

Discipleship Training

Part 1

Understanding Discipleship

Matthew 22:37–40 KJV 1900

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 28:19–20 KJV 1900

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

1 John 2:2 KJV 1900

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

2 Peter 3:9 KJV 1900

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The real fulfillment of a teacher, is not to see thoughts or ideas implanted into the mind of a pupil, but to see them pick up those thoughts, grow in them, and repeat them to others!

Ephesians 2:10 KJV 1900

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Understanding your Role

Invest!

1 Thessalonians 2:7 KJV 1900

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

Mentoring—Biblical discipleship is a way of life. As you work through the material in *Continue* together, think of yourself not so much as a teacher (although you are teaching) but as a mentor.

Ministry Involvement—One of the vital aspects of Christian growth is personal involvement in soul winning and in serving the Lord through local church ministry. As you complete lesson 10, work toward involving the disciple in a regular church ministry. In this lesson, he is encouraged to discover his spiritual gifts, and this is a good time to find out what area of ministry interests him. Also, we recommend that you, and his mentor, invite him to participate with you in times of soulwinning and gospel outreach.

After the course is completed—Completing a discipleship course is only the beginning of what we pray will be a lifetime of closely walking with God for a new Christian. Continue to encourage spiritual growth through times of fellowship, mentoring, and serving the Lord together.

Mentoring through discipleship is part of Christ's great commission:

Matthew 28:20 KJV 1900

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

2 Timothy 2:2 KJV 1900

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Expectations

Be Prepared—Have your work done before you assign it to your disciple. Come to the meeting with your book completed - the questions are filled out, the blanks are filled in and your memory verse is memorized. This will help your disciple know that you are not expecting him to do something that you will not do.

Communicate—Be willing to communicate to our staff any struggles you or your disciple is going through.

Be Faithful—If we expect the next generation of Christians to be faithful, we have to model it now. Be committed to the 14 weeks that it takes to go through the material.

Understanding the Layout

Let's Review the Book

Table of Contents—Turn to the table of Contents. There are 14 lessons in the book. Each lesson is a Weekly package of material for you and your disciple.

Weekly Package—Each week contains the lesson itself followed by five daily devotional readings along with seven daily passages of Scripture reading. The lesson is designed to be covered in one sitting and then the devotional readings give further information and encouragement to the disciple as eh develops a habit of daily reading God's Word.

Lesson Components—Every lesson covers a specific topic of basic doctrine and Christian living. TI contains an introduction and three main points followed by an application and assignment.

Verse Lookups—One of the benefits of discipleship is that a new Christian gains experience in looking up verses in the Bible and thus learning the order of the books and how to readily find passages. This takes time and is developed over the course of several weeks. Each lesson in this course includes around twenty references in bold, without the text of the verse. These references are key verses to the topic and are designed for you and the disciple to look up in the Bible.

Conversation Starters—Throughout the lessons you'll find "conversation starters" in the margins. These are designed to spark conversation that leads to personal examples or practical application. As a mentor, these conversation starters are something you'll want to look at in advance so you will have already considered if you have person input at these moments. Feel free to add your own as well.

Session Time—Each lesson is written with a 45-60 minute time frame in mind. Some lessons may take less time and some more, depending on the questions the disciple has and the amount of material you add as you teach the lesson. As a mentor, it is helpful if you look over the lesson in advance so you know if you will be adding personal illustrations or Bible passage context in one part of the lesson and you may want to skip a conversation starter earlier in the lesson in order to complete the lesson in one sitting. If you have a week or two where you are not able to complete the lesson in one sitting, simply pick up where you left off the following week.

Devotional Readings—At the end of each lesson are five daily readings. The first four are devotional, and the fifth is review questions from the lesson. As you begin the next lesson, take a moment to ask how the daily readings went, to review the answers to the questions, and to ask if your disciple has any additional questions regarding the previous week's material.

Questions—A key element to learning is asking questions. Be sure to provide time for the person you are discipling to ask questions. You will not know the answer to every question, and that's okay. When a question is asked to which you don't know a Biblical answer, simply say that you're not sure and will come back with an answer the following week. In the coming week, be sure to study Scripture for the answer or to ask your pastor or another mature Christian for help.

Appendix—There are five appendixes in the back of the book.

Appendix A – This where you will find the fill in the blank answers.

Appendix B – This is the answer to the lesson review questions.

Appendix C-Topical memory verses for Bible Memory.

Appendix D—This section will help you and your disciple understand why we use the King James Version

Appendix E—Bible Reading Schedules. Make a copy for your Disciple!

Understanding the Material

Lesson 1: The Word of God

In the very first lesson, it is imperative that we start with the **foundation** of God's Word.

Take time to share your **testimony**.

A Testimony is made up of three parts:

1. What you were before Christ (Sinner)
2. What Christ did for you (Salvation)
3. What you are after Christ (Sanctification)

The first lesson also lays out what you will learn, what they should expect, and what commitments they need to be willing to make.

Lesson 1 starts with a general introduction to the Bible

God Wrote the Bible - We are the recipients of God revealing himself to us through the Special revelation called the Bible.

God Has Preserved the Bible - Much doubt has been thrown upon the Bible by people saying, with so many versions, how can we trust it? This section helps to answer that question. As we recognize that the Almighty God who created all things can also Preserve the Bible!

God Uses the Bible Today - The Bible has power in the lives and hearts of people today! That is the message we need to be reminded of, it is a supernatural book for today, not just another historical account, but it contains the Gospel - the power of God unto salvation!

Lesson 2: Knowing God

God has revealed Himself to us! - God does not expect us to just figure out for ourselves who He is. He revealed himself through creation. He revealed himself throughout history. We see him in the garden, in Noah's day, and many other

ways. He revealed himself through the human conscience. He revealed himself through the Scriptures. He revealed himself through the Son!

God exists as a Trinity. There is ONE God! God is a tri-unity. This topic is also further studied in Lesson 3 as we study Christ. We are made in the image of God. We are created in His likeness mentally, socially, morally, and spiritually.

The Bible tells us about God's Characteristics. In addition to the truth that God is a Trinity—three in one—the Bible tells us much more about our God and His characteristics. Some Characteristics belong to God alone. But some are attributes he wants to develop in us.

Lesson 3: Who is Jesus?

People today have many views of who Jesus is. Some say that He was a good man, even a great teacher. Others say that He was an impostor—a man who claimed to be God but was not. Still others suggest He was a prophet. Knowing Who Jesus is guards us against false teachers. Knowing who Jesus is allows us to know and follow Him.

Jesus is God. The fact that Jesus is indeed God is revealed throughout Scripture. He is called God. His works prove He is God. He is worshipped as God. His character proves He is God.

Jesus is the Saviour of the World. The Bible tells us that not only is Jesus God, but that He humbled himself to come to this earth, take on human flesh, die on the cross for our sins, and rise from the dead as our risen Saviour.

Jesus is the Risen Lord. The most spectacular evidence of Jesus' deity was his bodily resurrection from the dead. As the Lord, He should be Lord of our lives!

Reject any teacher that questions or denies Jesus' deity. Look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus. Pray about burdens and temptations you face and remember that He is with you.

Lesson 4: Your Salvation

What an incredible day when you were saved! You passed from darkness to light, You were born again. You have been redeemed-bought back. You are adopted into God's family!

This lesson answers some common questions that people have about salvation.

Can I lose my salvation? Sometimes after a person trusts Christ as Saviour, they begin to worry that maybe something they do wrong will make them lose the promise of eternal life. But this lesson teaches: God's promise is forever! We have a security deposit in The Holy Spirit.

What if I don't feel saved? Sometimes reality and feelings don't match. We have assurance because of God's presence. The moment you trusted Christ as your Saviour, the Holy Spirit took up residence in you. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit assures our hearts of our relationship with God.

Why Should I be Baptized? This is an exciting step of obedience after you are saved. It is an outward expression of an inward decision! Baptism is an identification. Baptism is for Every Christian. Baptism should be by Immersion. Baptism should take place soon after salvation.

Salvation is the greatest gift any person has ever been given. But Satan will do everything he can to cause you to question if you are really a child of God. So settle in your heart forever that salvation is for eternity! Share your testimony and your doubts with a mature Christian. Be Baptized and declare to the world that you belong to God!

Discipleship Training - Part 2

Review from Last Week

Understanding the Material (Continued)

Lesson 5: Developing a Prayer life

There are not enough words to describe the wonder and privilege of prayer. Prayer is how we bring our needs to God. It is how we unburden our hearts before Him. And it is one of the ways that we strengthen our relationship with Him.

Prayer is an invitation. Prayer is talking to God. It is asking for our needs because He hears us, he cares about our troubles, and He desires to grant our requests.

Prayer is a command. We should Prayer regularly. We should pray continually. Pray with Faith. Pray with the right motives, and according to God's Will through Jesus name. Pray with others and pray privately with earnest sincerity. Pray with a plan (the structure of the Lord's Prayer) like the ACTS model.

Prayer is fellowship with God. Beware of hindrances to prayer like unconfessed sin, unforgiveness, disregard for God's Word. Allow Prayer to restore fellowship. So determine a time you will pray and start a list!

Lesson 6: Your Relationship with God's Word

God's Word is infallible and unchanging. But it is not only true, it is life-changing. It can meet the deepest needs of your life and answer the greatest questions of your heart.

God's Word can meet your needs. The Bible is profitable (Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction). It nourishes your spiritual growth.

God's Word should be in your routines. Read it daily. Set a time, and place to read. Follow a Bible reading plan. Ask God to guide you before you read, and ask questions about what you read. Keep a journal to record verses and passages that the H.S. applies to your life. Hear it constantly, Meditate on it continually, Study and apply it.

God's Word will transform your life. Understanding the Bible increases your knowledge of God. Obeying the Bible produces Christlike maturity. Continued use of the Bible produces spiritual discernment.

Set a regular time for reading your Bible. Make your time in God's word a habit, and never stop memorizing the Word!

Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit

From the moment of your salvation, God Himself came to live within you in the person of the Holy Spirit. But what does that mean for your life on a daily basis? How does the Holy Spirit work in your life?

The Holy Spirit ministers to your heart. He is the Divine comforter. He guides you to truth. He strengthens you for service. He empowers your witness.

Being Filled with the Holy Spirit makes the Christian life work. Scripture instructs us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are instructed to walk in the Spirit. The Scripture warns to not sin against the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His transformation in your life. The Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

Make a definite commitment to yield every part of your life to Him.

Lesson 8: The Life of a Disciple

True discipleship is much more than a course. It is a commitment to follow Christ unconditionally.

A disciple is fully surrendered to God. It is motivated by God's mercy to us. It is complete surrender. It is reasonable. God doesn't demand what we can't offer.

A disciple battles sin and the flesh. There are three main sources of temptation: The world, the flesh and the devil. But God has given the power to overcome temptation: Use the Word, You don't have to sin, avoid temptation, ungodly friends, and ask for help.

A disciple lives a sanctified life. We serve a holy God who calls us to live holy lives. God's grace develops holiness.

Make a definite decision to fully surrender to God - At this point, I asked my disciple to consider it before signing. I came back to this place and asked him the following week if He had made this commitment and how he came to this conclusion.

Lesson 9: The Local Church

One of the best parts of the Christian life is being part of the local church.

The Church is precious. Christ loved the church so much that He gave himself for it! He called out the church, He purchased it, and He commissioned It. Therefore, Christ should have the preeminence.

The Church is Distinct. It is a called out assembly. We are patterned after the New Testament Churches: Biblical Authority, Autonomy, priesthood of the believer, Two offices, Individual soul liberty, separation of Church and state, Two Ordinances , Separation

The Church is Vital. It serves as guardian of the Truth (Which is why our job is so crucial!) We are God's plan to reach the world (There is NO backup plan). It is God's place to nurture the Christian

Through this lesson it stresses the importance of the church and the vital role that it plays in the life of a Christian. Encourage them to be faithful in all services, knowing that the church helps to firmly root and establish a believer.

Lesson 10: Your Place in Your church Family

This lesson builds off of the last lesson. The previous lesson teaches big truths about the church, in Lesson 10, we help them to discover their place in it. Throughout discipleship, it is important to help our disciple get plugged into a ministry.

Join the work of the ministry. God has entrusted the church with the gospel and responsibility of taking it to the world. He also entrusts us with encouraging and serving one another. These are the responsibilities of the church as a whole.

Use Your Spiritual Gifts. Discover your gift - Have a copy of the Spiritual gifts test to make sure your disciple is able to discern where they may fit. They may have a natural inclination to a certain ministry, and this is a great place for them to start. Encourage them to Use their gift

Remain committed to the family. Being part of a local church carries similar commitments as being part of a family. Remember one another regularly. Love, serve, gracious, being like-minded, and give preference to others. Resolve differences biblically - Don't let Satan get a foothold.

Lesson 11: Financial Stewardship

One of the most significant areas of our life is finances. Regardless of whether you have a lot or a little, our financial decisions impact our lives every day.

God provides everything we have. God is the owner of it all and as such we are simply stewards of His blessings. We will one day give an account to God for how we used the resources He blessed us with.

God's Word instructs us to give. We are to give regularly, by grace and with a willing heart.

God rewards our giving. God will meet our needs, and bless the gifts that we give. These gifts that we give become fruit that multiplies on our heavenly account!

Encourage new believers to give. It is important that we demonstrate that it is not just a matter of obeying, but it demonstrates our heart in trusting God.

Lesson 12: Go and Tell the Good News

The greatest news in the entire world is the message of salvation! This lesson deals with the instruction to share the Gospel, and the practical of how to share it with others.

We are commanded to spread the Gospel. It is our responsibility, and we are able to accomplish this through soul-winning and missions.

We are instructed to witness. We are more prone to witness regularly if we are involved in Soul-winning! So know the Gospel and how to share it. This is a great opportunity to review the gospel, and help them understand what God did for them at the moment of salvation. It is also a great time to teach them how to share the Gospel. If you don't know how yourself, then I encourage you to take time to start sharing!

We are enabled by the Holy Spirit. He is the one that empowers, and works in hearts. Therefore, take opportunities to share the Gospel. Encourage your disciple to go with you on soul-winning and visitation so they can hear you share the Gospel with others.

Lesson 13: Living in the Light of Eternity

Some of the most encouraging truths for a believer relate to the realities of eternity. The glorious truth is that the difficulties and burdens of this life won't last forever. This lesson deals with those truths.

A daily battle rages. There are unseen spiritual forces in the world that actively oppose God and the people of God. Satan is at war against God, but don't lose hope, God (the infinite) has equipped us for battle - this is an opportunity to review the armor of the Lord.

Future Victory is certain! During this section, you get to review upcoming events with your disciple. Rapture, Judgment seat of Christ, the Tribulation, the Second Coming, Millennial Reign and the Great white throne Judgment will all be covered in this section.

We should live today in the light of eternity. The reality is that these events could take place at any moment. So share the Gospel, because we will give an account. This section also reviews the different crowns that will be given to the faithful believer on the judgment day.

Knowing what is coming, and living in preparation to it are important for us to remember are different. When we believe that these events are true, we will continue to faithfully follow Christ.

Lesson 14: Continue

In the final lesson, your job is to encourage the Disciple to continue! We don't want them to stop.

Continue in the Word. Receive the word by maintaining a right spirit. Study the Word by being a constant student of God's Word. Apply the word by obeying what God's word teaches.

Continue Following Jesus. By being surrendered. Make sure that every area of your life has been surrendered to Christ, and that nothing separates you from living for Him.

Continue mentoring others. This is the process of multiplication! God calls us not just to add, but to multiply. Encourage your disciple to continue to multiply the Word of God in people by "Teaching others also." Lead by your own example, and be willing to invest personally.

This lesson is geared to helping your disciple have a vision for continuing, and not just stopping their quest for following Christ, and fulfilling His purpose in their life. Don't stop reaching out to your student. Text them scripture, or ask how their Bible study is going. Take them for coffee to continue to encourage them. Andrew and I set up a by-weekly time to get together. Remember, this is not just a course, but an investment into the life of a young Christian!

Communication:

Stay in the Loop: Sign up on the email list to receive encouragement and information about discipleship.

Weekly Reports: There is also in your packet tonight an example of the weekly reports. When you are assigned your disciple, you will receive 13 of these including information we may have about your disciple. Fill them out after each lesson.

Final Questionnaire: When you finish lesson 14, take time to complete the questionnaire. It will allow us to know how to plug them into ministry, or if they are ready for the next step.

Assimilate:

I want to remind you that we are not only helping to teach, but to help people find a permanent place into the family of Hillside.

Introduce them to others. Take time to introduce them to other believers. Sit in different places in the church with them and introduce them to people who are of similar backgrounds or people that might encourage them to growth. Invite them and another family to your home for dinner. Or, invite them to dinner out together. The importance is to help them build relationships so they can grow in Christ.

Plug them in. Invite them to serve with you. Direct them to ministry leaders of areas of ministry they have a desire to be a part of.

The Meeting

The Meeting Place: For many it will be the fellowship hall on Wednesday nights. We will set up some snacks, and drinks each week for your time together. For others they may have to meet on a time other than Wednesday, and at those times, make sure it is a place that is free of distractions. Most nights there will not be any kind of formal kick off. The first night, I will welcome our disciples and disciplers and invite them to share a little about themselves. We will sing a song, pray, and let you have your time with the disciple. Other than the first kick off night, you will find the room will be set up, and prepared for you so that you can get right to work.

Kicking off. In the first meeting, you may or may not have much of a relationship with your new disciple. As such, it is important for you to listen to them, and learn about their life and interests. You can also share about yourself. As we shared last time, the first lesson has a great introductory section that helps people know what will be expected of them and help them to commit to it. Get their phone number, and offer yours. You want them to feel free to contact you. New Christians need a life-line, and your ability to walk them through the scriptures will be a natural outpouring of that for them.

Getting Started each week (10 min) As I begin each week, I want to find out how their week went. I want to review the prayer requests from last time and ask if there were any answers to them. I want to take time to hear any new struggles they may have and pray with them regarding those needs. I take time to ask them about the

lesson from last week if they were able to use it in their life, or if they had any questions from their Bible reading or the study. I would then take time to have them share their memory verse and review homework answers.

Sharing the Lesson (45 min). Include the disciple in the lesson. Allow them to read parts of the lesson and scripture with you. Ask questions about the material to ensure they understand. Use the conversation starters along the side. If they ask you a question that you are not able to answer, just tell them, you don't know, write down the question, and try to find the answer. When we finish the lesson, take time to review what you've covered it before we go on to the application.

Finishing up (5 Min). Use this time to point out how God's Word has the answers to any of the problems you prayed about initially. Review the memory verse, and pray together to close. Make sure to discuss the next meeting time and schedule it so they are looking forward to it.

Multiply!

I want to thank you personally for your investment into the lives of new believers. Your desire to help them, will in turn help us to multiply at Hillside. May God richly bless you as you endeavor to serve Him faithfully!