



Biblical Discipleship

HOW CHURCHES,
CLASSES AND
INDIVIDUALS CAN
MAKE DISCIPLES.

What is a Disciple?

- ▶ The word ***disciple*** is a word from the Bible. It means someone who is a learner, a student, a follower of a teacher. In Christianity, it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ ***Discipleship*** means the state of being a disciple. A discipleship group or class is a class that helps people grow spiritually.
- ▶ ***Making disciples*** means helping others to grow as followers of Christ.

Jesus Invites Us To Follow Him

Jesus invites us to ***be his disciple*** and to ***make disciples*** as we help others to find a personal relationship with God through Christ.

- ▶ **Mt 16:24** *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*
- ▶ **Mt 28:19** *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*

How Do I Become A Christian?

1. There are some things that God wants us to **know**. But you can know things about God and still not be a Christian.
 2. God wants us to **respond** to what He tells us about Himself, about us, and about Christ. When we respond, God changes us from the inside out.
 3. The Bible calls that response “faith”. The Bible uses different words to explain what faith means – believe, receive, trust in, follow, call, repent, obey and love.
- ▶ **John 3:16** “*whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*”
 - ▶ **John 1:12** “*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name*”
 - ▶ **Ephes 2:8,9** “*For it is by grace you have been saved through faith*”

How Do I Become A Christian?

- 1. God wants you to know that he is present, that He loves you and has a purpose for your life – eternal life, a meaningful life, love, joy, peace, and more.**
 - ▶ **Genesis 1:1** *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... So God created man ... male and female He created them.*
 - ▶ **Acts 17:24** *“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth ... He himself gives all men life and breath”*
 - ▶ **Hebrews 11:3** *“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command.”*
 - ▶ **John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world ...”*
 - ▶ **I John 4:10** *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us.”*

How Do I Become A Christian?

2. God wants you to know that every single person has chosen to turn away from God's love, we have all gone our own way and our sin separated us from God and his plan for our life.

- ▶ **Isaiah 53:6** *"We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us have turned to his own way"*
- ▶ **Romans 3:10** *"There is no one righteous, not even one."*
- ▶ **Romans 3:23** *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*
- ▶ **Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death"*
- ▶ **Ephes 2:1** *"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world"*

How Do I Become A Christian?

3. God wants you to know that he did something for us that we could not do for ourselves. He provided a way for our sin to be forgiven, to be paid for, by sending His son to take the punishment for our sins in our place.

- ▶ **Acts 2:23** *“you... put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead”*
- ▶ **Romans 5:8** *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- ▶ **I Cor 15:3** *“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day*

How Do I Become A Christian?

4. God wants us to respond by faith, repentance and a heart of thankfulness because of what Christ did for us. We trust in him, not our good works.

- ▶ **John 11:25** *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’”*
- ▶ **1 John 1:9** *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us”*
- ▶ **Romans 10:13** *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

How Do I Become A Christian?



God offers us a gift – a relationship with Him. When we receive Him, we also get eternal life, forgiveness of our sins, His strength, love, joy, peace and hope.



We know we trust that a chair will hold us when we are willing to sit in it. We know that we trust in God when we are willing to put our faith in what Christ did for us on the cross, not in our own goodness or good works.

How Do I Become A Christian?

**You can know that God loves you,
You can agree that you are a sinner,
You can know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins,
And still not be a Christian.**

**When you respond with repentance, thankfulness, love, belief, trust and faith-
then you know that the gospel has moved from your head to your heart.**

- ▶ **Acts 2:37-38** *“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said ... ‘what shall we do?’ ... Repent ... in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*
- ▶ **Acts 16:30-31** *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved’”*

What is Your Story of Faith?

- Was there a person who helped you understand?
- Was there a Bible verse that helped make it clear?
- What helped you understand the difference between accepting a free gift of God's grace and trying to earn your way to heaven?
- Married people remember when they said, "I do." Do you remember when you said to God, "I believe" "I trust in you." "I confess my need for you." "Thank you, Jesus, for dying for my sin." or something similar to these words?
- How many people have you told your story to? Are there some family or friends you would like to hear your story?

What Changed When I Trusted Christ?

- ▶ **Romans 5:1** “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- ▶ **Romans 6:23** “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- ▶ **Romans 8:1** “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
- ▶ **II Cor 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.”
- ▶ **Ephes 2:19** “Consequently, you are ... fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.”
- ▶ **II Cor 1:21-22** “It is God who makes you stand firm in Christ. He ... set his seal of ownership on us and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit.”

God Calls Us To Grow Spiritually

- ▶ God put his Spirit inside us to help us grow in maturity.
- ▶ The Bible says there are 5 general areas where the Spirit of God helps us to grow spiritually:
 - Worship Matthew 22:37
 - Fellowship Hebrews 11:25
 - Discipleship I John 1:3
 - Compassion for others ... Matthew 25:35-36
 - Telling the good news ... Acts 1:8

Some of the Things That Help Us Grow

How is God using these things to help you grow?

- ▶ His Spirit
- ▶ His Word
- ▶ His people
- ▶ The difficulties of life, trials of many kinds
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Serving and helping others

Begin Some New Habits Today

1. When you wake up in the morning, ask God for wisdom and to guide you today. Say “thank you” for a blessing in your life.
2. Start with the New Testament, read a chapter every day and underline the three verses that stand out and that you want to remember.
3. Find a church and go every week to the worship service on Sunday.
4. Ask the church to help you find a small group Bible study that will challenge you to learn, encourage you and be a place to make friends.

Begin Some New Habits Today

5. Pick a handful of scripture verses and memorize them. Try these three:
 - ▶ **Psa 119:11** “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
 - ▶ **Prov 3:5,6** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
 - ▶ **John 10:28** “I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father ... is greater than all”

Look Around for Ways You Can Help

1. Who do you know that is lonely or discouraged – show them friendship.
2. Can you help your church to provide physical needs – food, clothing, shelter or job training skills? Churches usually have weekly, monthly or yearly opportunities to help in various ways.
3. Is there a team you could join to visit the sick or those in prison?
4. Is there a way to help at a local school, tutor, or coach?
5. Look around your neighborhood. Are there small ways you could help?

As We Grow – We Can Help Others Grow Too

- ▶ *“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”* **Mt 4:19**
- ▶ *“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the women’s testimony.”* **John 4:39**

As We Grow – We Can Help Others Grow Too

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.” **Acts 11:25-26**

1. How was Barnabas intentional about spending time with Saul?
2. What qualities would you look for in a person you wanted to disciple, mentor or coach, since you can't force someone to learn?

As We Grow – We Can Help Others Grow Too

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” **Prov 27:17**

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” **2 Timothy 2:2**

1. What are some ways we can “sharpen” one another spiritually?
2. In 2 Tim. 2:2, what is the progression of discipleship that we notice? Who are the four people, or groups of people, the verse identifies?

_____ ➡ _____ ➡ _____ ➡ _____

As We Grow – We Can Help Others Grow Too

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” **1 Thess 2:8**

1. What were the two things Paul says his team shared?
2. If you and I were sharing our life with someone, as a friend or spiritual coach, how would we go about it? What does “doing life together” look like?

How Did The Early Church Respond?

- ▶ Jesus asked the twelve to follow him and be learners. They grew in maturity, compassion and vision, and became leaders of a movement that helped others also by explaining the gospel and making disciples.
- ▶ **Acts 2:41** *“about three thousand were added to their number that day”*
- ▶ **Acts 4:4** *“many who heard the message believed and the number of men grew to about five thousand”*
- ▶ **Acts 5:14** *“more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.”*
- ▶ **Acts 6:7** *“number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly and a large number of priests became obedient”*
- ▶ Every Christian today could trace back their spiritual ancestry all the way back to the early church and Jesus. From generation to generation, there have been faithful men and women who grew spiritually and helped others to grow also.

How Will You Respond?

- ▶ God still calls us today to follow Him and love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.
- ▶ As a follower of Jesus, are you faithful, available and teachable?
- ▶ Are you bringing others with you on this journey?