



## Chapter One: Defining Bible Discipleship

### What is discipleship? How does the scripture break down this word?

**Discipleship written within the Bible is connected a word often used in today's culture.** To those who coach a little league sport, or run a company, to parents who spend time raising children, or to women who head up a girl scout meeting, you have been in the role of the "mentor."

This term (mentor) holds great weight in its capabilities of molding lives and in instilling positive habits. Did you know the origin of mentorship is Biblical in principle?

God speaks of the virtues of mentorship in **Proverbs 27:17** when the passage states, as ***"Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."***

We think of a karate teacher being a mentor or an influential and caring high school teacher as a mentor. Many of us can look back at individuals in our lives who have helped us to become the people we are today.

The word "mentor," as we think of today was given a different name 2,000 years ago. The work of mentorship is the same NT ideal we can read in the Bible for discipleship.

Discipleship in NT Greek is mathētēs (μαθητής). This term means “one who engages in learning through instruction from another.”

Other terms for disciple are “pupil” and “learner.”

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3101.htm>

A cooking class can “disciple” you into a better cook. A personal fitness coach can “disciple” you in diet and the best workout routines and exercises. When we look at the storyline of Jesus, we read of a spiritual application to this term called “discipleship.”

To mentor or disciple, a person is to mold someone into a certain way of being. No one goes to one workshop and has all the answers in any given field given to them. Nor does one immediately change into a better version of themselves in any area they are pursuing for self-development when just starting out.

Discipleship in any area is a ***process***.

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### **Lesson Thought Exercises:**

*A. Think of those who helped mentor you. Who played a role in your spiritual development?*

*B. Who in the Old Testament helped mentor another spiritually?*

*C. Who in the New Testament helped mentor another spiritually?*

*D. Think of ways you can mentor others within the kingdom.*

*E. What are your spiritual talents God has given you? (Matthew 25:14-30) How can you use your gifts to help others?*

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## **Applicational Lesson Exercises:**

- A. Look in your church for someone you can offer to help, (keep in mind, sometimes people say “no.”)
  
- B. Think of ways to do this and write them down.

C. **Here are some ideas.** I challenge you to keep brainstorming to find more. The role of a leader is mentorship. Be ever looking for new ways to help Gods people grow.

1. **You can offer to help ask a kid to help you hold the doors when people are walking through the door Sunday morning.**
2. **Invite teens to visit the shut ins at a nursing home with you.**
3. **When making communion bread, invite the young girls to come over to help.**
4. **Have a class to train in your home to train people in song leading, public speaking, methods of Bible class teaching, etc.**
5. **Invite college age kids over to devotional. Have the young men help you, in song leading, and in reading scripture, etc.**
6. **Have church people over to write cards for visitors and the sick/discouraged at church.**
7. **Ask the kids to help you pass out the church bulletin at church.**
8. **When teaching Bible class for the kids, try to get the children to do more proactive rules, pray, read scripture, even teach parts of the lesson, if they are old enough, to help in that manner. Find ways to get them to step up.**
9. **Invite interested saints over to learn how to teach. You can teach the first lesson, then have each student of the group teach the following lesson. The more your group does this the more comfortable and experienced they will become.**
10. **If you are in such a position, try to include new converts into the role of worship. This will help such babies grow into adults.**

#### D. **What are evangelistic ways to mentor others?**

*(Know a good evangelism leader is a mentor, and mentorship is not just to be found in outreach. To be an excellent mentor, seek all forms of mentorship. The attitude of a leader is growth. By doing exercise C. Your actions will help create the right mindset for seeking the best in others. We'll get more into this in further lessons. Write down ways you can help mentor others in evangelism.)*

E. **Here are some ideas.** I challenge you to keep brainstorming to find more. The role of a leader is mentorship. Be ever looking for new ways to help Gods people grow.

**Note: some of these examples may seem advanced. Just start where you're at. Start off small and slowly work your way up. Growth and development takes time. Remember evangelism is like anything else, it is a process.**

1. **Invite new converts to evangelism group meeting the church is doing.**
2. **Have a devotional, have your kids make a devo and give it.**
3. **Have a college student join you in a "church new convert class," after he sees how the class is run and how you teach, invite him to teach a lesson.**
4. **Invite church members to go door knocking. Head it up, help the interested saints out who attend.**
5. **If teaching Bible class for kids, ask the children to make a devotional lesson on a certain topic and to invite their friends.**
6. **Teach an evangelism class. Those who listen to you and apply what they learn are being mentored by you.**

7. **Have a prayer meeting at your home, on the themes of evangelism. Invite others to pray with you on this important topic.**
8. **Encourage church members to help you greet the non-Christian visitors.**
9. **Teach a lesson to your family, your Bible study group or to your church on evangelism.**
10. **Have your kids go with you to a nursing home to ask the elderly if they would like “to read the Bible with them and their family.”**
11. **Encourage your family to have a “invite your friend to church” day.**
12. **Get a group together for weekly Bible studies at Starbucks.**
13. **Invite church friends to go pass out flyers (and invite people to Bible studies) at a nearby college campus.**
14. **Have breakfast once a month at a restaurant near the church to meet with the saints to talk about evangelism ideas.**
15. **Teach your Sunday school class an evangelism workbook.**
16. **To preachers:** *regularly teach lessons on evangelism. Themes can range from sharing Bible stories on evangelism, to methods of outreach. The reasons “why” God wants us to share Jesus can be shared as well.*

*Preachers, know you are mentors, you are mentoring others (through the Word of God) each time you speak. You can help create an evangelism culture within the church, by fostering the personal responsibility each saint has of the importance of sharing Jesus.*

*God wants us to help others grow more in His image. We need leaders who will help equip men (through Bible teaching/exampleship) to become future leaders. Leaders to help God's people, develop as preachers, elders, song leaders, Bible class teachers, better spouses, better parents, and as evangelists. Mentoring others is not a business model. It's divine Bible based work that can challenge others to grow and change lives.*

17. **To elders:** *you are the shepherds of the flock. You have a serious responsibility. A leadership without vision will perish. A church that has such a leadership will die. I encourage you to have regular lessons on evangelism.*

*To meet with the other elders and make goals to help ensure the longevity of your congregation. Research growth strategies on evangelism that can help your group grow and after planning/praying about it, implement those strategies. As time goes by, as you develop and learn, refine your strategies, as you learn from your mistakes.*

The fact elders that your reading this book, says your invested in God's work. I commend you for your desire to serve Him in this needed work.

An apathetic leadership has been the end of many congregations. Your passion, interest and zeal can help your group grow. "Everything rises and falls on leadership." For what is a nation, a church, a community, a home, if it has no true leaders?

I've seen preachers and elders undermine God's evangelism efforts and destroy whole congregations. I've seen new converts die, for this simple one reason, spiritual "indifference." Your love for His Word will make a great difference. Find ways to teach evangelism, promote evangelism and ways of getting the church to do evangelism.

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**Things to Remember:**

**"A new testament church is an evangelistic church. A new testament Christian does evangelism."**

**"A NT Christian is an evangelist. And a good evangelist is always hungry for knowledge, is always active and thus is always growing."**

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## Chapter two: Further Exploring Spiritual Discipleship

In matters of spirituality the Bible speaks of mentorship in two instances in the following passage... ***“But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand.”*** Isaiah 64:8

We are told God *mentors us as a father does with his child*. All parents know they have a special role in their children’s lives. They can teach, guide, and live as role models and as examples to their.... offspring. Mothers have a special role in working with and nurturing the family unit.

The father has the responsibility to lead and shows support for those family members in the house. Parents can form, (for better or worse) the character of their children that can last a lifetime. In this serious venue, let us look at the passage again.

What other discipleship traits do we read? God calls Himself the potter and us the clay. If we allow ourselves to be soft in our hearts and yielding to His will, the Master craftsman can mold us more into His likeness and image.

But how does God mentor us (as a father) and mold us (as clay)? Our Lord has given us the Word to disciple us as pupils and mold us into His image of holiness, **(2 Peter 1:3-4).**



Yet neither God nor His Son have come down from heaven to teach us. So, how can people learn the truth without being taught?

To find these answers we need to look to the Bible and its message. God's truth says, we are the teacher's that providence uses for God, **(Romans 10:14-17)**. A teacher or preacher is just one who proclaims the glad tidings. We all have that responsibility. **(Jude 23)**

The Lord uses people (like you and me) as instruments of righteousness, (for His good works), **(Romans 6:13;18)** and as vessels of truth, **(2 Corinthians 4:5-7)**.

Once someone has taught us the truth, we are commanded to likewise teach others, **(2 Timothy 2:2)**. We are those who impart God's glory in what we teach to others, **(2 Corinthians 3:2-6;8-9;18)**.

We are God's hands for the molding of the clay, and we are those who share the means (through truth) of divine adoption, to those who are without a spiritual Father, in this world, **(Galatians 4:5-7)**.

This is what a true believer is supposed to be. We must share Jesus and impact others in how we live our lives. WE all must be this NT definition of mentor/disciple.

And a Bible based disciple (of Jesus) is just another name for a "Christian." In the Bible, the term disciple, is used interchangeably with the term Christian, **(Acts 11:26)**. A term that uses the word "Christ" with an "IAN" at the end. The naming itself implies who such people belong to.

Jesus expected a pupil of His, to follow Him and the truth He gave. A new disciple is more than just a baptized believer. Part of the saving process is in living a new and transformed life, after conversion, **(Romans 6:1-4)**.

*This is what the Bible gives as a standard for us to know, whether we are God's disciples or not... "Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,**" (John 8:31).*

One of the aspects of truth, (that we must obey) is shown in how we disciple others through evangelism. *If we are to follow Jesus as disciples we must live as Jesus. (Matthew 4:19) We will get into this more in the next chapter.*





## Chapter three: The Role of Discipleship in the Great Commission

What is the Great Commission? How does it apply to us for today?

To understand the great assignment, task, or “commission” as the term is normally called, we need to understand the divine reason for such a work. We need to understand personally “*why*” God has given us this spiritual calling.

The passage of **John 3 16** says, “**For God so loved** (sacrificially, in all selflessness loved, - [agapaó](#)) **the world** (all of creation - [kosmos](#)) **that He gave His only begotten** (the one-and-only; a “one of a kind” - [monogenés](#)) **Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**”

This is a powerful verse. While we were unlovable, unworthy, (spiritually) dirty, and viewed as adversaries of God, (**Romans 5:10**) with no merit of our own, a timeless being, separated the Son with whom He had spent all eternity with. That “one of a kind,” being, who will forever be distinct from all of creation, was allowed to be murdered for the kosmos, to take away the sins of the world, (**John 1:29**) for all time. (**John 1:29**)

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were dirty, undesirable, frail and in need of heavens support...and God rescued these people. (**Ezekiel 16:1-14**)

Like these Jews, we were the same. Our sins had made us undesirable, we were spiritually dirty, separated from our Creator (**Isaiah 59:2**) and vulnerable. Yet God picked us up, and gave us the name of sons and daughters, as adopted children. (**Galatians 4:4-7**). He took our sins away. ***“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”*** (**Psalm 103:12**).

Without God’s divine grace, we are lost, doomed, weak. As **Isaiah 64:6** says, ***“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”***

Yet our Lord gave us a chance, He gave us hope. All Jesus asks is for us to help others receive this same blessings.

Understanding the enormous gift emotionally as well as mentally, enables us to follow what Paul writes in the passage of **2 Corinthians 5:14** ***“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”***

The story of the cross should compel us. The gift should be shared. For if we do not share it, our friends, our loved ones, our neighbors we see day in and day out, will be lost. In that context this chapter further declares our need of sharing Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 5:11** ***“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.”***

*This is our calling, this is our purpose, to be Jesus’ ambassadors. We are saved and are expected to be servants of this ministry of soul saving.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18** ***“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”***

## **Lesson Thought Exercises:**

- A. *Think of ways to stir up the fear of the Lord (His judgment) to the degree you feel like you need to persuade others to turn to Jesus.*