



What is a Disciple?

June 21, 2020

This week, we'll examine some basics of what being a disciple of Jesus means. What does it mean to follow Jesus, imitate Him, and multiply like Him?

The Greek term for “disciple” in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which means more than just “student” or “learner.” A disciple is a “follower,” someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his/her rule of life and conduct.

1. Follow Jesus

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

“Following Jesus *begins* when we respond to His call to repent and believe the Good News that God loves us and has taken the initiative to reconcile us to himself by giving his Son to atone for our sins. This awakens us to God’s grace and moves us to want to live for Christ and follow him.”

— Tom Tarrants, C. S. Lewis Institute

He's the Boss

To truly follow Christ is a commitment to make Him your boss.

[Q] Read Philippians 2:9-11. What role does worship have in following Jesus?

[Q] If Jesus is your boss, how is every decision and dream filtered according to 1 Corinthians 10:31?

[Q] Read Matthew 10:37-39 and Luke 14:33. How is following Jesus costly? What has it cost you?

[Q] Read Mark 1:16–20. What did it cost the men in this passage to follow Jesus?

Apply:

Ask God to show you any area of your life where you have not made Jesus the boss. You *are* a disciple. The question is: Who are you following?

2. Imitate Jesus

Following Jesus means growing to be like Him.

[Q] According to John 8:29 and John 15:10, what should we strive to do?

[Q] Read John 13:14-5; 34-35 and 1 John 2:6. What are some ways Jesus calls His followers to be like Him?

It is only through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit that we can obey the teaching of Jesus and follow His example.

Apply:

What character quality is Jesus wanting to shape in you? What skills does Jesus want you to develop?

3. Multiply Like Jesus

Following Jesus means pointing people to Him. Disciples make disciples.

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Mark 1:17
"As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" John 20:21

[Q] As disciples of Jesus, we are on a mission. What is the mission according to the following passages? What do they have in common? How does teamwork play a part in each?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:14-17

2 Timothy 2:2

Matthew 28:18-20

Apply: How do we make disciples of all nations? It takes the church working together.

- Pray: for missionaries, for unreached areas where the name of Jesus isn't known or revered. (Colossians 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:1)
- Give: to support the work of those who multiply disciples abroad. (Phil. 4:18)
- Go: short-term trips expand people's vision of how God works abroad and supports the work of the long-term missionary. (2 Tim. 4:9)

[Q] What is your next spiritual step as a disciple of Jesus? Jot down some ideas here:
