



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Discipleship! We are so excited that you decided to join us in helping people find and follow Jesus. Discipleship requires a lifetime, but it is easier to start than you think. Over the years, we have found that most people want to be discipled and disciple others but do not know where to start. This simple 8 week resource is designed to help you make the jump into a life of discipleship. Our goal is to join Jesus' work of helping people every day, to reach every neighbor and eventually every nation. But this starts with small steps.

Each week is designed to be a discussion that a leader can use to guide a "discipleship time." The lessons build on one another with the final goal of multiplying to make more disciples. Discipleship happens when a learner goes on to make more disciples! This tool is not designed to be exhaustive but to help make discipleship "multipliers."

WHY FOCUS ON MULTIPLICATION?

If you only discipled two or three people per year and taught them to teach others to multiply each year, you could multiply over 3 billion disciples in just twenty years.

WHO SHOULD I DISCIPLE?

How do I select a person to disciple? It is easier than you think! We look for "FAITH" people: Faithful, Available, take Initiative, Teachable, and Humble.

Faithful: Look for someone eager to learn

Available: Look for someone who is willing to meet consistently

Initiative: Look for people with an internal drive.

Teachable: Look for someone who is willing to grow.

Humble: Look for people willing to serve.

With this simple description, you are ready to learn how to model discipleship time.

STRUCTURING YOUR DISCIPLESHIP TIME: THE HOW

Discipleship is about growing closer to the Lord in community and sharing that with others. What to do with the time you have together and how to do it doesn't have to be as hard as it seems. This model allows you to grow in community, discover Truth, and practice what you learn together, so that when it's time to share with others, you feel confident and ready. The following outline is a way to divide up your discipleship time by using a powerful tool that will help you steward your time well.

Your time will be divided into 3 important sections: a time to gather, a time to discover, and a time to act. If you have one hour total, you will spend around 20 minutes in each section. If you have 1.5 hours, you will spend close to 30 minutes in each section. You get the idea! Let's dive into the purpose of each section a little bit more.

GATHER (FIRST THIRD)

This is your connection time—your Life-on-Life portion. It’s a time to check in, thank and pray to God, follow up about goals from the previous week, and remind each other why multiplying discipleship is so worthwhile, even with a busy schedule. This time will help you establish relationships and get focused on the reason you’re here.

DISCOVER (SECOND THIRD)

This is your content time—you will cover the week’s lesson or tool during this time portion. Remember to discuss as a group why this lesson is important and included. At the end of this portion, the group will summarize main ideas and discuss application points. This time will help solidify key takeaways and get practical on how to apply these ideas in daily life.

ACT (THIRD THIRD)

This is your time to get practical on how to implement the lesson into your daily life. You will practice new tools that learn, set personal goals focused on following Christ and engaging the lost, and you’ll pray with one another. Remember: the goals you set this week are the goals your group members will ask you about the next week! Make them specific, tangible, and achievable in one week’s time.

1/3 GATHER	2/3 DISCOVER	3/3 ACT
20-30 mins	20-30 mins	20-30 mins
Personal care	New lesson	Practice
How are you?	Why is this lesson included &	Set goals
Thank + pray	important?	Following (Christ)
Accountability	Application	Engaging (lost)
Follow up on goals from last week	What’s the main idea?	Pray
Vision-casting	How do I apply it?	
Why are we here?		
Who are your two?		

When in doubt, the whole model is 8 easy questions:

How are you?	What’s the main idea?
Why are we here?	How do I apply it?
Who are your two?	What goals can I set?
Why this lesson?	Who will I pray for?

The background of the image is a complex, organic pattern resembling marbled paper or a microscopic view of certain minerals. It features a variety of swirling, veined, and cell-like structures in shades of light blue, teal, and white. The overall effect is one of fluid, natural growth and movement.

GROW IN GOD

WEEK NO.

1

WHO IS GOD?

PART 1: GATHER

Begin this first week by asking general questions to get to know one another better.

What's the town that you're from like?

What's your family like, and what was it like growing up? What activities and interests do you enjoy?

PART 2: DISCOVER

What do you think most people believe about God? What would you say God is like?

Do you know any verses that describe God from the Bible?

The Bible says God exists as a Trinity.

Christians believe that there is one God that always existed as 3 persons called the "Trinity." Each person is fully God and together make one God. This can be confusing! Let's see what Scripture has for us.

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4

The Bible describes God as “The Father.”

Read: Matthew 3:16-17

What do we see about God “the Father” from these verses?

When you hear God described as Father, what images or ideas come to mind?

The Bible describes Jesus as God.

Read: Hebrews 1:1-9; John 1:1-18

What do we see about Jesus from these verses?

When hear the name Jesus, what ideas or concerns come to mind? Is it difficult or easy for you to believe that Jesus could be God?

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit is God.

Read: John 7:37-39; John 3:1-8; Romans 8:15-16

What do you see about the Holy Spirit from these verses?

Who is the Holy Spirit? What role does the Holy Spirit have in relation to believers?

The Bible says the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

He is fully God, and distinct from the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:18-19).

He is a person, not a force. He can be grieved (Eph 4:30); lied to (Acts 5:3); teach us (Luke 12:12); and lead and direct us (Acts 20:28).

He came to glorify Christ and He works in Christians to conform them to the image of Christ.

Read: Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:26

Where is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible says the Holy Spirit dwells within every Christian.

Since Christ’s resurrection, all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit from the moment they trust Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor 12:13). The moment you believed in Christ, the Holy Spirit entered your life and will never leave you.

Read: Ephesians 5:18

Why does Paul compare being “filled with the Spirit” to being “drunk with wine”?

What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”?

How is someone “filled with the Spirit”?

PART 3: ACT

What new things did you learn about God?

Is there anything we talked about today that you would like to learn more about?

If you had the opportunity to explain the Christian concept of God to a person of another faith, how would you do it? What verses would you use?

We believe God really answers when we talk to Him through prayer, so is there anything we can pray for this next week?

What keeps you from knowing God and loving Him completely?

LEARNING MORE:

The Trinity shows that us that God always existed in a community. From this loving, life-giving community, God created everything. God did not create because He was lonely or needed companionship; He created so that humanity could be in a relationship with a loving, eternal creator.

Though the word “Trinity” does not appear in scripture, the term describes the “oneness” and “distinctiveness” of God.

WEEK NO.

2

WHY THE BIBLE?

PART 1: GATHER

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

What do you think the purpose of the Bible is?

Do you consider the Bible to be an authority in your life?

THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

The Bible claims to be inspired by God. What does inspiration mean and why does it matter?

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16

What does this verse claim about the Bible?

What does “God-breathed” mean?

Read: 2 Peter 3:15-16; John 17:17

What are the implications if the Bible is God’s word to us?

Is the Bible trustworthy as an authority for your life?

THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

Read: Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16

What is the role of the Bible in a believer’s life?

Define the terms below and think about how the Bible does each of them in your own life.

Teaching |
 Reproof |
 Correction |
 Training |

What are some of our culture’s views of the Bible? Do you agree or disagree with these views? Why?

PART 3: ACT

What new things did you learn about the Bible?

Is there anything we talked about today that you would like to learn more about?

There are a number of ways to learn and grow from the Bible. Below are ways that believers have used to learn from the Bible throughout history. How are you doing with each of these areas?

Hear (Romans 10:17)

Read (Revelation 1:3)

Study (Acts 17:11)

Memorize (Psalm 119:9, 11)

Meditate (Psalm 1:2, 3)

Do you spend time in the Word on a regular basis? What are some steps that you can take to begin to have a better understanding of God's Word?

LEARNING MORE:

Grace Bible Church's statement on the Bible: We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God and the supreme and final authority in doctrine and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; John 17:17).

Though Scriptural truth is spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:13, 14), it is not subjective or a matter of personal opinion (2 Peter 1:20). Ultimately, its reliability rests on the promises of God that it is powerful, will endure, and will accomplish what God pleases (Isa. 40:8; 55:11; Matt. 5:18; Heb. 4:12).

WEEK NO.

3

HOW DO I KNOW I AM SAVED?

PART 1: GATHER

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

When someone is “saved”, what are they saved from?

What do you think someone needs to know and do in order to become a Christian?

When we talk about salvation, there are a number of different things we are referring to. The first thing is a person’s justification, which is someone’s initial experience of trusting in Christ for forgiveness of their sins. Following this, sanctification is the process of that person becoming more like Christ through the work of the Spirit in their life.

JUSTIFICATION

Read: Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9

Based on these passages, what does it take for someone to become a Christian?

Why do people need to be “saved”?

SANCTIFICATION

Read: Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 2:10

What is expected of a believer once they have placed their faith in Christ?

ETERNAL SECURITY

Read: John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39

Can a believer lose their salvation?

What would it take for someone to no longer be saved?

Are there other passages that support a believer’s eternal security?

PART 3: ACT

We believe that outside of God's grace, we face an eternity separated from God. This should motivate us to share the good news of Jesus with anyone that does not have a personal relationship with Him.

Who can you share the gospel with this week? How does it make you feel thinking about this conversation?

SHARING THE GOSPEL:

God loves you and created you to know Him personally - 1 Jn 4:9; Jn 17:13

We are separated from God by our sin, so we cannot know Him or experience His love - Rom 3:23, 6:23

Jesus is our only solution for our sin. Only through Him can we know God and receive His love and forgiveness - Col 1:15, John 3:16

We must each respond to Jesus by placing our trust in Him as our Savior and Lord. Only then can we know God personally - Jn 1:12; Eph 2:8-9

LEARNING MORE:

What is sin?

Matthew 5:27-29

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:12

Ephesians 2:1-3

Can I continue to sin after I have become a Christian?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1 John 1:8-10

WEEK NO.

4

HOW CAN I BE SATISFIED WITH GOD?**PART 1: GATHER**

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

How would you describe a life devoted to Christ?

Why are many Christians not satisfied in their experience with God? Are you? Why or why not?

After becoming a Christian, many believers feel that it is now up to them and their willpower to live a holy and pleasing life before God. Yet, as good as our intentions may be, we are incapable of living a life pleasing to God without His help—that is the Holy Spirit. If you are unsure if the Holy Spirit is a person of God, read through Lesson 1: Who is God. We cannot experience intimacy with God and enjoy all that He has for us if we fail to depend on the Holy Spirit.

Read: John 16:14; 1 Corinthians 2:14-15; Galatians 5:16-23

What does the Holy Spirit enable you to do?

Read: Ephesians 3:16-18; John 7:37-39

How does the Holy Spirit fill us with His power?

If you had the opportunity to describe the Holy Spirit to someone, how would you do it? What verses would you use? What experiences would you tell them from your own life?

PART 3: ACT

Are there areas in your life where the Spirit can have more influence?

Do you sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit? (1 John 5:14-15)

What sins are you ready to confess and release to God this week? (Ephesians 4:30; 1 John 1:9)

In addition to all these things, the Holy Spirit is our line of direct communication to God the Father (Romans 8:26-27). Few practices are as vital to the Christian life as prayer, yet most of us struggle to take full advantage of this access to the Father.

What practical steps can we take to enjoy a deep, passionate, and powerful prayer life?

LEARNING MORE:

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

One way to practice balanced prayer is to think ACTS:

Adoration: worshipping God for who He is (Psalm 138)

Confession: acknowledging to God that we have sinned and asking His forgiveness (1 John 1)

Thanksgiving: thanking God for all the good gifts He has given to us -- spiritual, material, relational, etc.

Supplication: asking God to supply the needs and desires of our friends, family, self, nation, and world.

One way to start making a habit of alone time with God is to think PRAISE:

Prepare your heart for time with God.

Is there anything you need to talk about with God or give to Him before you start? Ask Him to meet with you and speak to you.

Read Scripture.

Read a passage of Scripture. It is so important to dig into the actual words of the Bible!

Ask questions.

Ask questions like who/what/when/where/why.

Interact with God.

Is there anything confusing to you? Anything you want to press into or bring before God?

Summarize and obey.

Write out a short statement from your time. Is there a step of obedience you need to take?

Engage with God in prayer.

Pray over your friends/family, your day, the passage, the lost, thank God, etc.



CONNECT WITH
THE CHURCH

WEEK NO.

5

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

PART 1: GATHER

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

When you hear the word “church”, what comes to mind? What do others think of when they think of the church?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Read: Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

When we talk about the church, we are referring to either the universal church, which all believers are a part of through the Spirit, or the local church, which is where groups of believers gather.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Read: *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47*

Based on these passages and others you may know, what do you believe to be the purpose of the church? Are you contributing to this purpose?

WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THE CHURCH?

Each member of the Body of Christ is there for a reason, every part has a purpose.

Read: *Ephesians 4:14-16; Hebrews 10:23-25*

What role do you play as a member of a local church?

Have you been a useful member of the Body of Christ in the past? What did that look like?

What should Christian community look like? Do you know of other passages in the Bible that describe how Christians should treat and act towards one another?

PART 3: ACT

Are you a part of community focused on finding and following Jesus? What does this look like in your community?

Are there people that you think would benefit from being a part of your community? Talk to your group about what it would be like to invite other into your group.

LEARNING MORE:

The Bible says a lot about how believers are supposed to act towards one another. Read the following “one another” passages and write a short note about how believers should act towards one another.

Mark 9:50 |

John 6:43 |

Romans 15:7 |

Romans 12:6 |

1 Corinthians 16:20 |

Galatians 5:21 |

Galatians 6:2 |

Ephesians 4:2 |

Ephesians 4:25 |

Ephesians 4:32 |

Philippians 2:3 |

1 Thessalonians 5:11 |

James 4:11 |

James 5:16 |

1 Peter 4:9 |

WEEK NO.

6

WHERE DO I SERVE?**PART 1: GATHER**

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

At times the church has seemed to be run like a cruise ship where everything is designed for its passengers' comfort and pleasure. In reality, the church should probably be more like a battleship with every passenger given a specific responsibility and purpose that is valuable to the smooth and effective operation of the vessel.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Read: James 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-8

What gifts and abilities has God given you that you could use to bless the church? (Financial resources, time, skills, etc.)

Are there any types of ministries that you are passionate about? What would get you excited to do on a regular basis?

Read: Philippians 4:15-19; Mark 12:41-44

Are you giving financially to the church? Why or why not?

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that He cares for the disenfranchised. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God's people are supposed to care for those who struggle.

Read: Deuteronomy 10:17-19; James 1:27

Are there people who fall into this category in your community? Who and where are they?

How has God gifted you to be able to influence and bless your community?

PART 3: ACT

Have you ever heard of a Spiritual Gift? We believe that when someone places their faith in Christ and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they are given Spiritual Gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ (c.f. Romans 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-11).

Go to the following website and take the Spiritual Gifts Test: www.grace-bible.org/giftsurvey. What were your results?

Were these results surprising or expected?

Have others told you that you are good in these areas? Are there some gifts that you have been encouraged in that did not show up on the test?

How can you use these spiritual gifts to serve your church?

LEARNING MORE:

The last two lessons talk a lot on the expectations for believers as a part of the Body of Christ. One expectation that is not mentioned but that is commanded throughout the New Testament is baptism. Baptism identifies believers with Christ's death and resurrection (Rom 6:3-4) and with the church around them (1 Cor 12:12-13). Jesus made this a normal and expected practice for those who desire to follow Him (Matt 28:18-20).

Have you been baptized as a believer?

If not, what is keeping you from taking this important step of discipleship and obedience?

The background is a light blue-grey marbled pattern with swirling, organic shapes. A faint, stylized face is visible in the background, with the text overlaid on it.

ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION

WEEK NO.



HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

PART 1: GATHER

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

On April 3, 2010 Apple computers took a completely new step in product development by creating the iPad. They created a device that the average person did not believe they needed. However, once people discovered the potential, the conversation surrounding the iPad and the desire to purchase it spread like wildfire. Why? Once people heard and experienced it, they saw the need.

The gospel is the what people need most, more than any new device. However, we have to show people the power through personal experience. That's what we want to help you do!

Have you ever shared your personal belief in Jesus with anyone? If so, how did it go?

Does Jesus want us to share our faith with others? Is sharing your faith a “nice thing to do” or a necessary part of discipleship?

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

What is Jesus' directive to His disciples?

Why does Jesus want His disciples to do this?

Read: 1 Peter 3:15

Do you feel prepared to give a defense of who Christ is and what He has done for you?

Are there any areas of the gospel that you don't feel confident in explaining and sharing?

PART 3: ACT

PREPARING A TESTIMONY

Sharing your faith effectively requires some thought. Most of the time people will only let you share a little before they need to leave or want to change the subject.

Knowing this, we should be strategic and ready to share our faith. Sample Outline:

My life before belief in Jesus

I Grew up _____

When I met/put my faith in Jesus

I came to believe that _____

Clearly share the Gospel!

My life now

Now I am growing and trying to live my life for Jesus

Invitation to person

This offer of forgiveness is available for you too

Paul followed this same format in Acts 22 and Acts 26. Here's an outline from Acts 26:

My Life before Jesus: Acts 26:4-5

When I met Jesus: Acts 26:12-18

My life now: Acts 26:19-23

Invitation: Acts 26:24-29

Spend some time preparing your Testimony.

Who can you share this with this week?

WEEK NO.

8

HOW DO I MAKE MORE DISCIPLES?

PART 1: GATHER

Summarize last week's main takeaways. Do you have any other questions from last week?

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for? What can you praise God for?

How did you do on your goals?

Before we begin our time together this week, why is our time together important? Why are we here?

PART 2: DISCOVER

What has discipleship or mentorship looked like in your life?

If you grew up going to church, was discipleship something your church emphasized?

List out all of the examples in the Bible of disciple or mentor relationships you can think of.

What are some common characteristics in these relationships?

What was the purpose of these relationships?

Read: 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:18-20

What should a biblical discipleship relationship look like?

What elements should be a part of a discipleship relationship? (prayer, accountability, etc.)

Discipleship should contain 4 different aspects:

Teaching | giving information

Coaching | training in ministry skills

Modeling | showing how its done

Mentoring | growing in maturity

Which of these do you tend towards?

Which of these are difficult for you in ministering to others?

PART 3: ACT

If you have made it this far in this book, then someone has been taking the time to pour into you and see that you are trained in multiplying your own life. Now it is your turn! When selecting someone to disciple, we like to use the following acronym:

F

Faithful | A disciple should be faithful to complete whatever assignment and preparation is needed for their growth and training.

A

Available | A disciple should be consistent with attendance based on their discipler's expectations.

I

Initiative | A disciple should have with an internal drive toward growth

T

Teachable | A disciple should show humility in their willingness to grow and change as they study the Word

H

Humble | A disciple should be willing to serve like Jesus.

This book is not an end-all and be-all manual for discipleship. Discipleship is organic, and it is based on the needs of the person being disciplined. If you have further areas that you desire to be developed, ask the person discipling you to continue this relationship moving forward. Likewise, be open to your discipler recommending additional areas of growth in your life besides what was covered in this book.

Ask your discipler if there are any further areas that they think you should be focusing on in your journey as a disciple of Christ.

Finally, the purpose of this exercise is not just for you to be a better person, but for you to multiply yourself spiritually. Who are you going to take through this material?

NEXT STEPS

As you look for your next person to disciple, here is a helpful tool of consideration. There is a spectrum of people that you will encounter.

Curious: People thinking about Jesus and spiritual things.

Convinced: People who have personally believed in Jesus's death for their sins.

Committed: People who are spiritually multiplying.

You are now a multiplier! You can encounter people at various places on this spectrum. See where they are and encourage them to take their next step! Go get multiplying!



College
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