

# Discipleship Course: Class Five

November 3, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

### Memory Verse Work

- In pairs, briefly review and quiz one another on the two memory verses: Matthew 28:18-20 and Colossians 1:28-29

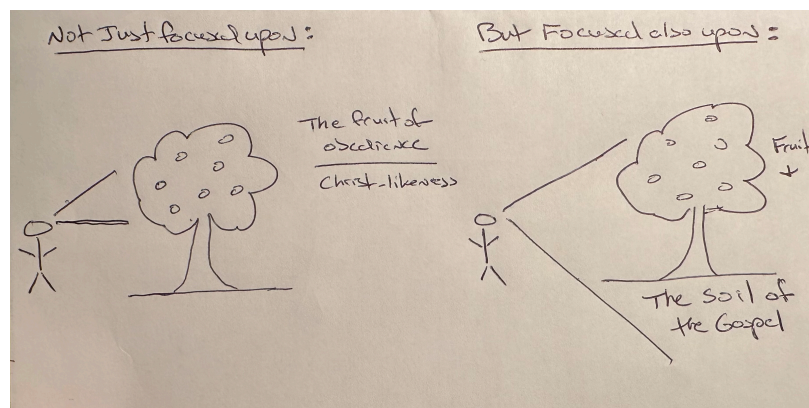
### Quick Review

What is our definition of discipleship? Answer: Helping one another grow in Christ

We are in the section of our notes on *PRACTICING DISCIPLESHIP*. We are looking at keys to effectively discipling one another.

The first key is the Gospel.

- The Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection for our eternal salvation.
- Just like we see in many of the epistles, we want to make sure we are growing together in a clearer and deeper understanding of the Gospel, in all that God has accomplished in Christ for us.
- Although we are to be helping one another grow in obedience to Christ's commands (i.e. Matt 28:20), we must not only teach the commands, but teach and constantly ground one another in what empowers the commands and that is the Gospel.
- Because the Gospel is not only for our justification it is also for our sanctification.
- Remember the illustration. We should not just focus on the fruit (obedience), but we must also cultivate the soil (the Gospel):



The second key is the Primary Tools: the Word of God and Prayer.

- Last week we looked at the power of the Word of God. Only the Word can:
  - Revive the soul
  - Make wise the simple
  - Rejoice the heart
  - Enlighten the eyes
  - Cause us to fear the Lord
  - Make us more righteous
  - Warn us from sin
  - Build us up and keep us in the faith until we receive the inheritance
  - Keep us from being tricked into false teaching and ideas
  - Make us wise unto salvation
  - Mature us and equip us for every good work
- So as we disciple one another, we must use the Word of God. We must fill our time with the Word of God.
- And we must be careful not to slip into using our own wisdom or experiences or ideas, apart from the Word.

(Trans) But there is a practice that should always be combined with learning from the Word of God and that is prayer.

## **PRACTICING DISCIPLESHIP cont.**

### **A. Prayer**

Remember, we stated earlier that the Christian walk is a relationship with God. In this relationship, the Word of God is how we hear from God. Prayer is how we talk to God. Both are essential if we want the wisdom and power of God working in our lives. Both are essential in order for us to produce fruit in our lives.

John 15:7–8

[7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

And prayer, like the Word of God, is not only for our personal walk with the Lord, but also for our discipling ministry to one another, which we will explore in a minute.

But, what is prayer?

Prayer is essentially talking with God. But it is not unintentional, cavalier talk with God. Nor is prayer ritualistic, repetitive, empty phrases like Jesus warned about in Matthew 6:7.

Prayer is humbly and worshipfully talking to God in specific ways that are outlined in the Bible.

## Kinds of Prayer in the Bible

### 1. Praise & Thanksgiving

This is praising God or glorifying God (ascribing honor to God) for who He is, for His marvelous characteristics, and thanking Him for the incredible ways he displays His glory and shares His love and goodness to us.

I combine praise and thanksgiving because there are many places in the Scriptures that combine them together.

Psalm 7:17

[17] I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High. (ESV)

And we typically think that we praise God for who He is and we thank God for what He has done. But the Scriptures often flips this around as well, where we see praise for what God has done and thanksgiving for who He is. So, it is best to keep them together.

### 2. Confession of Sin

This is admitting our sin and agreeing with God that it is unrighteous, unholy and against His will. In confession, we humble ourself before God, looking to His mercy to cleanse us of our sin and forgive us our trespasses.

Psalm 51:1–4

[1] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! [3] For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. (ESV)

### 3. Supplication

This is coming to God to ask him for his help, wisdom, and power to accomplish in our lives what aligns with His will and with His glorious kingdom. Supplications are made not only for ourselves, but also for others as we long to see God's grace and power work in their lives as well.

Matthew 7:7–11

[7] “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. [9] Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? [11] If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (ESV)

#### 4. Lament

This is bringing our complaints, sorrows, and anxieties to God to help us in our time of need. Unlike sinful grumbling, which faithlessly speaks out against God, lament is honestly coming to God in times of deepest trouble and heartache and honestly sharing with God our pain, but trusting Him to come to our aid and do what accords with His wisdom and righteousness.

Psalms 13

[1] How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? [2] How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? [3] Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, [4] lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. [5] But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. [6] I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. (ESV)

#### Discipleship and Prayer

We have an opportunity to teach and model prayer to those we are discipling. We want them to grow in all these categories of prayer as we pray with them and encourage them in prayer.

But along with teaching/modeling prayer, we need to pray regularly for them, petitioning God on their behalf.

How should we pray for them?

#### Table Activity: How to Pray for Fellow Disciples

As a table read through the following verses that give us examples of Pauline prayers for Christians. Discuss the kinds of things Paul prays for the saints.

Colossians 1:9–12

[9] And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, [10] so as

to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; [12] giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (ESV)

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

[11] To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, [12] so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Philippians 1:9–11

[9] And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, [10] so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, [11] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (ESV)

These are the kinds of ways we should pray for fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. All of them relate to a Christian walk that is pleasing God, walking in obedience, growing in the knowledge of God, showing good works, having love that is abounding, etc.

Now, Let's begin to discuss the third key.

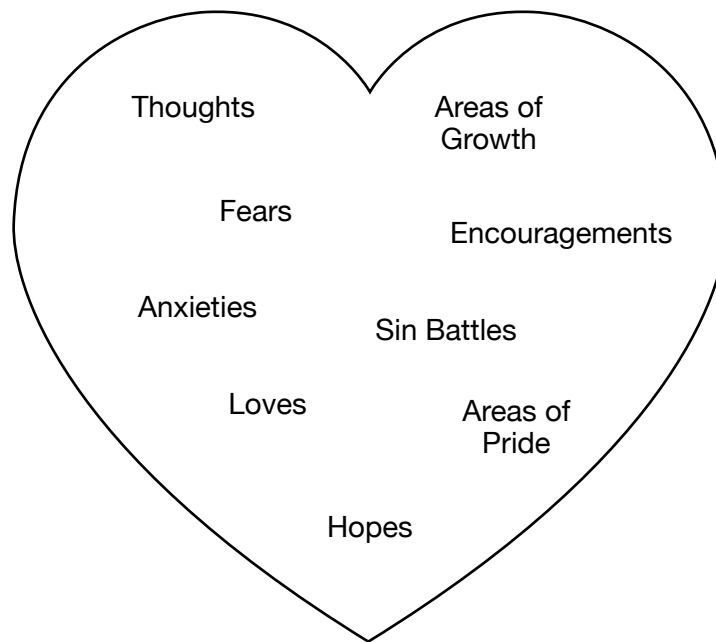
## **I. Relationship**

What makes discipling such an important and impactful ministry is that we have the opportunity to get close to one another, relationally, so we can know how to “personally help one another grow in Christ.”

Without relationship, we can teach the Gospel, we can teach the bible, we can pray, but we don't really know each other. We don't know what areas we should specifically encourage in the Gospel, or instruct in the Word, or pray for.

We have a general knowledge of these things, but discipleship is about getting past the general and moving more to a specific knowledge of someone. In discipleship, we are trying to look under the hood, so to speak, and see what is in the heart.

Illustration: Seeing What Is in the Heart



As we know one another through relationship, we can see the areas of the heart to apply the Gospel and the Word and better know how to pray for one another.

And we do all this, because in our ministry of discipleship we have love for one another. And this brings us to our last memory verse:

Ephesians 4:15–16

[15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

PREP FOR NEXT WEEK: prayerfully review your notes and start memorizing Ephesians 4:15-16..