

## THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP: FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

Life Connecting Teams ~ September 2025

New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

*"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)*

**OBJECTIVE:** To gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

**INTRODUCTION:** The mandate of the Great Commission (read Matt 28:19-20) is the call to **ALL** believers to go and make disciples of all nations. During our time together, we will review the critical nature of what it means for followers of Christ to have our daily lives anchored in the guiding biblical principles of knowing Him and making Him known to the world.

**LESSON:** What does it mean to be a disciple? A "disciple" is a student. It is someone who follows the teaching of, learns from and models their life after Jesus Christ. Discipleship is a lifelong commitment of seeking more of Jesus and His redemptive work while sharing our love for Him and the gospel message with others. Discipleship is a journey of intentional decisions leading to maturity in your relationship with Jesus so that you become more like Him in your attitudes, focus and ultimately behavior. It's not something that happens by accident or overnight. This is a lifelong commitment to obediently follow Christ with your whole self and to both learn from and eventually teach others about how to follow Him.

The role of obedience in the life of the disciple is the heart of the matter. It determines whether you are just a believer, or a true follower. It takes more than saying yes, I believe, to take you from being a fan to a follower. It requires us to walk in the courage of our conviction to follow Jesus as Lord of our lives. We live our lives on purpose and with intention as it pertains to the things of God and His call on our lives as faithful disciples and Kingdom ambassadors in the earth. Kingdom Ambassadors represent and reflect the character and authority of the King. Below are some of the characteristics of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- Imitates Jesus' life completely as both their teacher and Lord
- Regularly engages in prayer, meditation, scripture reading
- Doers of the Word, not just hearers
- Lives produce the Fruit of the Holy Spirit
- Engage in compassionate acts of service in their community
- Sees others through the eyes of Jesus
- Continues in the Word, bears fruit, and operates in the wisdom, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Shares the Gospel with unbelievers and walks with the new believer as they grow in Christ

The rest of the lesson will be drawn from your time of discussion and sharing insights.

These verses highlight some of the characteristics and responsibilities of being a disciple. They can help support the discussion as you read them and unpack their meaning.

**Luke 14:27 KJV** "And whosoever doth not bear His cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple".

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**John 15:16 KJV** "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you."

**2 Timothy 2:2: KJV** "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".

**1 Peter 2:21 NKJV** "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps."

**John 8:31-32 NKJV** "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free".

**Matthew 7: 21-23 NIV** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

### Discuss the following:

- What is the difference between a new convert and a disciple of Christ?
- What is the purpose and goal of discipleship?
- What are the key issues related to obedience when we speak of being self-centered and being God centered?
- As disciples, we are all on assignment. Our lives are intertwined with the lives of others to accomplish God's purpose. What is the cost of disobedience in our assignment?

**Conclusion: In Matthew 7:21- 23** we see several important truths: it's not a verbal claim that one follows Jesus that saves. Nominal Christianity cannot save. Also, it's not a demonstration of spiritual insight or power that saves (verse 22). A person can seem like a Christian in the eyes of other people yet still be an "evildoer" in God's sight and sent away from His presence (verse 23). **Only those who do the Father's will and who are known of God are true disciples who will enter heaven.**

### Remember in Prayer

- Bishop Grannum, Pastor Oliver & Lady Denise, Pastor Wangui, Pastor Omar & Jeneen Barlow, Pastor Andrew & Chevas Grannum and their families.
- All NCC Ministers, Deacons, Heads and Leaders of Ministries, Staff and volunteers
- All children, youth, teachers and school staff as they return to school
- All sick, shut-in and bereaved
- Increase of those committed to fervent prayer for unity in the Body of Christ at NCC

**Resource:** <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/discipleship/what-is-discipleship.html#create>