

Session 3

What is a Discipleship Guide?

Welcome and Prayer

Ask for a volunteer to open the session with prayer.

Sharing

Invite the group to share any insights, questions or revelations from the daily reflections from the prior week.

Introduction of Session Focus

There is no doubt that discipleship is something we are called to do but we must never forget that the power and authority to do so resides solely with Christ.

The Great Commission begins and ends with Him. “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me” and “behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.”

Discipleship guides are constantly mindful of this truth. It is Christ alone who designates the role of disciple, although through faith, we are invited to participate in God’s work. Like John the Baptist, we can point Jesus out to others (John 1:36). Like Andrew, we can tell others what we have found and lead them into Christ’s presence (John 1:41-42). Like Philip, we can invite others to join us on our journey with Christ (John 1:46). Like Peter, we can respond to Christ’s love by feeding his sheep (John 21:15-17). Like Paul, we can hold each other accountable for our calling (2 Timothy 4:5). All of this can only happen if we are willing to grow deeper in our relationships with Christ and with each other.

Time in the Word

Our mission as Christians can be summed up in two well known Scriptures - The Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Read these two Scriptures together and discuss the ways in which they are connected and complementary.

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:37-40

And [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Watch the Video: “What is a Discipleship Guide” with Pastor David Keener.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9248204/video/673622785/embed>

Large Group Discussion

1. What did you find most helpful or challenging in the video?
2. What is the difference between a counselor, a mentor, and a discipleship guide? How are they similar? How are they different?
3. Which role do you find easier? Why? Which role do you find more difficult role? Why?

Breakout sessions

Gather in groups of two or three to read and discuss the following questions and Scriptures.

4. Can you think of a time when you were called to guide someone? Did you find the experience challenging, frustrating or rewarding? Why?

Scripture reading - Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Discussion Questions

5. What words stand out for you in this Scripture passage?
6. The writer of the Book of Hebrews doesn't just see meeting together as important, but sees not meeting and encouraging each other as neglect. What does this say about the importance of having and being a discipleship guide?

Large group wrap-up

Have participants share any closing thoughts, questions, insights or observations that arose from the break out groups. Remind participants to do the daily devotions and encourage them to journal their insights and questions.

Next week: “How to have a discipling conversation (part 1)”

Close in prayer.

Helpful resources

The Ways of the Alongsider by Bill Mowry

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero

Emotionally Healthy Discipleship by Peter Scazzero

Devotions: Week Three

Weekday 1

Scripture reading - John 1:35-42

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas’ (which means Peter).”

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.

2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

3. In what ways can this Scripture serve as a model for discipleship?

4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What has caused you to think deeper?

Weekday 2

Scripture reading - 2 Timothy 1:3-7

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

2. In his letter to his young co-worker the Apostle Paul acknowledges the spiritual guidance of Timothy's mother and grandmother. Who in your life helped strengthen your faith? What was it about them that encouraged your spiritual growth?

3. Are there people in your life who you are encouraging in the faith? Can you think of someone close to you that would benefit from having a discipleship guide?

4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What have you thought about today in this focus area that you are longing for?

Weekday 3

Scripture reading - Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.

2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

3. What does it mean for you to be salt and light? Can you think of a time when you let your light shine or a time when it remained hidden?

4. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

What small specific step and active response can you take in the direction God's Word is leading you?

Weekday 4

Scripture reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.

2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?

3. Who did you relate the most in this Scripture and why?

4. What does it mean for you to pray without ceasing?

5. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

How does this passage focus my attention first on Jesus, second on my identity “in Christ,” and third on my participation in the Body of Christ?

How is this passage moving me beyond myself to take a specific small step in the direction of serving my family, church, or neighbor?

Weekday 5

Scripture reading - Romans 15:4-7

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Focus Questions

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

1. Read through the Scripture a second time and highlight the word or phrase that stands out for you.
2. What is going on in your life that connects with that word or phrase?
3. What does “living in harmony” look like to you?
4. What does “welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed you,” mean to you?
5. Where is the Holy Spirit inviting you to respond this week?

Daily Journal

Record your thoughts from prayer and reflection.

Reflecting on the Scriptures this week, what theme do you see developing?

Review any action steps you have felt led to take. If you have not yet started, when will you begin?

Begin to write a one or two sentence statement for this week's focus area. Try to have it reflect what the verses this week have taught you about who Christ Jesus is, and his invitation to follow him in this area of life.

Saturday (before worship...preparing)

Saturdays are a day of preparation as we contemplate the coming Sabbath. Look back over the week, consider such questions as:

1. What sins will I lay before the Lord in my confession?
2. What prayers will I lift up?
3. What questions will I be seeking the answers to?
4. What burdens do I need to lay down in order to be fully open to the movement of the Holy Spirit?
5. Who might I invite to journey with me?

Sunday (after worship...pondering)

Sundays are devoted to worship and reflection. We gather together as the Body of Christ to lift our praises to God and receive what only he can give us. Later, reflect on such questions as:

1. What point of the sermon or Sunday School lesson most caught my attention? What exactly touched my heart?
2. Which song, hymn or portion of liturgy most became a prayer or conversation with God?
3. How will making my confession and hearing the absolution affect how I live this week?
4. What strength or comfort did I receive as I participated in worship today?
5. What was the gospel message I heard today and who did I share it with?
6. Who did I speak with that I can remember in prayer this week?