



NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

The United Methodist Church  
in Southern Africa

**A time  
for  
Growth**

**2023-2033**

**We're Sowing, Growing and Reaping!**



**Jesus said:  
"Follow Me."**

**The Call to  
Discipleship  
and a life  
of Holy Habits.**

By the Mission and Discipleship Committee  
of the United Methodist Church in Southern Africa.  
Version 1.0



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## Foreword

What you hold in your hand is a dream-come-true for the Mission and Discipleship Committee of General Assembly.

Our Going for Growth campaign has done a lot to champion the wonder of the *Missio Dei* and the move from *maintenance to being missional*. But we have been concerned that the other part of our committee's work, Discipleship, needs more emphasis.

This Bible Study booklet is aimed at reminding us that every Church Member is both a Christian (a little Christ) and a Disciple (Follower.)

Scripture gives us a vivid picture of what disciple-making communities look like. In Acts 11 we find Disciples who were scattered by persecution. They were devoted followers of Christ who held on to their faith and "gossiped the Gospel" even as they were scattered amongst the Gentiles in Antioch. There the new believers *believed* and *turned* to God. The church sent Barnabas to them and he found that they showed "*evidence of the grace of God*." So he went to fetch Saul/Paul and they *taught* (discipled) these believers for a year. Then we read that "The Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

This congregation in Antioch became Paul's Missionary base and they were the spiritual powerhouse behind his ministry.

This Bible Study is meant to be done in small groups. We hope that groups will work through the material thoughtfully and prayerfully. The goal is not knowledge but profound spiritual formation. So be brave and adventurous and ready to break new spiritual ground!

We pray that members our beautiful congregations will grow closer to Christ and become bright lights in our world that needs Him so much!

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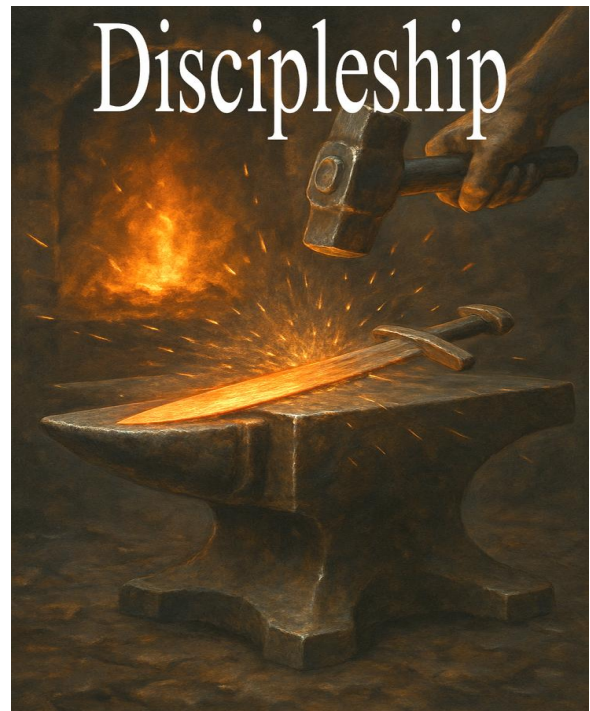
With love and hope,  
The MaD Discipleship Sub-Comm  
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# Welcome

to this Bible Study on Discipleship. We're going to look at **what** Discipleship is, **why** it is important, **how** the first disciples were called, and what some their **key habits** were.

It is our hope that as you work through this material together, you and your group will be on a journey of faith that will result in a deeper relationship with Christ, a life of greater significance and renewed power and effectiveness as you follow in His footsteps.



## Introduction: What is Discipleship?

### What is Discipleship?

If one had to try to define it, one might call it spiritual mentorship. It's a teacher and pupil, an Initiate and a Master. It's an internship/apprenticeship and it's like a junior being shaped by a senior partner. It's a coach and athlete and some have even suggested that it is like a tracker following a spoor.

In Graeco-Roman times, normal for learners/disciples to *chose* their teacher. Jesus did the opposite by *calling* His Disciples.

Jesus' disciples journeyed and lived in community with Him for three years. They watched and heard Him teach, preach and heal. They called Him "Teacher" and "Master" and participated in His mission and He sent them on outreaches. They learned from His words and His character. After His death and Resurrection, He commissioned them to make disciples, and then He ascended into heaven.

At Pentecost He sent the Holy Spirit to fill and empower the disciples, and they changed the world by making disciples who made more disciples... who made more and more disciples...

Discipleship is:

- NOT a curriculum or programme that one graduates from - it is on ongoing process of a way of life.

- NOT just for beginners, new Christians – we all benefit from practicing daily Holy Habits.
- NOT only for those who have all the time in the world: God meets us where we are, He knows us and what we can do.
- NOT just for church leaders – we can make disciples at work, in our neighbourhood and anywhere God places us.

## What does Jesus say about it?

Let's look at a few passages together:

**Matthew 4:18-22** (Jesus calls Simon Peter and Andrew)

"Come, follow Me... and I will make you fishers of people."

**Matthew 16:24-25** "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me."

**Luke 9:57-62** "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God."

**Matthew 11:28-30** "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..."

**Luke 6:40** "The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher."

**John 13:12-17** (*Jesus washes the disciples' feet and says:*) "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

**John 15:4-5, 8, 10** "Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

<sup>8</sup> "This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

<sup>10</sup> "If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love."

**Matthew 28:19-20** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

These verses describe a journey that could be summarised like this:

**Come → Follow → Learn → Become → Abide → Obey → Bear Fruit → Go**

1. Discuss the steps suggested in the diagram. Can you line the words up with the passages? Highlight the words and phrases in the texts.
2. Which of the above passages speaks to where you are at now?

## Looking at the Maths and Fruitfulness.

**2 Timothy 2:1-2** (Paul is writing to Timothy, his protegee.) "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 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."

3. What did Timothy have to do?

Take the things he had learned from \_\_\_\_\_.

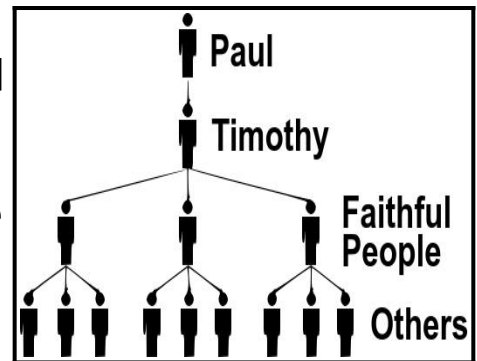
Entrust (a process) to \_\_\_\_\_ people  
who will be qualified (character & learning) to \_\_\_\_\_ others.

Let's imagine that Timothy disciplined 3 people, who each reached 3 people, who each reached 3 people. The maths is:

Timothy → 3 (each reach 3) → 9 → 27 → 81 → 243 → 729 → 2187 ...

*And that's assuming that Timothy and all the others only reach 3 in their lifetimes.*

God's design is that discipleship does not end with us. A healthy disciple grows and, over time, learns how to help others grow as well. When discipleship stops with one person, the flow has been interrupted. A true **Disciple** is not only **Discipled**, but should ultimately become a **Discipler**.



Fruitfulness in Scripture includes both Christ-like character and helping others grow in faith. Discipleship is not only about numbers, but about becoming like Jesus.

## A Definition

Discipleship is the *Spirit-empowered* sacrificial **life-changing and life-long journey** of learning from Jesus, becoming like Jesus, living for Jesus, and reaching others with Jesus in *community* for the sake of the world bearing fruit and building God's Kingdom for His Glory.

4. Discuss this definition.

Which parts do you really like?

Which parts caught you by surprise?

## Let's Look at Jesus' Final Instruction...

There are different kinds of verbs. Have a look at the diagram below:

<b>Imperative Verb</b> <b>Action</b> <b>Instruction</b>	<i>Participle Verb</i> <i>Background</i> <i>Means to an end</i>
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"Therefore *go* and **make disciples** of all nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching* them to obey everything I have commanded you."

"**MAKE DISCIPLES** *as you go*, by *baptizing* them and *teaching* them to obey everything I commanded you."

5. For many of us the key part of the Great Commission was "Go". What is actually the key part of the Great Commission?
6. If we adopt the translation "*Make Disciples as you go...*" Could this mean, "As we go to work", "As we go to school", "As we spend time with our friends"? And isn't that what Jesus did? "The Word became flesh and lived among us... we have **seen** His glory..."
7. The Word we use for Jesus *embodying* God's love for us is "incarnation." Could it be that discipleship is "incarnational"? That we live out the life of Christ in our day to day lives so that others can learn from that?" What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians 11:1?
8. The early church baptised new converts, but children of believers were also baptised, understanding the family nature of the covenant. Could raising children in a Godly, Christ-honouring home be considered discipleship?

## Conclusion

We started the study with an image of a sword being forged in the furnace. It is a good picture of Discipleship. Peter talks about "gold being refined by fire" and Proverbs talks about "iron sharpens iron."

Jesus calls us to a costly journey of following Him and reaching others. This is not a matter of "do as I say and not as I do." He *came* to earth, *lived sacrificially* among us and *died* in our place.

Take some time to close in prayer giving thanks for His amazing example and the great privilege and high call of being His Disciple.

# The Call: 'Follow Me'

## 1 Responding to Jesus' Call...

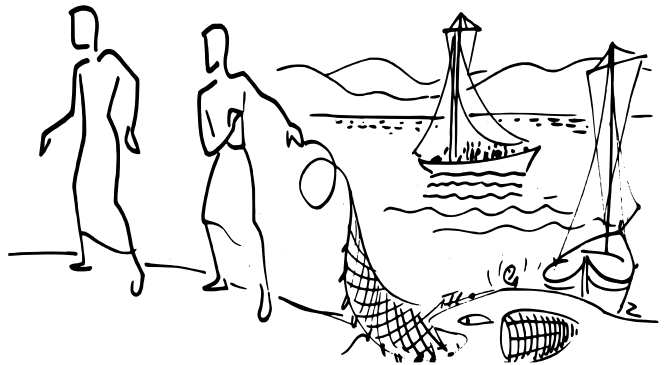
**1 John 4:10** "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Jesus didn't wait for disciples to choose Him. Instead He chose us. Some people pitch salvation as "Come to Jesus to have your sins forgiven so that you can go to heaven" but it's not simply us deciding to "give our hearts to Jesus." Actually we don't choose Him – He chooses us. And, when Jesus called the disciples, it was to FOLLOW Him. Let's look at how Paul describes salvation:

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

1. What are the two body parts involved in salvation?  
What do they represent?
2. What are the two affirmations we must make?  
Why are they important?

**Matthew 4:18-22** "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of people.' At once they left their nets and followed Him.



Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him."

**Ephesians 2:10** "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The root Greek word for "make" and "handiwork" is "**poieō**". When used as a verb it can mean "shape", "craft", "transform", "turn into", or "make." When used as a noun "**poiēma**", it can mean "masterpiece", "poem", "workmanship" or "handiwork."

3. He called them to "Follow" Him. Today we "follow" people on social media. Is this the same thing? What did Jesus mean?
4. He promises to "make" (**poieō**) them fishers of people. This is a promise that the disciples will be shaped, formed, and moulded by Jesus. Discuss the lessons the disciples might have learned from "doing life" with Jesus.
5. He called them to fish for people... In other words, their new purpose was to impact and reach people with the goal of bringing them closer to God. This is the Missio Dei (the Mission of God.) Discuss the implications and impact of God including people like the disciples and you and me in His Mission.

**Acts 9:1-19** (Selected) "As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked.

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do...'

... In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered.

The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying...

...'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'"



6. List all the things that Paul is called to.

7. Discuss the quote below:

So, to sum up, Jesus said:

**Follow Me** — relationship and surrender

**and I will make you** — transformation and character formation

**fishers of people** — participation in mission

## But it is not an Easy Calling...

**Matthew 16:24–26** "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?'"

**Luke 9:57–62** "As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, 'I will follow You wherever You go.' Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' He said to another man, 'Follow Me.' But he replied, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but You go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'

Still another said, 'I will follow You, Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.' Jesus replied, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.'"

**Matthew 10:32–39** "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it."

**John 15:18–20** "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

**2 Timothy 3:12** "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

8. Work through the passages above – what are the costs and challenges of being a disciple?
9. Sometimes we try to avoid talking and thinking about these costs. What negative effects could this avoidance have?

## But it is a Journey that will Change our Lives...

In the previous session we noted the Disciple's Journey...

**Come**→ **Follow**→ **Learn**→ **Become**→ **Abide**→ **Obey**→ **Bear Fruit**→ **Go**

The Disciples spent three years with Jesus. They fell apart when Jesus was arrested, but later they were filled with the Spirit and became Apostles. They preached the Gospel, planted and shaped the early congregations *and changed our world*. Church tradition suggests that most of the Apostles died violently or in exile.

When Peter and John were arrested for healing a lame man we read:

**Acts 4:13** "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been *with Jesus*."

10. Where do you think you are on the "Come, Follow, Learn..." journey, and what is next for you?

11. What do we/you need to do/be so that people will experience us as having been *with Jesus*?

## Next Steps

**Romans 12:1-2** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

Dead Sacrifices are easy – they stay on the altar. Living sacrifices tend to crawl off the altar. That's why we need to:

- \* Ensure that the world doesn't squeeze us into its mould.
- \* Be transformed by a renewing of our mind.
- \* Discern and Pursue God's Will

To do this, **we need to keep close to Jesus** and there are five "Disciple Disciplines" or "Holy Habits" that will help us to do this:

1. Read the Word
2. Prayer
3. Fellowship
4. Obedience to the Spirit
5. Witness and Service

**We'll be digging into to these in the next chapters...**

# Holy Habit #1 - Read the Word

The Oxford dictionary defines reading as an activity or skill of looking at and comprehending the meaning of written or printed matter by interpreting the characters or symbols of which it is composed. You can also read and meditate on what you have read. To meditate is to focus one's mind for a period of time in silence or with the aid of chanting for religious or spiritual purposes or as a method of relaxation. It is to think deeply about something.



It is said that reading boosts brain power. There are people who find relaxation in reading a good book. It soothes their mind and they find it easy to fall into a peaceful slumber. Reading also broadens our understanding of the world. It helps slow memory deterioration.

## Reading the Word of God

**Psalms 119:105** "Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path".

**Deuteronomy 5:32** "So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left."

**John 3:20** "Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed."



In our life journey, we all need a practical and comprehensive guide.

The light in the Word illuminates our entire path revealing the ground directly in front of us so that we don't trip over hidden obstacles like sin and poor choices. Reading the Word helps us to know the truth and to embrace purity, dispelling the darkness of error, confusion and sin showing us the right way forward. (Deuteronomy 5:32).



The Word of God is the lamp that shows us how to live and walk. It is like a spiritual compass.

Reading the word illuminates the path for each step and keeps us from missteps and wrong turns. Living without the Word is like trying to go somewhere you've never been without directions.

1. How easy is it to walk around in the dark?
2. Have you ever encountered clarity about something after reading the Word of God? Feel free to share how that happened.
3. Have you ever felt scared to read the Word of God? What was happening in your life?



## *What commands does the Bible give about itself?*

**Deuteronomy 17:18-19** “When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.”

**Colossians 3:16** “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

**Joshua 1:7-8** “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law My servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

**Matthew 22:29** “Jesus replied, ‘You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.’”

**Psalms 119:11** “I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”

**James 1:22** “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

**Ezra 7:10** “For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.”

4. Which of these passages grabs your attention? Why?
5. Have a look at the verbs underlined in each of the passages – what do you learn from them?
6. Why were the Saducees in error in Matthew 22:29?

## By reading the Word you hear God Himself speaking.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

7. How does understanding that "All scripture is breathed by God" affect how you view and engage with the Bible?
8. What does training in righteousness mean to you personally and how can you pursue it?
9. How can we be thoroughly equipped for every good work in our present-day contexts?

### **Everything He says in His Word, shall be accomplished.**

**Isaiah 55:11** "So shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth, it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it".

10. How does this verse encourage us to trust that God will accomplish His purpose?
11. How can this passage help us in sharing God's Word with others?
12. Is it possible for God's Word to be shared in vain?
13. How does this verse apply to our prayers?

### **The Word of God is alive and active.**

**Hebrews 4:12** "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."



The Word of God is capable of penetrating and transforming people's lives to bring about change and spiritual growth. It exposes what is hidden and exposes the deepest parts of a person's nature. The Word of God is not static, but vibrant.

14. How does God's Word "judge" the thoughts and intentions of our hearts?
15. What is the difference between the "soul" and the "spirit" and how does the Word of God distinguish between them?

In what ways has God's Word been living and active in your life?

## God's Word brings life.

**Luke 4:4-5** "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes from the Mouth of God."



16. How does Jesus' response in this verse highlight the importance of Scripture over physical needs?
17. How can we apply the lesson in this verse to our daily decision – making, and how can we ensure that God's Word guides our choices?

## *How do we Read God's Word regularly?*

1. Pray: Asking God to help you understand what you read.
2. Use a translation you are comfortable with. Comparing translations is also very helpful.
3. Start with something simple, like the Gospel of Mark. Stick to the more straightforward books before jumping into more complex books like Revelation, Leviticus, Ezekiel etc. Or use a reading plan.
4. Read a meaningful section – a couple of paragraphs. Read slowly and thoughtfully – imagine the sights and sounds.
5. Reflect on what you have read. What have you learned? What impact will it have on you?
6. Ask God to help you apply what you have learned.

## *Conclusion*

Let us take the Word of God as the Holy Spirit's love letter to us and be filled with humility and awe when we realize that of the billions of people in the world, you and I have been given the Word! God breathed out His Word for us so that we might know Him and have a foundation upon which we can become complete. If you want to be complete, complete in Jesus Christ, complete in who you were created to be, complete in everything, go to the Bible; go to the foundation... **"In the beginning there was the Word"**

## Holy Habit #2 - Prayer

Prayer is the Christian's way of communicating with God. We pray to praise God and thank Him and tell Him how much we love Him. We pray to enjoy His presence and tell Him what is going on in our lives. We pray to make requests and seek guidance and ask for wisdom.

God loves this exchange with His children, just as we love the exchanges we have with our children. Fellowship with God is the heart of prayer. Too often we lose sight of how simple prayer is really supposed to be.



**Matt.6:6** "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

**James 1:6** "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

**John 16:23** "In that day you will no longer ask Me anything. Very truly I tell you, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name."

**Romans 8:26** "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

**Psalms 10:4** "In his pride the wicked man does not seek Him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God."

**Luke 11:1** "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'"

Prayer can be audible or silent, private (Mt.6:6) or public, formal or informal. All prayer must be offered in faith (James 1:6), in the name of the Lord Jesus (John 16:23), and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26). **"Christian prayer in its full New Testament meaning is prayer addressed to God as Father, in the name of Christ as Mediator, and through the enabling grace of the indwelling Spirit"**<sup>1</sup> The wicked have no desire to pray (Psalm 10:4), but the children of God have a natural desire to pray (Luke 11:1).

<sup>1</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia - ("Prayer" by J. C. Lambert).

## A Definition

The most basic definition of prayer is "talking to God." Prayer is not meditation or passive reflection; it is direct talking to God. It is the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created the soul. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate their emotions and desires with God and to fellowship with God.

1. Discuss this definition. Which parts do you really like? Which part spoke you?
2. If we use "Talking to God" as a basic definition of Prayer, can the following be prayer?
  - Shooting an "arrow prayer" to God just before an exam?
  - Shedding a tear or two in the shower after a tough day?
  - Singing a quiet song of praise while watching the sun rise?
  - Reading a liturgical prayer in church and resonating with it?
  - Just being quiet in the garden early in the morning?
  - Putting out cups at church and being aware of God's presence?

## A Model for Prayer

There is no real method to prayer. We can make use of guidelines that can assist us in our prayer, e.g., the ACTS method.

However, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour introduces us to the "Disciples' Prayer". The Lord's Prayer is seen as a model for prayer, providing a structure for disciples to focus on God's will, daily needs, forgiveness, and guidance.



**Matthew 7: 9-15** "This, then, is how you should pray:  
'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'  
For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

The Lord's Prayer gives us the following FOCUS:

- God is our Father.
- God is greatly honoured and revered.
- It is all about God's Kingdom or rule.
- God's will precedes and supersedes our will.
- God will provide our practical day to day needs.
- God will only forgive us when we are prepared to forgive others.
- God has the power to deliver us from temptation and the devil.

3. Take time to consider: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)" This has deep spiritual implications for us as disciples – are you prepared to do this?

## *Prayer is like a Camera*

Psalm 139 is a beautiful prayer. It describes being known and made by God. It brings a person's fears and struggles to God and surrenders to God's plan and purpose.

### **Psalm 139**

You have searched me, Lord, and You know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue You, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and You lay Your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, You are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"  
even the darkness will not be dark to You;

the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You.

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place,

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me  
were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

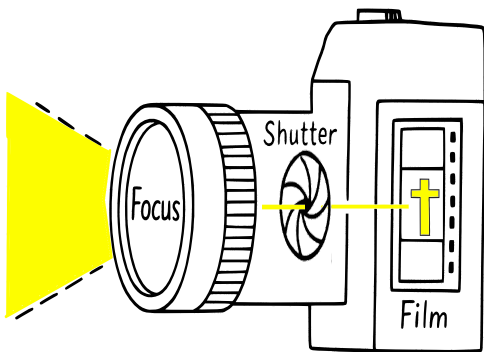
How precious to me are Your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!  
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with You.

If only You, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!  
They speak of You with evil intent; Your adversaries misuse Your name.

Do I not hate those who hate You, Lord,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against You?

I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.



Prayer is like an old camera:

- We FOCUS on God,
- We OPEN the shutter of our hearts,
- His light SHINES into our hearts
- And leaves HIS IMAGE there

4. Looking at Psalm 139 above...

- How is God's light described?
- Where is David "focussing"
- Where is David opening the "shutter"?
- How is the image of God left on David?

## *"Hello God. This is me..."*

Some tips:

- Keep it simple, Keep it real
- Prayer is the sincerest expression of faith.
- Pray as you can and not as you can't.
- Be quiet, but you can also pray in the chaos.
- It's not about requests - It's relationship.
- It's not about results - It's connection.
- God answers: "Yes." or "No."  
or "Wait for the right time."  
or "Wait, something better is coming."
- Converse with Him all day, but set aside quality time too.
- It's a lifestyle (Opening the shutter)



5. What have you learned about Prayer today?

6. Where do you find most comfort in prayer?

7. What aspect of Prayer do you find the most challenging?

# Holy Habit #3 - Fellowship

## Introduction

God never designed the Christian life to be lived alone. From the very beginning, His plan has been **family, community, and togetherness**.

Humankind are a social beings.

*"It is not good for the man to be alone..."* —

**Genesis 2:18**

Even before sin entered the world, God saw Adam's need for companionship. This truth remains: **we are created for fellowship with God and with others.**



## Pick your Favourite Quote...

1. "The True Church can never fail. For it is based upon a rock."  
- T.S. Eliot
2. "The Church is the one institution that exists for those outside it."  
- William Tyndale
3. "The Kingdom of God is not going to be advanced by our churches becoming filled with people, but by people in our churches becoming filled with God."  
- Duncan Campbell
4. "Churches don't need new members half so much as they need the old bunch made over."  
- Billy Sunday
5. "On the most elementary level, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. You do not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases if you do not, you will have a very poor relationship."  
- R. Kent Hughes
6. "I do not think the devil cares how many churches you build, if only you have lukewarm preachers and people in them."  
- Charles Spurgeon
7. "Not everyone that hangs around the court speaks with the king."  
- Thomas Watson
8. "Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man."  
- Dwight L. Moody
9. "We do not want, as the newspapers say, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world."  
- G.K. Chesterton
10. "Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon."  
- Martin Luther

## Some verses about Fellowship...

**Psalms 133:1** "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."

**Matthew 18:20** "Where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them."

**John 13:34–35** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

**John 17:20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You."

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

**Hebrews 10:24–25** "And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Proverbs 27:17** "As iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens another."

1. Discuss the key thoughts in each passage.
2. Which of these resonates most with you?

## Different Images for the Church

**Acts 20:28** "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He *bought with His own blood*."

**1 Corinthians 3:9** "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

**Galatians 6:10** "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

**Ephesians 1:22–23** "And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be Head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."

**Philippians 2:25** "But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs."

3. The underlined words above are different images for the church. Share which ones are meaningful to you...

## Why Fellowship Matters

Fellowship is more than meeting together. It is the heart of Christian growth. From the beginning of the Bible until the early church, God shows us that **spiritual maturity happens in community, not in isolation.**

When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, 3000 people believed in Jesus. Many were visitors to Jerusalem. Yet they formed an instant community. The disciples had walked with Jesus for three years, and now they were shaping a whole new family of believers.

**Acts 2:42-47** "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone in need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

The early church shows us what fellowship looks like when the Holy Spirit is at work.

## 2. What They Devoted Themselves To

1. **The Apostles' Teaching** – Growing in the Word.
2. **Fellowship** – Building deep, honest relationships.
3. **Breaking of Bread** – Sharing life and remembering Christ.
4. **Prayer** – Seeking God together.

4. How do we practice these four things today in our church or homes?

5. Which of these four areas is strongest in your cell group?

6. Which area is weakest and needs attention?

## 3. The Atmosphere of True Fellowship

Verse 43 says they were "**filled with awe.**" This means a deep sense of God's presence among them. Their community overflowed with:

1. Joy
2. Generosity
3. Unity



4. Praise
5. God's favour

And the result?

**"The Lord added to their number daily..."**

God grew the church because their fellowship reflected His heart.

7. What does "filled with awe" mean in everyday language?
8. What does genuine, Spirit-filled fellowship feel like?
9. How can our own homes or groups reflect this "flavour"?

#### 4. *The Challenge of Community (Acts 2:44-45)*

The early believers shared possessions, supported one another, and met needs. This was a unique moment in history, a kind of spiritual community or kibbutz. (*A kibbutz is a communal settlement in Israel where members live together, share resources, and work collectively.*)

But what about today?

We may not all live together or share everything, but we can live by the spirit of verse 45 *"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need..."*

- Helping those in need
- Giving sacrificially
- Caring for the vulnerable
- Sharing resources
- Supporting one another in prayer and service

10. Is Acts 2 describing a special circumstance or a timeless principle?

11. How can we practice generosity in practical ways today?

#### 5. *Fellowship Leads to Mission.*

True fellowship always sends us outward. A healthy group does not turn inward but stretches outward.

**"The Lord added to their number daily..."** — Acts 2:47

**"Therefore go and make disciples..."** — Matthew 28:19

#### 6. *How fellowship fuels Mission.*

- Loving community draws people
- Shared strength empowers evangelism
- Unity gives testimony to Christ

## Holy Habit #4 - Obedience to the Spirit

1. Imagine you answered an unknown number on your cell phone, whose voice would you recognise? Would you be able to recognise your spouse's voice? Your parents? Your children? Your best friend? Whose voice do you know best? Which voice would give you great joy or comfort to hear today?
2. Have you experienced God speaking to you? How did He do it and how did you know it was Him?



### *The key to any relationship is communication.*

The Bible is full of stories of people being in a deep intimate relationship with God. He has chosen to reveal Himself to us, and to allow us know Him and His love. The Bible shows how people through the ages have engaged with Him, and it promises that He wants to engage with all of us in this way.

There are a few examples of people in Scripture who clearly knew God and heard his voice:

**Exodus 33:7-11** "Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the tent of meeting... As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses... The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend."

**2 Samuel 5:17-25** "When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David enquired of the Lord, 'Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hands?'

The Lord answered him, 'Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands...'

Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; so David enquired of the Lord again. This time the Lord said, 'Do not go straight up, but circle round behind them...'"

**Acts 13:2** "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

**Acts 16:6–10** "Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."

**2 Corinthians 12:8–9** "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.'"

3. What do you notice about each of these stories – what is similar in all of them?

*(You can also look at 1Sam3:2-10; 1Kings19:7-13; Acts10:9-16)*

4. How many different ways can you see God speaking? Can you think of any other ways?

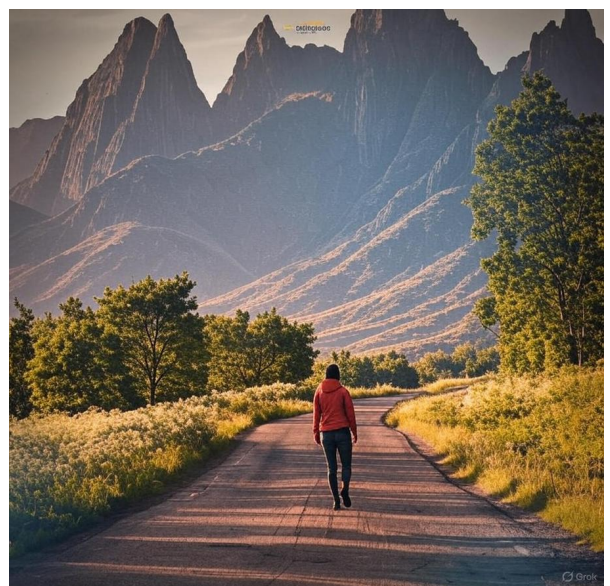
## God speaks to ALL of us...

Sadly, we often think that it is only special or "holy" people that God speaks to...

**Jeremiah 33:3** "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

**Isaiah 30:21** "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a Voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"

**Joel 2:28** "And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."



**Luke 12:11–12** "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

**John 14:26** "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

**John 10:27** "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me."

5. Which promise stands out to you the most and why?
6. Most of the verses specifically refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit. What does this tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
7. Unpack John 10:27 together – what is the nature of the relationship described here? How does this kind of relationship happen? How does this link back to question 1?
8. Why do you think that, while this is promised to us, many of us battle to hear the voice of God?

## Hearing God

*How do we hear God's voice? You cannot teach people to hear, it is a sense that we are born with – and if you belong to God, He has promised to speak to us and guide us. The key is to learn to listen – just as we teach children to listen.*



*Think of it like going on a game drive and looking for wildlife. The first time you go, the guide may point out animals that you really battle to see because you have not trained your eye to spot the movement, the colour, or the behaviour of the animal. If you do it regularly, not only will you learn to spot them, but you might even start to notice birds. You always could see, but by practising we develop our ability to notice and pay attention to the right things.*

*Here are a few steps to help with this...*

### **Learn the practice of silence and stillness**

**Psalm 46:10** "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."

**Mark 1:35** "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed."

9. What do you understand the difference between silence and stillness to be? Why is this important for hearing the Spirit?

### **Trust that He wants to speak**

**Romans 8:15-16** "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

**Revelation 3:20** "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me."

10. Do you truly believe that God wants to speak to you?  
Why or why not?

### **Build into the Relationship**

**Jeremiah 29:13** "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."

**James 4:8** "Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

11. How can you best build intimacy with God in your life?

### **Be obedient to what you hear**

**Galatians 5:25** "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

**John 14:15** "If you love Me, keep My commands."

12. Are there some things that God has already told you to do that you are not doing?

13. Why is obedience so key in growing in our relationship with God?

14. What will your next step be to move towards listening for God and becoming obedient to the promptings of the Spirit?



## Holy Habit #5 - Witness and Service

### Introduction

The Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea are both on the River Jordan. The Sea of Galilee is abundant with life and fruitfulness while the Dead Sea is... dead! The only difference between the two is that Galilee has an inflow and an outflow, while the Dead Sea has only an inflow. This speaks to our Christian lives, we must have an inflow of God's Grace and an outflow of witness and service if we want to be healthy.



The Oxford Dictionary defines service as "the action of helping or doing work for someone." In the context of Christian living, service has to do with living out our Christianity for the benefit of others and the world. This is how Christianity reaches out to others in the world. Christian outreach is informed by quite a number of Biblical texts but "the Great Commission" and "Serving the Least" are significant.

**Matthew 28:16–20** "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Matthew 25:31–40** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. Then the King will say to those on His right, Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was ill and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me."

1. How do these passages shape your understanding of mission?

2. What does authentic Christian service look like in your daily life?
3. What common excuses hinder believers from serving others?

## *Some other Key Scriptures*

### **Love as the Mark of Discipleship**

**John 13:34-35** "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

4. How does sacrificial love demonstrate true discipleship?
5. In what situations is it hardest for you to love others?
6. What practical action can you take to love someone this week?

### **Sacrificially Serving Others.**

**Mark 10:45** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

**John 13:14-15** "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

7. What areas of your life need a shift from "being served" to "serving?"
8. What modern examples mirror the humility of foot-washing today?
9. Why do you think humility is essential for discipleship?
10. How do you react when God calls you to serve in unnoticed ways?

**Ephesians 4:32** "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

11. How does forgiveness act as a form of service?
12. What hinders believers from being compassionate?
13. Why are we kind, compassionate and forgiving?

### **Service as Worship**

**Romans 12:1** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship."

14. Discuss: "Can you imagine worshipping God in a beautiful cathedral with a wonderful choir and beautiful music? Dropping off a plate of food with a needy neighbour is every bit as beautiful to God."

## Discipleship and Service Are Inseparable.

The verbal ministry of Proclamation is complemented by how we also care for the physical well-being as Servants. If we play Proclamation off against Service then the church is bound to suffer as a kingdom fighting against itself. The social witness should be a way of furthering the verbal witness of the church.

15. *"Like the Sea of Galilee we need input and output. Discipleship and Service Are Inseparable."*

Do you agree with this statement? Why? / Why not?

16. What happens when churches focus only on teaching or only on social action?

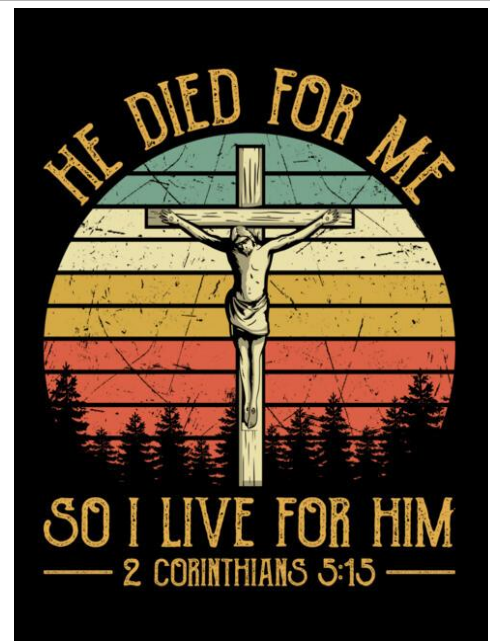
17. How can you personally integrate both learning and service into your spiritual life?

## Discipleship and Service Are A Lifelong Commitment

**Luke 9:23** "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me."

**Galatians 6:9** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

**Hebrews 12:1-3** "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."



18. What do these verses say about the journey of a Servant-Disciple?

19. What, according to the Hebrews passage, is our inspiration?

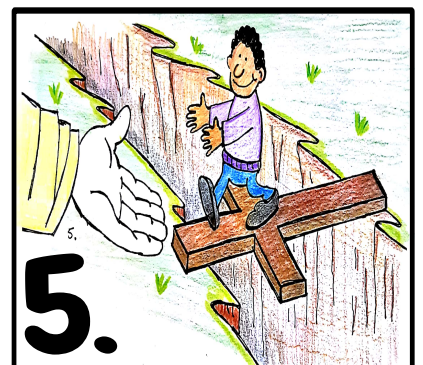
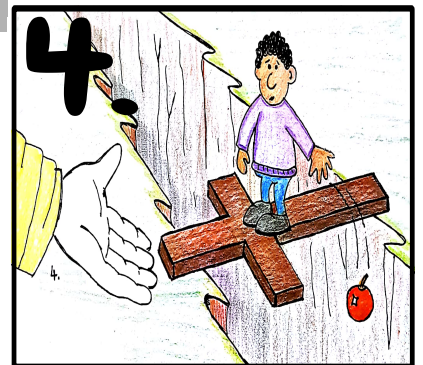
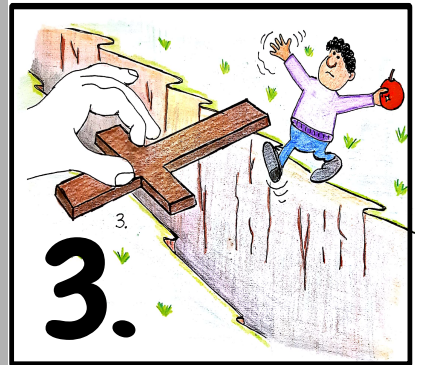
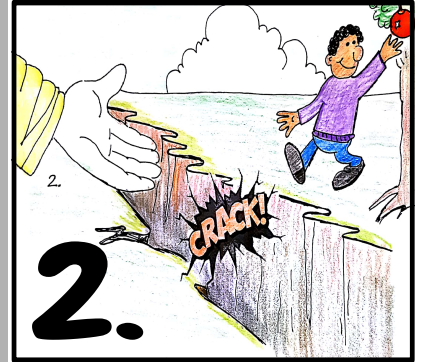
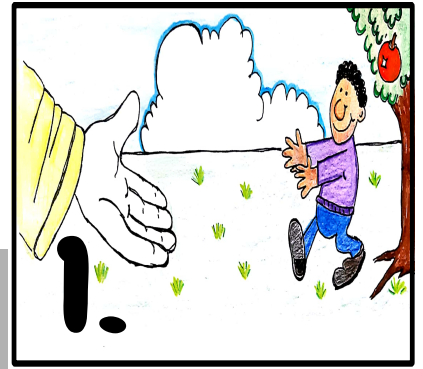
## And sometimes we have to use words!

Not everyone is a preacher or an evangelist, **but we are all called to be witnesses!** A witness tells of what they have seen and heard.

**Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**Matthew 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

**1 Peter 3:15-16** "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."



20. Look at the Gospel presentation on the right.

Can you identify the truth of these pictures in your own life? Do you think you would be able to explain these pictures to someone else?

21. Before we can go to others, what do we need? (Hint: Look at Acts 1:8 above)

22. There's a popular saying: "Preach the Gospel at all times – use words if necessary."  
One of Scripture Union's key values is "Earn the right to speak by personal friendship."  
Discuss how both these statements are reflected in Matthew 5 and 1 Peter 3 above.

## Conclusion

# Discipleship

Discipleship is the Spirit-empowered sacrificial life-changing and life-long journey of learning from Jesus, becoming like Jesus, living for Jesus, and reaching others with Jesus in community for the sake of the world bearing fruit and building God's Kingdom for His Glory.

Thank you for taking this journey with us.

The journey begins with the simple but profound call of Jesus: **"Come, follow Me"** (Matthew 4). It is an invitation into relationship, not merely into religion. To be a disciple is to walk with Jesus so closely that His words shape our thinking, His presence shapes our character, and His mission shapes our purpose. Jesus does not call us to admire Him from a distance but to follow Him, imitate Him, and be formed by Him.

**Come → Follow → Learn → Become → Abide → Obey → Bear Fruit → Go**

Scripture makes this clear. Jesus said, **"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me"** (Matthew 11). And Paul echoed this when he wrote, **"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"** (1Cor11). Discipleship is therefore imitation - not copying in our own strength, but being shaped by the Spirit so that Christ's life is reproduced in us.

This journey is both **life-changing** and **life-long**. It calls us to surrender our old ways, submit our whole selves to Christ, and continually re-orient our lives around His Kingdom.

Discipleship involves times of growth, seasons of pruning, moments of obedience, and steady steps of faith. We follow Jesus not only on the mountaintops but through the valleys, trusting that He is shaping, strengthening, and sending us.

### **Discipleship also has an outward flow.**

Followers of Jesus are not simply gatherers of knowledge or consumers of spiritual encouragement. They must become **disciple-makers**: passing on what they have received, helping others follow Jesus, and participating in God's mission in the world. In doing so, the disciple becomes an instrument of God's Kingdom: bearing fruit, blessing others, and reflecting the character of Christ.

## *Holy Habits for a Christ-Shaped Life*

On this journey, God gives us **holy habits** – practices that create space in our hearts and routines for the Holy Spirit to work deeply within us. These habits do not make us disciples on their own, but they cultivate the soil of our lives so that God can grow something beautiful, strong, and lasting.

- 1. Reading the Word.** Scripture is God's living and active voice. As we read, meditate, and obey, we learn Jesus' ways, hear His heart, and allow His truth to shape our decisions, desires, and identity.
- 2. Prayer.** Prayer is our continual conversation with God. In prayer we speak honestly, listen attentively, receive guidance, and learn to align our hearts with God's will. Through prayer we learn dependence, trust, intimacy, and surrender.
- 3. Fellowship.** We are formed in community, not in isolation. Fellowship provides encouragement, correction, accountability, shared wisdom, mutual support, and the practical experience of loving and being loved. Here iron sharpens iron, and together we grow stronger.
- 4. Obedience to the Holy Spirit.** The Spirit leads, guides, convicts, comforts, empowers, and speaks. Discipleship requires learning to listen and to obey. As we walk in step with the Spirit, we learn discernment, deepen our faith, and participate in God's work in the world.
- 5. Witness and Service.** A disciple's life naturally flows outward. We serve with compassion, speak the gospel with humility and courage, and live out God's love in everyday places – our homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and communities. True disciples bless the world because they carry Christ into it.

These habits help us stay close to Jesus, stand firm in trials, grow in love, and become fruitful in every good work.

## *Questions for Group Reflection*

1. Where do you see yourself right now on the discipleship journey?
  - learning,
  - becoming,
  - abiding,
  - obeying,
  - bearing fruit,
  - or going?What helps you take the next step?
2. Which of the holy habits has been most natural for you, and which one do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to strengthen or rediscover?
3. What have you appreciated anew or learned during this course?
4. What do you believe are your next steps in this journey?

## *A Prayer of Thanks and Dedication*

### **Gracious Father,**

We thank You for calling us to be disciples of Your Son Jesus Christ. Thank You for the grace that saves us, the Spirit who empowers us, and the community that walks with us.

### **Lord Jesus,**

teach us to learn from You, shape us to become like You, strengthen us to live for You, and send us to reach others with You. Let our lives bear fruit that brings honour to Your Name and builds Your Kingdom in this world.

### **Holy Spirit,**

lead us in the holy habits of the Word, prayer, fellowship, obedience, witness and service. Make us faithful disciples who help others follow You.

We dedicate ourselves afresh to Your purposes.

Use our lives for Your glory.

Form Christ within us.

Send us where You will.

Make us fruitful in every good work.

**For Yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
now and always. Amen.**



# Discipleship

A dramatic, high-contrast image showing a hand holding a hammer, striking a sword on an anvil. The scene is lit with warm, orange light, creating a sense of fire and intense work. Sparks are flying from the point of impact. The background is dark, making the central action stand out.

Discipleship is the **Spirit-empowered** sacrificial  
life-changing and life-long journey of  
learning from Jesus,  
becoming like Jesus,  
living for Jesus, and  
reaching others with Jesus  
in *community* for the sake of the world  
bearing fruit and building God's Kingdom for His Glory.