

The Basis for Discipleship | Application

Since, as believers, we are commissioned to teach others to obey God's commands, it is essential that we first learn to walk in biblical truth for ourselves.

ACTION:

1. With this purpose in mind, before reading each Scripture passage, ask the Holy Spirit to:
 - a. Reveal truth to your heart and mind.
 - b. Give you understanding of what He desires you to know.
 - c. Show you practical ways to practice each truth in your daily life.
2. Then, rely on the Holy Spirit to enable you to become a living example of Christ for others to follow.



REMEMBER: Writing out biblically-based answers to each question in this study will assist you in discerning practical application and will better prepare you to answer the questions of those you may disciple.



READ: Mark 1:16-20



THOUGHT-PROVOKING: Does your current lifestyle reflect a biblical description of a genuine disciple of Jesus?



FISHING FOR MEN: How does each of these words or phrases indicate a different goal or purpose in Jesus' invitation?

Come:

Follow Me:

I will send you out to fish for people:



Reflect, for a moment, on the time in your life when you responded to Jesus' invitation to become His disciple. **Thank** the Lord for His transforming work in your life. **Commit** your efforts in making disciples to Christ and rely on Him to prepare you for future kingdom work.



WRITE: Is it your habit to take the lead or to consistently allow Jesus to lead throughout each day?



PAUSE: Are you willing to ask the Lord to show you when you are tempted to take the lead and why?



Recognizing the temptation to assert your own way prior to acting on it will help you identify the choice to follow His lead rather than your own.



List specific benefits of following Christ:



What are the immediate or eventual consequences of taking your own path in life?



In what specific ways are you **closely following** and **intentionally learning** from Christ's example?



Matthew 4:18-22

Since fishing was their way of life, the men in these verses were very aware of the care, patience, and skill required to be a fisherman. In what practical ways are these attributes also needed in becoming a “fisher for men?”



Mark 8:34; Romans 8:5-8

Consider for a moment the various reasons people gathered around or physically followed Jesus. Even though there was the appearance of a large following, only a portion of the crowd actually pursued Jesus as a result of genuine belief and personal repentance.

In **Mark 8:34** Jesus is pointing to some of the unique lifestyle characteristics of a genuine disciple. Jesus’ message was as universal in Bible times as it is today; those who truly follow Him **must** choose to surrender selfish pursuits to faithfully follow God’s will.



Why does Jesus make this adamant request?



Now, consider for a moment the reasons people give for being a Christ-follower today. The Bible is clear that Jesus, rather than man, determines the characteristics of His disciples. With this truth in mind, develop a habit of listening to the reasons people give for claiming to be a Christian and ask the Lord to give you wisdom in lovingly pointing them to biblical truth.

Since the things of Christ oppose the things of the flesh, those who claim to follow Christ while at the same time pursuing human desires experience personal spiritual conflict, confusion, and defeat.

Those who believe they can become Christ-followers merely through activities such as church attendance, Bible study, baptism or mission trips may develop a false sense of security that is not founded on biblical truth.



If our minds are on fulfilling our own desires, rather than the desires of Christ, we may live for self and miss the opportunities God creates for us to represent Him.



Matthew 16:24-26

Self-denial can come in various forms such as spending less time sleeping to spend more time in prayer; cutting back on time spent watching T.V. or engaged in electronic devices in order to deepen your study of God’s Word; foregoing personal plans to serve as God leads, giving up your idea of control to surrender to Christ’s will.



Is there consistent evidence in your life that you are willing to be an instrument of God regardless of:

- The circumstance?
- People involved?
- Convenience?
- Time involved?
- Effort involved?

 What practical steps will you take to allow God's will to override your own?

From birth, Jesus' life purpose was to willingly die on a cross for the sins of the world. On His way to the cross, He sacrificed daily for the spiritual well-being of others. As His disciples, we, too, are called to willingly surrender our lives for the purpose of furthering Christ's kingdom.

 In following Jesus' example, is your focus consistently on your life's purpose?

 If not, who or what is distracting you? (Explain.)

 **John 1:1-2, 14-15; Hebrews 1:1-3a**

Scripture proves that God's Word became flesh in the form of His Son, Jesus. Therefore, those who genuinely follow Jesus will diligently learn and put into practice God's Word.

 What Scripture verse or passage are you currently memorizing?

 If you are not currently memorizing Scripture, please ask the Lord to enable you to set to memory one of the following verses: **Galatians 2:20** or **2 Corinthians 5:15**.

 What is God **teaching** you from the passage of Scripture you are endeavoring to remember?

 In what practical ways are you **practicing** the lessons God is teaching you?

As you grow in personal knowledge and application of God's Word, keep in mind its pertinent application in the lives of others. For example, God may show you to encourage a co-worker with a specific promise from Scripture. He may reveal application for a parent to use in disciplining their child, etc.

 Reread the Scripture you are currently setting to memory.

1. Ask the Lord to reveal additional application.
2. Now, prayerfully consider the ways God may want to use you to influence others with these lessons.
3. Ask God to provide you opportunities this week to speak truth into the lives of others.

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)**