

Disciples of Jesus and the



Cross of Christ

Treasure Chest Stories

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Disciples of Jesus and the Cross of Christ **A Disciple-Maker's Guide**

Jesus made a clear prediction. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). We want to see the suffering in this world end, but we must wait because hundreds of millions of people have not yet had a chance to know the good news.

How can this work be finished? Jesus promised that He will finish His work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit combined with the obedience of God's people to Jesus' command to make disciples as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20. "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." So this is what God wants each of us to do.

The main command is to make disciples. The other three commands show how to do it.

Make disciples

As you ***go***—We are to make disciples while serving, showing by example in every area.

As you ***baptize***—We are to lead the disciple to a daily and deepening conversion.

As you ***teach to observe***—We are to train the disciple beyond intellectual knowledge to obey God's word.

Jesus has given us the perfect example on how to make disciples. If we carefully study the gospels to see how He led and taught the disciples, we will know what to do. If we will do it through the power of the Holy Spirit, the work in our world will be finished and Jesus will return. The two sets of lessons, *Disciples of Jesus*, and *Cross of Christ* are an introduction to help you know better how to have a close, obedient, and dependent relationship with Jesus. It also shows how to help someone else be a disciple of Jesus. There are twenty lessons to complete. Show the disciple that these are just the beginning to help him learn how to keep growing and advancing in following Jesus.

Disciple-Makers are Like Good Parents (1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 and 2:8-12 and 17-20)

As you think about making disciples it will be helpful for you to compare it to good parenting.

1) Healthy parents give birth to children—Mature disciples lead people to new birth in Christ.

2) Parents provide nutritious food, then teach their children to eat for themselves—Disciple-makers teach God's word to disciples, then teach them to gain strength from the Bible for themselves.

3) Parents protect their children, then teach them to avoid danger or overcome it—Disciple-makers stay close to disciples, teach them about sin and how to avoid and overcome it.

4) Parents create an atmosphere of love, then teach their children to solve problems and work together in unity—Disciple-makers involve disciples in Christian fellowship, then teach them how to apologize, forgive, and serve together.

5) Parents train their children to obey and help, then lead them to self-sustaining, starting their own families—Disciple-makers train disciples to serve and witness, leading them to evangelize and make disciples of others.

Disciples Abide in Jesus like the Branches and the Vine

The lesson order follows Jesus' teaching about the vine and the branch in John 15. Jesus taught his disciples that He is the vine and they are the branches. Every good spiritual thing comes from being in a close relationship with Jesus just as fruit comes when the branch is connected to the vine. The vine must also be pruned taking away extra unnecessary branches so that it can produce the most fruit. The lessons are divided into three sections:

- A) Love Jesus—Abide in the Vine
- B) Love Jesus more than anything else—Be pruned
- C) Love others as Jesus has loved you—Bear much fruit

More Good Bible Texts about Making Disciples

Take time to study these texts that show the ways that Paul made disciples, teaching people to follow his example as he followed Jesus. The person you select to help become a disciple of Jesus will learn much from watching you and doing things with you. That is why it is so important that you yourself do all the things that the lessons ask the disciple to do. Pray a lot for yourself and for the disciple because only by the power of the Holy Spirit in your heart can you follow Jesus.

Colossians 1:27-29 2 Timothy 2:2 Acts 19:8-10; 20:20-21, 26-27, 31
Philippians 3:17 and 4:9 1 Corinthians 11:1 Ephesians 4:11-16

Seven Stages in the Upward Walk

This set of lessons is one part of seven different levels for a growing follower of Jesus. They are especially useful after a person has been baptized. Other lessons will help in other stages.

- 7) Finisher
- 6) Disciple-Multiplier
- 5) Disciple-Maker
- 4) Disciple
- 3) New Creation
- 2) Learner
- 1) Unbeliever

Memorization Tips

A very important part of a disciple's life is abiding in the words of Jesus. Because of this there is a text to memorize in each lesson. Here are some ideas to help make memorization enjoyable and easy.

- 1) Carry cards with Bible texts written on one side and the reference on the other. Read them whenever you have a spare moment.
- 2) Say the reference before and after you say the text.
- 3) Learn the text exactly until you know every word without looking.
- 4) Recite the text to a partner who can check to see if you are doing it perfectly.
- 5) Meditate on the meaning, asking God to put it in your heart and life.
- 6) Review the texts you have memorized daily until the discipleship program is finished.
- 7) After you have thoroughly learned all the texts for this series, review them weekly.

Lesson Instruction

All the directions for teaching *Disciples of Jesus and the Cross of Christ* are in the actual lessons. The explanations below fill out some of the purposes behind the various sections of the lessons. These lessons are designed to be used effectively one-to-one, but may be used in a small group of 6-8 persons. If you have a small group, divide the groups into pairs so that they can help each other with the assignments. Try to choose one more mature Christian to match with a newer Christian.

Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs and for the Holy Spirit to lead your study

Explanation: This section teaches them to be thankful to God and to bring their needs to Him. It is a way the disciple-maker can show immediate interest and care for the disciple.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truth we learned in that story?

Explanation: This helps motivate the disciple to do what he learns, to "observe whatsoever I have commanded you."

Study God's Word

- 1) Read John 8:1-12 and 31-37 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus must do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?

- 5) More questions.....
- 6) Read and rely on these promises to help you be a faithful disciple
John 8:31-32 Romans 5:1-2 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Explanation: The first three questions are used at the beginning of every story because it will help the disciple to learn to ask similar questions no matter what Bible story he reads. These questions help him know Jesus better, learn God's will for his life, and rely upon God's strength to obey. This is a very practical and life-changing way of studying the Bible.

A person who cannot read or write can also remember these questions and learn the stories by heart. That way he can also be a disciple-maker. The promises are very important because it helps the disciple to rely upon God and not his own strength to follow Jesus, thus leading to victory and success.

Commit and Pray

- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

- This week memorize John 15:7.
- This week pray together daily, using the Lord's Prayer as an example of things to pray about.

Explanation: These questions and prayer move the disciple to action, using his new knowledge in a practical way. This gives specific small steps that will move a person to really follow Jesus. There is an emphasis on his family and his community so that he will learn to serve others, not just help himself.

The disciple-maker should not go on to the next lesson if the disciple has not completed the assignment. Instead he should go over the previous lesson again or use other stories review the same topic (these are found at the bottom of each lesson). Having a list of extra stories on the same topic emphasizes that being a disciple of Jesus is not a short series of studies, but is a complete life of growing and staying faithful. The disciple-maker can decide when to add these stories as he sees a need.

These lessons are produced by ASAP Ministries and written by Scott Griswold. For more information visit www.ASAPministries.org www.ReachtheWorldNextDoor.com To contact write to office@asapministries.org

Disciples of Jesus

“A Disciple...Who is Perfectly Trained will be Like His Teacher” (Luke 6:40)

Details of Lesson	Bible Story	Assignment
Love Jesus—Abide in the vine		
1) By repentance and faith	Jesus calls the disciples	Surrender
2) By prayer and praise	Mary and Martha	Pray and praise
3) By abiding in God’s word	The adulterous woman	Read the Bible daily
4) By claiming Bible promises	The temptations of Jesus	Claim promises
5) By true Sabbath-keeping	Healing withered hand	Keep Sabbath holy
Love Jesus more than anything else—Be pruned		
6) More than possessions	The rich young ruler	Give generously
7) More than family and friends	Jesus and Peter	Take a stand
8) More than desires and life	Jesus in the garden	Crucify desires
Love others as Jesus has loved you—Bear much fruit		
9) By serving one another	Jesus washes feet	Help someone
10) By forgiving one another	The unforgiving servant	Forgive your enemy
11) By healing and casting out	The sending of the 12	Bring healing
12) By telling God’s stories	Storytellers in Matthew 13	Share stories
13) By making disciples	Resurrection and the Great Commission	Make disciples

The main question: “Is the disciple growing in these areas?”

The Cross of Christ

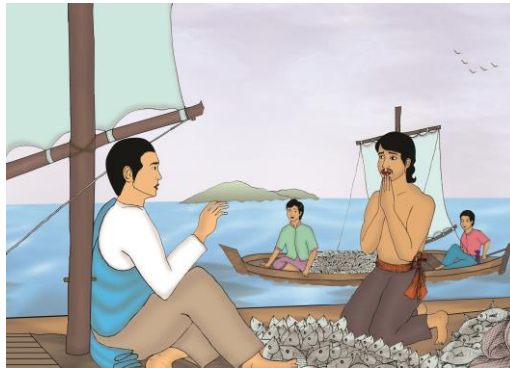
“For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Gospel Focus	Bible Story Focus	Assignment
1) Jesus’ sacrificial love	Betrayal and denial	Search heart for sin and self
2) Jesus empowers us to forgive	Jesus giving and forgiving	Forgive others
3) Forgiveness and eternal life	Barabbas and the thief	Repent, receive forgiveness
4) Jesus bears our griefs	Jesus pain and 2nd death	Take heartaches to Jesus
5) Mercy leads to a new life	Mary’s story	Rejoice in mercy, give all
6) Self crucified with Christ	Peter’s story	Put to death your self-will
7) Certainty of resurrection	Emmaus road and Thomas	Share your faith

The main question: “Is the disciple walking in salvation, knowing Christ and Him crucified?”

“Come Follow Me!”

Disciples of Jesus #1



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 4:38-5:11 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What are some of the things that Simon Peter saw Jesus do that helped him want to follow Jesus?
- 6) What are some things that God did for you before you decided to follow Jesus?
- 7) How did Peter feel when Jesus did this miracle for him?
- 8) How do you feel about Jesus inviting you to follow Him and make disciples with Him?
- 9) Is there anything you need to surrender now to follow Jesus better?

10) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
1 John 1:9 Philippians 4:19 1 Corinthians 15:10

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts, asking the Holy Spirit to show you any areas where you are not following Jesus. Confess and repent individually if there is any area God shows you.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 4:19.
- This week pray together daily if possible.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

**(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship:
John 6:1-21—The Feeding of the 5000 and Calming the Sea)**

“One Thing is Needed”

Disciples of Jesus #2



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 10:38-11:13 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) Which lady are you more similar too? Are you busy like Martha or praying and studying like Mary?
- 6) Why is it more important to spend time with Jesus than to serve?

- 7) What things did Jesus suggest we should pray about (see Luke 11:2-4, 13)?
- 8) What do the parables about the fathers teach regarding God's willingness to answer our prayers?
- 9) Do you have any questions about how to pray?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
John 15:7-8 Romans 8:26-27 James 4:2-3, 6

Commit

- Take a few minutes of quiet time to search your hearts to know if you are spending too little time at the feet of Jesus. Decide what you will do to be closer to Him.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 15:7.
- This week pray together daily, using the Lord's Prayer as an example of things to pray about (which includes praising God, confessing sins, and telling Him your requests).

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 18:1-8—The Persistent Widow; Luke 18:9-14—The Pharisee and the Publican)

“Abide in My Word”

Disciples of Jesus #3



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 7:1-10 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) Why did the elders think Jesus should help the centurion?
- 6) What was the centurion's attitude about Jesus?

- 7) What did the centurion believe about the power of Jesus' words?
- 8) God's word created the world and healed the sick. In what ways have you seen the Bible, the word of God, change people?
- 9) How has hearing and reading God's word helped you?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
John 8:31-32 2 Timothy 3:15-17 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Commit

- Take a few minutes of quiet time to ask God if there is a command of Christ that you are not obeying. Ask God to help you abide in His word so it can change you.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 8:31-32.
- This week meet together to read a chapter of the Bible every day and ask three questions:
 - A) What does this passage tell me about God?
 - B) What does this passage tell me that God wants me to do?
 - C) What promises are in this passage for me to claim?(Write the date by the chapter in your Bible).

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Matthew 7:26-27—The Wise and Foolish Builders; Mark 2:1-12—Jesus Heals a Paralytic)

“Live by Every Word”

Disciples of Jesus #4



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 4:1-11 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) In what ways are people tempted like Jesus to do wrong in order to have food to eat and provide for their families?
- 6) In what ways are people tempted like Jesus to do something dangerous or wrong and expect God to protect them?

- 7) In what ways are people tempted to love the world instead of worshipping and serving God?
- 8) How did Jesus overcome temptation?
- 9) How can you use God's word to help you overcome your temptations?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Psalm 119:11 2 Peter 1:2-4 Philippians 4:13

Commit

- Take a few minutes of quiet time to think about a temptation that you would like to overcome by God's word. Ask God to give you victory like Jesus had.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Psalm 119:11.
- This week meet together to read a chapter of the Bible every day and ask three questions:
 - A) What does this passage tell me about God?
 - B) What does this passage tell me that God wants me to do?
 - C) What promises are in this passage for me to claim?

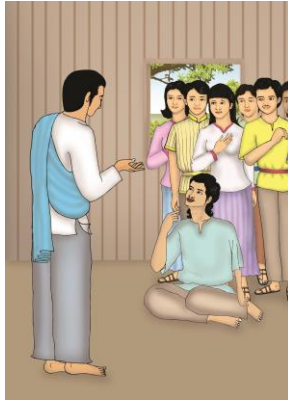
Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Matthew 8:5-13—The Centurion's Servant; Matthew 14:22-33—Jesus and Peter Walk on Water)

“Do Good on the Sabbath”

Disciples of Jesus #5



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Mark 3:1-6 and 2:27-28 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What kind of things did Jesus do on the Sabbath?
- 6) How have you been blessed by keeping the Sabbath?

- 7) Since Jesus made the Sabbath for humans, what can we do on that day to help others experience His love and power?
- 8) What kind of things should we not do on the Sabbath that would take away from honoring our Creator and distract from doing good for others?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Isaiah 58:13-14 Matthew 6:33 Ezekiel 20:12

Commit

- Take a few quiet minutes to think about your Sabbath-keeping and ask God to show you how you can keep it more holy.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Exodus 20:8.
- This week continue to read the Bible and pray daily (assume this is an ongoing assignment from now on).
- This week spend Sabbath together, learning how to keep the Sabbath holy. Go for walks in nature learning lessons from what God has created. Visit the sick. Share the gospel. Encourage church members. Put aside all work including housework and put aside TV, newspapers, internet or anything that will not draw you closer to God. Do this for several Sabbaths to help you grow.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 13:10-17—Healing of the Bent Over Woman; Exodus 16—Manna)

“Forsake All that You Have”

Disciples of Jesus #6



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Mark 10:13-31 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What was the man worried about even though he was rich?
- 6) Why do you think Jesus felt it was necessary for him to sell everything?

- 7) What blessings did Jesus say we would have when we forsake all to follow Him?
- 8) How can you better serve Jesus and the poor with your money, possessions, and time?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Luke 6:38 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 Mark 10:29-30

Commit

- Take a few minutes of quiet time to search your hearts to see where you may be wasting your money and your time. Confess this to God and ask Him to give you a generous heart to share freely with others in need.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Luke 14:33.
- This week go together to help someone who is in need. Give something to someone who has greater needs than you.
- This week pray together that God will help you give tithes and offerings faithfully and serve God with all that you have.

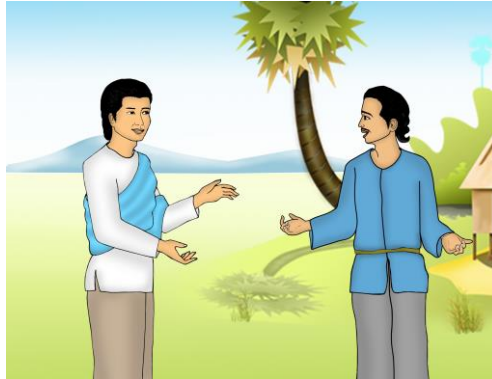
Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 12:13-21—The Rich Fool; Mark 12:41-44—The Widow's Mite; Matthew 25:31-46—The Sheep and the Goats; Matthew 25:14-30—The Talents)

“Love Jesus More”

Disciples of Jesus #7



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 16:13-27 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) Why did Peter rebuke Jesus?
- 6) What was Jesus' response to a close friend whose kindness would lead Jesus in the wrong direction?

- 7) What are some situations in which love for family and friends has led you or others you know to break God's commandments?
- 8) If we obey and love God more than those who are pressuring us to do wrong, what blessings can come to us and even to them?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Hebrews 13:5-6 Acts 4:19-20 and 5:29 Matthew 19:29

Commit

- Take a few quiet minutes to prayerfully examine your life to see where family, friends, and your culture have influenced you to not obey God. Confess this to God and turn to follow Jesus first.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 10:37.
- This week go together to visit family members who are not believers so that they can get to know others who are followers of Jesus.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship:

Matthew 12:46-50—Jesus and His Mother and Brothers; John 7:1-17, 30-31 and Acts 1:14—Jesus and His Brothers; Luke 4:16-30—The Disciples Leave Their Father).

“Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross”

Disciples of Jesus #8



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 26:36-56 (and Luke 22:44) or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What do you think made it hard for Jesus to choose to die for us on the cross?
- 6) How do pleasures such as alcohol, drugs, entertainment, and even food hinder people from serving others and loving Jesus well?

- 7) What can you learn from Jesus' three prayers that will help you each time God asks you to do something that goes against your desires?
- 8) Jesus was willing to suffer and even die in order to save people. What do you think He meant when He asked His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Galatians 6:14 and 2:20 John 12:24-26 Matthew 5:10-12

Commit

- Take a few quiet minutes to examine your life for any pleasures that are keeping you from serving God one hundred percent. Confess them to Him and turn to live unselfishly through the power of Jesus.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Luke 14:27.
- This week do something every day to show love to somebody when you want to do something for yourself instead.
- This week share the gospel with someone that you are afraid is not interested.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Matthew 13:44—Treasure Hidden; Matthew 13:45-46—The Pearl of Great Price; Matthew 10—The Cost of Following Jesus)

“Love One Another”

Disciples of Jesus #9



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read John 13:1-7 and 34-35 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What were some of the mistakes and sins of the disciples?
- 6) How did Jesus show His love to the disciples?
- 7) What will our congregations look like when we love each other as Jesus loved us?

8) What will our families look like when we love each other as Jesus loved us?

9) What will our neighborhoods look like when we love each other as Jesus loved us?

10) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.

1 John 4:7

Romans 5:5

James 3:16-18

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts, asking the Holy Spirit to show you where you are not loving people as Jesus did. Ask God to pour His love into your heart so that it will overflow to others at school, work, home, and in the community.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 13:35.
- This week choose one extra kind thing to do for a family member, a church member, and someone in your neighborhood.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 10:25-37—The Good Samaritan; Mark 1:40-45—Healing the Leper; Matthew 9:9-13—The Calling of Matthew)

“Forgive as God Forgave You”

Disciples of Jesus #10



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 18:21-35 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) Think of someone who has hurt you very much. Think about Jesus' suffering on the cross. Tell some of the ways that Jesus suffered which are similar to your sufferings.

- 6) God has forgiven you for killing His son Jesus on the cross. How does this help you forgive others?
- 7) How else does God want you to show love to your enemies as Jesus has loved you?
- 8) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Matthew 6:14 Ephesians 2:16-18 Romans 12:17-21

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts for any unforgiveness and bitterness toward someone. Tell God your anger and hurt. Ask God to forgive you, cleanse you, and fill your heart with Jesus' love towards that person. Choose to say, "I forgive him. I will let God change him or judge him." Ask God to show you how to be kind toward that person. Do it again as much as needed.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Luke 6:40.
- This week pray together daily for your hearts to fully forgive those who have hurt you and to pray for those people to be changed and fully follow Jesus.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 22:47-51 and 23:32-34—Jesus and His Enemies)

“Heal the Sick, Cast Out Demons”

Disciples of Jesus #11



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 9:27-38 and 10:1-15 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) What miracles have you seen God do?
- 6) How can you help people receive healing from God?

- 7) How can you help people be free from the power of evil spirits?
- 8) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
James 5:13-17 Psalm 103:1-5 Mark 16:15-18

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts, asking the Holy Spirit to show you if there are ways you should be improve your habits in order to be healthier. Make sure you have closed all entryways for evil spirits into your lives.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 10:8.
- This week go together to help someone who is sick or troubled by evil spirits.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Luke 15:1-32—Seeking the Lost; Luke 10:1-20—The 70 Sent Out; Matthew 17:14-21—Healing the Demonic Boy; Luke 8:40-56—Healing Lady and Girl)

“Bring Out Treasure, New and Old”

Disciples of Jesus #12



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 51-52 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) Which of the four soils do you think you are at this time in your life?
- 6) Should we share the seed of God's word with all people or just with those who seem to have a heart like the good soil?

- 7) In verse 52 Jesus said that those who have become disciples are like a householder who brings new and old things out of his treasure. You now know many old stories from the Bible. With whom does God want you to share these stories?
- 8) The new treasures are your own personal stories of what God has done for you. Share one short testimony now.
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Matthew 10:19-20 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 Acts 4:31

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts, asking the Holy Spirit to show you if you lack courage to tell God's stories. Ask Him to fill your heart with thankfulness and boldness.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 13:52.
- This week tell a Bible story to someone.
- This week tell your own story of what God has done for you to someone. (Go out witnessing together so you can learn from hearing each other).

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: Mark 5:1-20—Healing the Demoniak; Luke 15—Seeking the Lost; Matthew 5-7—Jesus' Teaching)

“Go Make Disciples”

Disciples of Jesus #13



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Matthew 28 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story teach that you as a disciple of Jesus should do?
- 4) What did Jesus do to help the disciples follow Him?
- 5) In Matthew 28:18-20, the main action word of Jesus' command is to “make disciples.” What are the other three things that Jesus said to do that will help us make disciples?

- 6) Where in your community and country do you need to **go** to make disciples?
- 7) How can you help someone to experience the salvation that **baptism** is a symbol of?
- 8) What have you learned that you can **teach** someone to follow?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about how God can help you be a faithful disciple.
Acts 1:8 Matthew 9:37-38 2 Timothy 1:7

Commit

- Spend a few minutes quietly searching your hearts, thinking about all you have learned about being a disciple. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there is anything more He wants to do in you before you begin to help others be a disciple of Jesus. Commit yourself again to fully following Jesus.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Matthew 28:19-20.
- This week pray earnestly and find someone who is a new member and invite him to become a disciple of Jesus through the same process that you have been helped. Continue to meet together with the one that has helped you, so that he can give you further counsel and prayer support as you make disciples for Jesus.

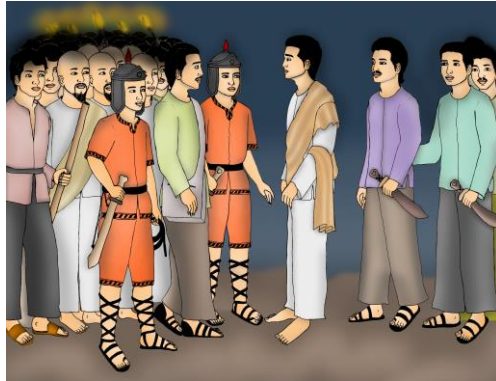
Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

(Other stories to help you grow further in this area of discipleship: The book of Acts)

“Not My Will Be Done”

Cross of Christ #1



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Study God's Word

- 11) Read Matthew 26:1-5, 14-30, 36-56 or tell the story.
- 12) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 13) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 14) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 15) What parts of the story show that Jesus knew He was going to die?
- 16) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knew He was going to die but didn't run away?
- 17) How do you think Jesus felt when Judas betrayed Him and the disciples ran away from Him?
- 18) What are some of the ways we are sometimes selfish like Judas, the disciples, and the religious leaders?
- 19) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:

Romans 5:6-11

Ezekiel 36:31, 26-27

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Commit

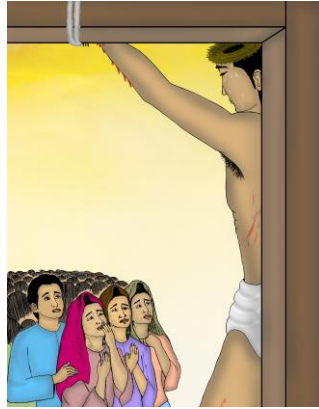
- Spend a few quiet minutes asking God to show you any sin in your heart and life that are similar to Judas, the disciples and the leaders where you might be putting money, power, or personal pleasure before obedience to God. Ask God for power to turn completely away from these sins and to live to love and help others like Jesus.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize 1 Corinthians 6:11.
- This week give away something that you want for yourself. It may be money or time or a position at work or in the church.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“Father Forgive Them”

Cross of Christ #2



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 22:63-71 and 23:1-34 and John 19:25-27 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) In what ways did Jesus show compassion to women while He Himself was suffering?

- 6) What did Jesus do and say around His enemies?
- 7) Who do you have a hard time loving? (Think about specific individuals and groups of people).
- 8) How can the love of Jesus towards sinners help you to love those who have hurt you?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:
1 Peter 2:19-25 Romans 5:5 Ephesians 2:14-18

Commit

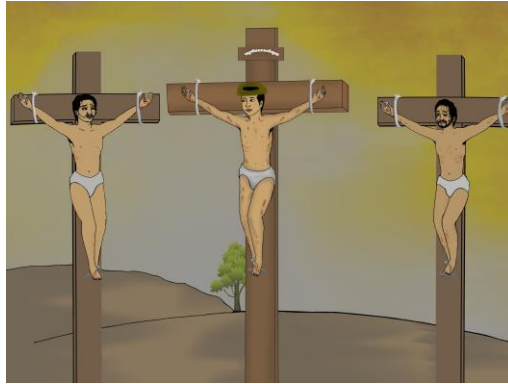
- Spend a few quiet moments thinking about the people that you do not like and those who have hurt you. Ask God to forgive you for any unforgiveness that is still in your heart. Ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can love them with Jesus' love.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize 1 John 4:7.
- This week do something kind for someone you do not like. Love them with your words and actions as Jesus did on the cross.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“You Will Be With Me In Paradise”

Cross of Christ #3



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 23:13-25 and 35-43 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) Since Pilate did not find any fault in Jesus, why do you think he still had Jesus crucified?
- 6) What kind of sins had Barabbas and the other criminals committed?

- 7) How do Jesus' words to the criminal make you feel?
- 8) What good words and attitude did the criminal have that made it possible for him to receive Jesus' promise of forgiveness and a place in heaven?
- 9) How has God's mercy towards you changed your life?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:

John 3:16-19

1 John 2:1-2

Romans 3:21-26

Commit

- Spend a few quiet moments asking God to show you any sins in your heart or life. Are you in any way like Pilate, willing to do what is wrong because you are afraid of the opinions of others? Confess your need of God and ask for His help like the criminal on the cross.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize John 3:16.
- Tell someone this week about the gift of forgiveness and heaven that they can have through Jesus. Invite them to confess their sins and receive the gift of eternal life.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

Cross of Christ #4



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read John 19:28 and Matthew 27:27-61 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) What painful things did Jesus experience on the cross?
- 6) What shameful things did Jesus experience?

- 7) Think about the different people who betrayed, denied, rejected, and mocked Jesus. How do you think it made Him feel?
- 8) Jesus received all of the sins of the world on Him at the cross. These sins separated Him from His Father in Heaven. He could no longer see past death to His resurrection and cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Still Jesus did not come down from the cross. How does it make you feel to know He loves you that much?
- 9) Jesus experienced terrible sufferings in every area similar to our pain and heartaches. How does this help you deal with your pain?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:
Isaiah 53:3-6 Hebrews 12:1-4 Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16

Commit

- Spend a few quiet moments to think about the pain that you have experienced. Have you been beaten, shamed, mocked, rejected, or abandoned? Tell Jesus about your pain. Ask Him to heal your heart through His love on the cross.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Isaiah 53:5.
- Look for someone this week who is in physical or emotional pain. Help them in some tangible way. As God leads, share with them about the ways in which Jesus has experienced and understands their suffering.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“Mary, Your Sins Are Forgiven”

Cross of Christ #5



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 7:36-50 and John 20:1-18 (for more details you can read John 12:1-8, Mark 15:39-47 and 16:1-11) or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) Simon and Judas despised Mary. What kind of sinners do many people despise in our societies?

- 6) In what ways did Jesus show compassion to Mary throughout her life?
- 7) What are some of the things Mary did to show her thankfulness to Jesus for forgiving her sins?
- 8) What can we do to show our gratitude to Jesus in greater ways?
- 9) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:
Psalm 51:10-13 and 17 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Psalm 32:5 and 10-11

Commit

- Spend a few quiet moments thinking about people you have despised. Think about how much Jesus loves them and ask Him to forgive you and give you His love for them.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Psalm 136:1.
- This week find someone who needs to know that Jesus can forgive their sins and tell them how He has forgiven you.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“Simon, I Have Prayed For You”

Cross of Christ #6



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 22:31-34 and 54-62, and John 21:15-19 (for more details you can read Mark 14:27-31, 16:1-8 and John 21:1-14) or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) Why do you think Peter failed in his promise to never deny Jesus?
- 6) How have you felt when you failed to obey God in the same thing over and over?

- 7) What did Jesus do to show His love and forgiveness to Peter after the resurrection?
- 8) What do you know about the rest of Peter's life that shows how God changed him?
- 9) In what ways can Jesus help you when your temptations are strong?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:
2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Galatians 6:19 Colossians 3:1-10

Commit

- Spend a few quiet moments thinking about ways in which you have been self-willed and not followed Jesus' leading. Ask God to forgive you and give you a deeper conversion in which you can follow Jesus even to death.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Galatians 2:20.
- Go courageously to share the gospel even with those who are against it.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.

“Blessed Are Those Who Believe”

Cross of Christ #7



Praise and Pray

- What can you praise God for since we last met?
- What concerns or worries have you had recently?
- Pray for each other's needs. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit as you meet.

Review

- Recite the previous memory text together by pairs.
- What did we learn the last time we were together?
- What has changed in your life because of the truths we learned in that story?

Study God's Word

- 1) Read Luke 24:13-35 and John 20:24-29 or tell the story.
- 2) What does this story tell you about Jesus' character?
- 3) What does this story show about the sins and selfishness of people?
- 4) What does this story reveal about the salvation Jesus gives us?
- 5) Why do you think Jesus taught the two men from the prophecies in the scriptures instead of just showing them that He was alive?

- 6) How do you think they felt when they suddenly realized that Jesus was alive from the dead?
- 7) Thomas doubted even though the other disciples told him that Jesus had risen from the dead. What did Jesus do for him and say to him?
- 8) What has God done to help you when you have had doubts?
- 9) What does God want you to do for others now that you know He rose from the dead and is alive to help you?
- 10) Read these promises and talk about what Jesus can do to save us from our sins:
Philippians 1:6 Hebrews 10:35-39 Proverbs 3:5-8

Commit

- Spend a few quiet moments thinking about ways in which you have doubted God or been unnecessarily sad and complaining. Ask God to forgive you and deepen your trust and joy in Him.
- What did you learn today that you will do this week through Jesus' power?
- This week memorize Hebrews 11:6.
- Share with someone this week the evidences from prophecy and from your own life that can help him or her believe that Jesus is alive and will answer his or her prayers.
- Choose someone that you think would be helped by these Bible stories about Jesus and the cross and invite him or her to go through them with you.

Pray

- Talk about the needs in your families and communities and decide if there is something you can do this week to help.
- Pray for each other, your families, and your communities now.