing Activity:

We learned tonight that Jesus wants to hurl us out into His harvest. He wants to throw you and me into the mission He has dreamed for us.

Invite everyone to stand in a big circle with each person standing with two arms' length apart. Take a sheet of paper and wad it up into a ball. Invite everyone to hurl or throw the paper ball as hard as they can across the circle to someone else. Do this until everyone has had a chance to throw the ball.

Who is willing to surrender to allow Jesus to throw you out into the mission He has dreamed and planned for you before you were born? Invite all who are willing to have Jesus hurl them into the harvest to kneel inside the circle for prayer.

Pray: "Dear Father in heaven, thank You for calling us to follow Your Son as His disciple! We surrender to Jesus as our Lord and ask that He will hurl us out into His harvest anywhere He wants to send us. Give us courage to obey immediately when He calls us on His gospel missions. In Jesus' name, amen."

CHALLENGE

Complete the "Where to Serve God?" questions, ask for feedback from friends and family, pray over the results for God's direction, and serve where He leads you!

What if You Lived as a Disciple of Jesus?

Ask the group: "If you lived as a disciple of Jesus every day, what would be the result?" (Wait for responses.)

"What would God like to do with us next as a group?"

Pray together in groups of twos and then pray one prayer together, asking God what He would like to do with the group. After praying, ask people to share. Make plans according to what God has revealed to the group.

Disciple...

Noahs who build what has never been built before.

Abrahams who leave their country to go to the land which I will show them.

Josephs who refuse to compromise, whom I will trust with dreams to lead nations.

Moseses whom I will re-tool in their latter years to lead My people where they should go.

Bezalels who will design and build what man cannot imagine.

Joshuas who dare to pray sun-stand-still prayers.

Deborahs who will lead My people with wisdom from on high.

Samuels who in their childhood will hear My voice, know Me, and call My people to faithfulness.

Ruths who refuse to let their loss define them, will love whom I provide, and will leave a legacy of faith.

Jobs who are able businessmen, who will be faithful to Me in abundance and devastation, and who will provide for widows and orphans.

Elijahs who will confront wickedness in high places, call nations to revival, call fire from heaven, raise up Elishas, and cross Jordan rivers.

Elishas who will pick up the mantle in their youth, strike the Jordan, cross over, and lead the mighty to know Me.

Dauids who will confront and slay giants and lead mighty men.

Issachars who know the times and what Israel should do.

Jonahs who stop running from Me to be sent to call entire godless cities to repent and turn to Me.

Jeremiahs who prophecy truth—even when people do not want to hear it.

Daniels who will not be bought or sold, who are true to Me at any cost, who stand for me against the crowd, who will lead nations and counsel heads of state, discipling the wicked in high places to walk with Me.

Esthers who will stand before the great to save My people.

Marys who in their teens brave ridicule to say, “Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to Your Word.”

Mary Magdalenes who are transformed from women of the night to daughters of the Light, who stand by Me alone, and are healed by My resurrected Presence.

Andrews who quietly and consistently bring seekers to Me.

Peters who leave their boats to join Me in walking on water.

Widows who give all they have.

Lydias who will be entrepreneurs with a heart to serve and a home for hospitality.

Barnabases who are sons of encouragement, who mentor champions for Christ.

Lukes who will be missionary physicians, blending the gospel with medicine.

Josephs of Arimethea, men of wealth, who risk all for Christ and use their influence for My Kingdom.

Susannas who are walking testimonies of healing and redemption, who follow Me wherever I go, and support the ministry out of their own funds.

Pauls who will suffer and sacrifice comfort and security to take My Gospel to those who have never heard of Me, who will risk all to be apostles in inhospitable places, who write what must be written, and who proclaim freedom at the cost of their own lives to those crying out in the dark.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - NIGHT OF PRAYER

Jesus' Example

"It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." Luke 6:12-16

"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." 1 John 2:6

Challenge

Jesus took a night of prayer before He chose His twelve disciples. Take a night of prayer to worship God and then to ask and receive direction on two questions:

1. God, who do You want me to disciple to Christ at this time?
2. God, how do You want me to operate my life/ministry at this time?

Tips for this Night of Prayer:

1. Psalm 100:4. Come into God's Presence with **thanksgiving**. Enjoy reviewing all the ways God has been working in your life and thank Him for these blessings.
2. Psalm 100:4. **Praise** God for who He is! How has God revealed Himself to you? Give Him glory for His character, His power, and His kingdom.

3. Matthew 28:18; Philippians 2:5-11. **Surrender fully** to Jesus as Lord over:
 - a. All you are as a person—your identity, successes, failures
 - b. All you have—your time, talent, wealth, influence
 - c. Your whole attitude
4. Psalm 51:10-12; I John 1:9. **Confess** your sins. **Claim** God’s forgiveness.
5. Acts 2:38,39. Invite God to search out any sins or sinful patterns that you keep confessing but do not turn away from. **Repent** from these sins. If you don’t want to repent, **pray** Ezekiel 36:25-27, claiming these promises as yours.
6. Ask God to give you:
 - a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:11-13; Acts 1:4,5
 - b. Wisdom to know who God is calling you to disciple NOW. Ask: “God, who do YOU want me to disciple to be a disciple maker for Your mission in this end time?” James 1:5-8
 - c. Direction on how God wants you to operate your life/ ministry NOW. Proverbs 3:5,6
7. Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 25:4,5; Psalm 46:10. **Wait** with expectation.
8. Isaiah 8:20. **Test** your conclusions with God’s Word. Ask: “Lord, is there anything in Your Word that challenges my conclusions or confirms my conclusions?”
9. 1 Thessalonians 5:18. **Give thanks** to God for spending the night of prayer with you!

Pointers:

1. Ask friends and/or family to pray for you for this time.
2. Jesus spent a night of prayer. We don’t know how many hours that was. It was just “a night”. Don’t stress about how long or short it is. Just give God the time and let the Holy Spirit guide you when to conclude it.
3. If you need to rest, nap or sleep between your prayers, do so as God so leads you. God knows your personal limits better than you do.
4. This outline is simply a tool. Submit this tool to the leading of the Holy Spirit to change it up as He wishes.

APPENDIX 2 - IDEAS FOR CREATING FAMILY WORSHIPS

1. Keep the time short. The younger the child, the shorter it should be. Three to five minutes that connect a child with God is better than 15-20 minutes that leaves a child bored and unengaged. The length of worship can grow with the age of the child.
2. Focus your family time together on God. Do not use the time to correct family members, but rather to celebrate who God is and what He longs to do in and through your family!
3. Make the time together interactive rather than only reading or lecturing.
4. Consider the following ways to make the worship of God interactive:
 - Share what God did during the day, and thank Him.
 - Praise God for what you love about Him.
 - If your family likes to sing or play instruments, praise God through song.
 - Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to bless what you read in the Bible.
 - Create a simple, fun activity that would connect the minds and hearts of the family members with the theme you will explore in the Bible.
 - Explore a Bible story with the focus on discovering Jesus.
 - Ask:
 - What does this story show us about who Jesus is?
 - What is God calling us to do today with the lesson of this story?
 - Pray together for God to help you live the truth about Jesus.

Example 1

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5,6

Theme: Trust

Connect Activity: Trust Fall: Have a family member stand with arms at their side. Place two family members behind them with arms out ready to catch them. Invite the person to fall backwards without bending their knees.

Discussion: Discuss what it means to trust each other and what it means to trust God.

Pray: Pray for God to help you discover Jesus in a fresh way in the Bible story.

Explore: Read Matthew 14:22-33 and Proverbs 3:5,6.

- What does this story show us about Jesus?
- What do we need to trust with Jesus completely today?

Pray: Pray together for God to help you totally trust in Jesus completely today.

Example 2

Scripture: Psalm 119:105

Theme: God's Word

Connect Activity: Follow the Light: Appoint one person to hold a flashlight. Line up behind that person. Turn out all the lights in the house. Turn on the flashlight and follow the leader who holds the light.

Discussion: Discuss how God's Word is like a light in the darkness.

Pray: Pray for God to help you discover Jesus in a fresh way in the Bible story.

Explore: Read Psalm 119:105 and Acts 8:25-40.

- What does this story show us about Jesus?
- How will we practice following the Word of God today as a light for our path?

Pray: Pray together for God to help you follow His Word like a light in the darkness.

APPENDIX 3 - FINDING YOUR GOD-GIVEN DREAM: FIVE QUESTIONS TO ASK

Nehemiah 1 & 2

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-4. Nehemiah grieved over the broken-down walls of Jerusalem. God-given dreams address something that God allows us to see that is broken in our world. What is broken in the world around you that grieves your heart? Pray and ask God to help you to identify the broken things in the world that He has given you eyes to see. Be as specific as possible. Narrow your responses to the one issue that God has given you the most passion to address. Describe this issue, this broken thing, in one sentence.
2. Read Nehemiah 1:4-10. Nehemiah set aside days to fast and pray about the broken-down walls. Have you done the following in response to what God has shown you is broken:
 - a. Praised God for who He is?
 - b. Confessed your sins?
 - c. Repented from these sins? (Turn away from these sins with the power of Jesus Christ.)
 - d. Fasted? (Why fast? To humble yourself before God and to clear your mind so that you can discern God's leading.)
 - e. Claimed God's promises? (Identify God's promises in His Word that are relevant to God's dream for you. Choose to believe in these promises. Ask God by faith to fulfill these promises for His glory.)
3. Read Nehemiah 1:11. Nehemiah asked for favor with the king. He was ready for a Divine Appointment. When the king asked him a question, Nehemiah had a choice. He could respond with faith or with fear. Divine appointments are initiated by the Holy Spirit through us or the other person. The Holy Spirit can tell you to make the first move or tell the other person to initiate the conversation. Have you asked God for a divine appointment with a pivotal person of His choosing who holds the key to your God-given dream? Prayerfully identify who that person would be. Seek God for an appointment with this person in the way that would give Him the most glory.
4. Read Nehemiah 2:1-8. When the king asked Nehemiah what he needed to rebuild the broken-down walls of Jerusalem,

Nehemiah was not caught off guard. He had a God-given plan. Have you written out the dream God has put in your heart with what you need to do it plus the time you will do it in? Write out the dream God has placed on your heart - on one side of one page. Address the following: What is the need? What is the dream to address the need? How and when will you accomplish the dream? What are the intended benefits of the dream? What do you need to accomplish the dream? What accountability do you have in place for accomplishing this dream?

5. Re-read Nehemiah 2:1-8. Nehemiah did not stop with praying for a divine appointment with the king. He shared the dream as soon as God impressed him to share it! Have you shared this vision with the key holders God brings to your mind? Share the dream with those God impresses on your heart.

MORE HELPFUL DISCIPLING RESOURCES

Go to indiscipleship.org for the following free, downloadable books which may be used personally or for small groups:

Inside Out

Each chapter is a story which calls busy families to invest in God and to disciple their children.

Follow

Step-by-step Bible studies to use in discipling someone to Jesus Christ. May be used one on one or in small groups.

Discipling the New Generations

Small group studies for parents/mentors and students to grow disciples of Jesus who know and live in the life-transforming truth of Jesus, as they trust, follow, and share Him with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Live Like Elijah

Life-changing lessons from the story of a man who knew God to help you discover purpose and how to live each day with fearless faithfulness, resting in the Providence of God. Full of personal stories of the providence and power of God available to us when we live by faith.

Come Home

Small group studies to call singles and couples to live God's heart-thumping vision for the home in preparation for Christ's soon return.

Meet Jesus Outside: Bible Prayer Walks

Twenty outdoor adventures for children, youth, and adults to experience the Creator in His Word, His book of nature, prayer, and action.

Jesus' Last Love Letter: A Revival for Children, Youth, and Adults

Teacher's notes for seven interactive, intergenerational meetings to call all Jesus as Friend, Savior, and Lord.

