

Discipleship Course: Class Four

October 27, 2024

Memory Verse Work

- Review your first memory verse: Matthew 28:18-20.
- Then work on memorizing your second memory verse: Colossians 1:28-29.

Quick Review

1. What does the word, “disciple,” mean? Answer: a learner
2. From whom are we primarily learning? Answer: Christ

Discipling one another means helping each other with our walk with Christ and He is our primary Teacher and Discipler.

3. Can anyone remember our definition of discipleship? Answer: Personally helping one another grow in Christ

Three parts: Christ oriented; focused on growth; through loving relationships.

4. According to Colossians 1:28-29, what is the goal of discipleship? Answer: present every man complete/mature in Christ

Completeness in knowing Christ AND a completeness in reflecting Christ.

5. What is the first key to effective discipleship that we discussed in class three? Answer: The Gospel

We help one another grow in the depths of understanding the Gospel, which is not only for our initial salvation (our right standing before God) but also for our ongoing sanctification (or growth in Christ). We are not just paying attention to fruit (the commands) but we are cultivating the soil which produces the fruit (which is the Gospel).

PRACTICING DISCIPLESHIP

Second, to effectively disciple you need to utilize...

I. The Primary Tools: the Word of God and Prayer

God has given every believer two primary tools to be effective in discipleship: the Word of God and prayer.

Jesus, talking about the Word of God and prayer and their effectiveness in our lives, said:

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)

Paul, underscoring the importance of the Word of God and prayer, talked about their effectiveness in fighting against the enemy:

Ephesians 6:17–18

[17] and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [18] praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (ESV)

Why are the Word of God and prayer the primary means by which we bear fruit and fight?
Answer: These are the two ways we connect directly to God. Through the Word of God and prayer, we connect to *the person* of God, *the power* of God, and *the wisdom* of God.

The Word of God is how we hear from God:

- We learn who He is
- We understand His plans and His will in all things
- We hear what He has done in saving us
- We observe what He has commanded us
- We heed his warnings

Illustration: When we learn from the Word of God, we are not just making knowledge deposits that we put away in a store house or a bank but virtually ignoring it every day. No, we are depending on the knowledge of God like it is food, which is essential to survive and grow and thrive. This is food directly from God's own hand.

Matthew 4:4

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (ESV)

Prayer is how we talk to God:

- We praise and thank him for who He is and all He has done
- We ask Him to accomplish His will in our lives and others lives as we come to him with requests, petitions, and intercessions
- We, in humility, confess our sins to Him, remembering His grace for us of forgiveness through Christ

Let's look more specifically at the Word of God and how it causes growth.

A. The Word of God

Table Study/Discussion: The Power of God's Word

- Read the following verses together at your tables. From these verses, list and discuss the ways the Word of God causes growth and change in our lives.

Psalm 19:7–14

[7] The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; [8] the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; [9] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. [10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. [11] Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. [12] Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. [13] Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. [14] Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (ESV)

2 Timothy 3:13–17

[13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (ESV)

Acts 20:30–32

[30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. [32] And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV)

What to Explore in the Word of God

When we are in God's Word, please do not think of it as mere attainment of knowledge, but think of it as discovery. What kind of treasure will you find if you look here? And what amazing discovery will you find there? You are explorers, looking into the vast ocean of God's endless glory, searching for rich discoveries that will strengthen your faith and bring you growth and joy in the Lord.

What are you discovering in God's Word? Here is a list of the kinds of valuable discoveries in God's Word (as we disciple one another, these are the kinds of things we want to share and explore together from God's Word):

1. The Character of God

Romans 11:33–36

[33] Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! [34] "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" [35] "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" [36] For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (ESV)

2. The Wonder of Salvation

1 Peter 1:10–12

[10] Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, [11] inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. [12] It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. (ESV)

3. The Promise/Fulfillment of Jesus Christ

Luke 24:25–27

[25] And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” [27] And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (ESV)

4. The Resources You Have in Christ

2 Peter 1:3

[3] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, (ESV)

5. The Continued Promises of God (especially for times of suffering and trial)

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (NASB)

6. The Guidance of God’s Commands

1 John 5:2–3

[2] By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. [3] For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

7. The Encouragement of Examples of the Faith

Hebrews 11 - “cloud of witnesses”

1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (ESV)

8. The Warnings of Sin, False Ideas/Teaching, and Worldliness

Acts 20:30–32

[30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. [32] And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV)

9. The Wisdom of God that Gives Us Discernment

Romans 12:2

[2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (ESV)

10. The Hope of Heaven

1 Peter 1:3–5

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (ESV)

How to Disciple with God's Word

- Study the Sermon Passage - Join a group of believers that are studying the passage your church is preaching weekly. Use the study questions your church has provided to study the passage on your own. Then when you meet come ready to share insights and applications based upon your study.
- Read books or sections of the Bible - Meet with another believer and read through a book of the Bible, section by section. Use the Swedish method (i.e. light bulb, question mark, arrow) to study and apply the Scriptures to one another's lives. You can find the Swedish method in David Helm's book, One to One Bible Reading.
- Memorize Scripture - Take a portion of Scripture and work on memorizing it with other believers. Use the 10x's Method (read it 10 times; say it 10 times; when you can say it, go to the next verse) or another good method to memorize the passage. Use the time to discuss meditation insights that will be profitable for spiritual growth and profitable for memorization.
- Read a Good Book - Find a good book written on a profitable topic from the Bible. A good book is one that explains and applies the Scriptures well to our lives. Ask your pastors/elders, who are given to you for guiding and teaching you, for book recommendations. Read a chapter and discuss what you have read, encouraging one another with what you have learned. Recommendation: books with shorter chapters are better for discussions.
- Study Key Sections of the Bible that Address Important Issues - Find a portion of the Bible that addresses a key issue that has come up in your discipling relationships. If you need help finding where to go in the Bible, ask another mature believer or your pastors/elders for

guidance. Walk slowly through that passage together, considering the context and discussing insights and applications as you go.

- Share What You Know - When you meet with another believer, as you are talking through life issues, share what you know. Share ways the Word of God has helped you in similar situations. Or share what God is teaching you now through His Word. Share what you know. Warning: Be careful that you do not slip into wisdom that is untethered to God's Word. Watch out for worldly advice or cliches.