



DISCIPLE
Follow Me As I Follow
Part 2: Entry Level
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

What does being a 'disciple' actually look like? What is the entry level for living a life that can be reproduced in others? Jesus said to "make disciples of all nations," and the biblical principle of reproduction is that every seed, animal, and living being reproduces after its own kind. In order to fulfill the great commission, we need to examine what being a disciple truly is. So, how and where do we get started?

The word *Christian* = relates to what we believe

The word *disciple* = speaks of how we live

MESSAGE

[1 Corinthians 11.1]

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

Consider These Discipleship Thoughts:

What would the church, the spiritual atmosphere of our city, our schools, and the Body of Christ look like:

- If everyone was operating at your level of passion and commitment?
- If I followed you in your prayer life, would I be a prayer?
- If I followed you in your integrity, would I be safe?
- If I followed you as you give, would I be generous?
- What would the church look like and how would we be doing, if there were a few thousand clones of you running the show?

I must live as a disciple, if I am going to make some.

[Matthew 16.21-27]

*²¹ From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. ²² But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, "**Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.**" ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**If any of you wants to be my disciple, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.**" ²⁵ **If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.** ²⁶ **And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?** ²⁷ **For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.**"*

The Big Commission is a big deal!

How to Be a Disciple:

1. “Deny yourself” = willingly turn over control

[Galatians 2.20]

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

[Mark 8.35]

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.

<p>Definition of the Crucified Life = a conscious decision to be continually alive to Jesus' will for my life at the expense or death of my own ambitions and desires</p>
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2. “Take up your cross” = choosing the way of humility

[Philippians 2.3-11]

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a servant and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The cost of discipleship is offensive to your everyday life; the best version of you comes with a cross!

3. “Follow me” = the life of obedience

[John 8.31]

*Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “**You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to (continue in, and become obedient to) my teachings.**”*

CONCLUSION

We all experience a season of life when we want to “make a name for ourselves.” Those who grow and mature, both as a believer and a human being, realize it’s not about making a name but “making a difference.” This is when many people begin to invest their time and resources in causes beyond themselves. The final stage is when we realize that we have been called to do more than make a difference; we have been called to “make history.” Those who lay down their lives, take up their cross, and follow Jesus will do just that!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What would our church, city, school, or job look like if everyone was serving God the way you were?**
- 2. To make disciples we must be one first. What areas of your life accurately reflect what a disciple looks like, and what areas need an adjustment?**
- 3. How would you write Jesus' discipleship campaign? ("Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.)**
- 4. What are some areas that you need to willingly turn over control to God, in order to get the better version of yourself, that only Jesus can offer?**
- 5. What difference would you like God to make in this world through your obedience to Him?**