



DISCIPLE
Follow Me As I Follow
Part 1: Christian or Disciple?
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

Our lives are spent being disciplined and discipling others. Your personality, your desires, your goals emerge from the company you keep. Where we are now in our life is a direct result of all the people and decisions that have shaped and influenced us. The other side of the coin is that our lives are shaping and influencing others. Whether intentionally or by default, we are developing followers because no one is an island when it comes to influence.

The word *Christian* = relates to what we believe

The word *disciple* = speaks of how we live

Etymology is the study of how words shape and change. With that thought in mind, the Bible, in fact, does not define the term Christian. It is used in the New Testament merely three times, and specifically as a derogatory identifier by outsiders to describe the church. The word disciple, on the other hand, shows up 284 times in the New Testament, and it refers to a lifelong journey of following Jesus. You can be a “Christian” by changing the way you think or embracing an identity that has little to no bearing on your lifestyle, or you can be a devoted disciple, committed to the cause of Christ.

MESSAGE

[1 Corinthians 11.1]

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

[Matthew 28.18-20]

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

If you are a disciple, you should be making disciples!

[1 Kings 19.19-21]

¹⁹ So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. ²⁰ Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, “First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!” Elijah replied, “Go on back, but think about what I have done to you.” ²¹ So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.

What has been transferred to you that requires immediate response?

Defining "Do-s" of a Disciple:

1. Disciples respond to a personal invitation. (That invitation initiates a journey.)

2. Disciples make inevitable lifestyle adjustments.

[Philippians 3.7-8]

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.

3. Disciples stay committed regardless of delay, resistance or personal loss.

[2 Kings 2.2-4]

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has told me to go to Bethel." But Elisha replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you!" So they went down together to Bethel. ³ The group of prophets from Bethel came to Elisha and asked him, "Did you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?" ⁴ Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has told me to go to Jericho." But Elisha replied again, "As surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, I will never leave you." So they went on together to Jericho.

[John 8.31]

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to (continue in) my teachings."

In the life of a disciple, resilience is required.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What has been your definition of the word *Christian*?
2. Who do you disciple on purpose? What about while unaware?
3. How are you obeying God's commission to make disciples?
4. When did you realize the personal invitation to follow Jesus?
5. As a disciple, how have you eliminated the "backup plan"? (adjusted, let go, or barbecued?)
6. How have you responded to resistance and delay in your discipleship journey? What resulted from your perseverance?