



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP

FOUNDATION QUESTIONS

All of us have different backgrounds but the bible tells us God has been working in our lives to bring us to this point we are at today.

- What is your background?
- How do you feel about your relationship with God?
- Do you believe you are in a saved relationship with God?
- What church experience have you had?
- Do you believe that there is one God and that He is the God of the Bible?
 - Can you explain why you believe it?
- Do you believe that the Bible is God's Word?
- Do you have any doubts? What are they?
- Is Jesus really God's only son? Did he rise from the dead?
 - Can you explain why you believe it?
- Do you have specific concerns, questions or goals as you study?

DISCIPLESHIP 1: THE WORD OF GOD

READ

- **John 6: 22-59**
- **1 Timothy 3:16-17**
- **Psalm 119**

THE WORD OF GOD IS OUR SPIRITUAL FOOD

- **John 6:22-59**
- **Matthew 4:1-4**

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROPHETIC

- **Micah 5:2** – His place of birth, written over 400 years before it happened.
- **Isaiah 7: 14** – He would be born of a virgin.
- **Isaiah 9** – He will come as a child.
- **Isaiah 53** – Virgin birth; despised by men; takes away sins.
- **Psalm 22** – Prediction of the crucifixion.

GOD'S WORD IS RELEVANT

- **Hebrews 4:12- 13** – Teaches that the Word is active and still applies today.
 - It is intended to challenge our hearts if we are willing to apply it.
 - There are many responses we can have to the challenges. Anger, sadness, repentance, etc. (Luke 4:24 -29)

STUMBLING BLOCKS TO HANDLING THE WORD OF GOD WELL

- Traditions: **Mark 7:1-9**
- Convenience: **Acts 24:24-25**
- Desire to hear what I want: **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

DISCIPLESHIP 2: SEEKING GOD

READ

- **Acts 8:26-40**

GOD PURSUED US FIRST

- **John 3:16** – God is the initiator. God is sacrificial. God gives His best.
- **1 Timothy 2:3-5** – God wants **everyone** to be saved.
- **Acts 17:24-27** – God is pursuing you, creating opportunities to begin and develop a relationship with you. (This study is not an accident, but a result of God working in your life.)
- **Colossians 1:13** – He came to rescue us.
- **Hebrews 12:2-3** – He actually authored the plan at His expense.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – Not only was he crucified, He became sin for us.

US SEEKING HIM

- **Matthew 6:25-34** – Seek the kingdom first. It is not just important but the most important decision.
 - What is the Kingdom?
 - Who is in charge?
- **Matthew 7:13-14** – Why is the gate narrow?
- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – Satan opposes us and tries to lead us down alternative passages (The parable of the soils demonstrates this.)
- **Galatians 2:20**

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
(Matthew 6:33)*

DISCIPLESHIP 3: SIN

READ

- **Genesis 4:1-16**

WHATS THE BIG DEAL?

- **Genesis 6:5-6** – Sin fills God’s heart with pain.
- **James 1:13-15**- Sin is designed to grow and kill
- **Isaiah 59:2** – Sin separates us from God.
- **Ephesians 2:1-4** – In our sin, we choose to follow the ruler of this world (Satan.) We actually fight against God. *Read: Romans 5:6-8 & Colossians 1:21*

SIN INCLUDES ACTION AND ATTITUDE

- **2 Timothy 3: 1-5**
- **Galatians 5:19-21**
- **James 4:17**
- **Romans 1:18-32 & 8:1-2**

How is sin affecting your relationship with God?

How is your sin affecting your friends and family?

DISCIPLESHIP 4: THE CROSS OF CHRIST

READ

- **Matthew 27**

THE CROSS OF JESUS

- **Galatians 6:14**
- **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **1 Peter 2:24-25**
- **Philippians 2:5-11**

MY RESPONSE

- **Galatians 2:19-20**
- **Philippians 3:7-14**
- **Acts 2:36-40**
- **Romans 6:1-11**

DISCIPLESHIP 5: JESUS IS LORD

READ

- Acts 4
- Philippians 3:7-21
- Acts 2:41-47

FOLLOWING JESUS IS A RIGHT RESPONSE TO HIS SACRIFICE

- 1 Peter 2:21-24 – What does this verse say my response should be?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW JESUS?

- Luke 14:23-33 – JESUS IS LORD!
- Matthew 7:21- Gods will not mine
- Romans 12:1-2 – Offer myself as a living sacrifice

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE?

- Matthew 4:19- Follow Jesus, be transformed by him, make disciples
- John 13:34-35- Love others like Jesus loves me
- 1 John 1- Walk in the light
- Hebrews 11- People of faith
- Matthew 7:21: Surrender to the will of God
- John 8:30-32 – We cannot say that we love Christ if we are unwilling to follow his teachings: (John 14: 15
- Matthew 28:18-20 – Make disciples
- Luke 19- A repentant heart (example: Zacchaeus)

DISCIPLESHIP 6: REPENTANCE

READ

- **Jonah 3**

WHAT RESPONSE DOES JESUS DESIRE FROM US?

- **1 Peter 2:21-24** – Die to sins and live for him.
- **Luke 13** – The first point here is repentance.
- **Ephesians 5:3-7** – No hint of sin

HOW DO WE BEGIN TO DIE TO SIN? REPENT!

- **Matthew 3:1-2, Matthew 4:17** – Both John the Baptist and Jesus preached, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

- **Colossians 3:1-3**- Change of mind
- **2 Corinthians 7:8-11** – The difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow.
- **Romans 12:2** – Not a “one time” event.
- **Ephesians 4:17-end**
- **Acts 19:17-20** – “Burned their scrolls” no matter what the cost – the value of the scrolls was around 133 years of wages. Share personal examples.

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,
(Acts 3:19)*

DISCIPLESHIP 7: FROM DEATH TO LIFE

READ

- **Acts 22:1-21**

SAVED BY GOD

- **Ephesians 2:1-10** – The way God saves us. We are saved **by grace through faith**, made alive by God
- **1 Peter 2:24** – Dying to sin begins with repentance. What do I need to do to have my sin forgiven?
- **Romans 6:1-10** – We are united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection through baptism. Submission to Christ in baptism is when and where we die to sin. Baptism in the name of Jesus is essential.
- **Acts 2:36-41** – We receive forgiveness of sins when we repent and are baptized. Sin is what separates us from God, so this is necessary for salvation. We receive the Holy Spirit when we repent and are baptized.
- **Colossians 2:12** – It is essential that we have the faith that this is happening to us as we are baptized. It is not us working in baptism. It is God who does the work as we have faith in His power. (It is by faith that we are saved –
- **1 Peter 3:21**-Baptism that saves you.

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,
(Colossians 2:13)*

DISCIPLESHIP 8: THE COMMUNITY

WHAT ABOUT THE CHURCH?

- **Acts 20:28** – Jesus died for the church.
- **Colossians 1:15-23** – Jesus is Supreme
- **Ephesians 5: 22-33** – The Church submits to Jesus

DISCIPLES RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CHURCH

- **Colossians 1:13-18** – The body is the church and we all must submit to the head (Jesus.)
- **Colossians 1:28, 29** – We strive to present each other perfect/mature.
- **Ephesians 4: 11-16** – The church must build each other up. The church must speak the truth in love. The church is God's way for us to grow in maturity. We must help each other to become like Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** – Every member is vital. It is not about individuals. We must all give. We must all have an attitude of submission to the head.
- **Romans 12:5** – We belong to each other.

The scriptures teach that God has blessed each person with talents and that each person has a role and function in God's church. In what areas do you think God wants you to serve? Also, how can you strengthen your brothers and sisters?

But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

(1 Corinthians 12:18)

SPECIAL STUDY: THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **John 14:15-17** – Just before Jesus left the earth He comforted His disciples by telling that about the coming Holy Spirit. The Spirit was with them but soon would be able to live inside them. Jesus told his followers that the Spirit would live in them and help them to live the Christian life.
- **Acts 2:38** – The Spirit comes to live inside us when we are baptized.

A NEW WAY

- **John 7:39** – The indwelling of the Holy Spirit was not available until after Christ was glorified (went to heaven.) Prior to this, the Holy Spirit would come upon people frequently with power to do miracles, signs, and wonders in order to confirm that God was speaking through them.

THE SPIRIT WORKS IN MANY WAYS

John 14:25, 26 and John 16:7-11

- He works in our hearts to convict us of sin & to live righteously.
- He works in our hearts to help us to be urgent about the judgment.
- He strives to remind us of the scriptures and the teaching of Christ.

Romans 8:1- 27

- He helps us to overcome sin. To truly change!
- He helps us to pray and communicate with the Father in heaven.
- If God's Spirit does not live within us, we are not Christians. This is why we must receive the Spirit through baptism (vs. 9.)

Galatians 5:16 vv.

- He produces fruit in our lives as long as we submit to Him.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

- We have the choice to put out the Spirit's fire or to fan His power into flame.

*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.
(John 16:13)*

WILL YOU FOLLOW? – COUNTING THE COSTS

READ

- **Luke 14:23-33**

He wants you to count the cost.

Here are some common areas that the bible addresses:

1. **Family/Friends** – 1 Corinthians 15:33
 2. **Dating/sexuality** – Ephesians 5:3, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 2 Corinthians 6:14
 3. **Work/career/school** – John 12:48
 4. **Time** – Ephesians 5:15-16 & Matthew 6:33
 5. **Commitment to the Community** – 1 Corinthians 12:12, Romans 12:5, Hebrews 10:24-25
 6. **Finances** – 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
 7. **Evangelism** – John 15:8, Matthew 28:18-20
 8. **Persecution** – 2 Timothy 3:12
 9. **Others?**
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** – Jesus died to spare us from the coming wrath. Urgency is the key. Not just for you, but all those you love.
 - **Luke 16: 19-31** – We can't come back. Now is the day
 - **Matthew 19:27-30 & 16:26** – Is it worth it?

Write down the pros & cons of Christianity. Are you ready to respond to God's love?

