

DISCIPLING OUR GENERATION

Collegiate Staff Training



INTRODUCTION

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Habbakuk 2:20)

The ultimate work of the Lord is to bring glory to Himself. And with that, He calls us to Himself and His work. We have a task, a mission, a passion, a heartbeat. We want to see the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom advancing around the world. We have a God who has selected us to help others know and experience His love and grace. We help others enter into the family of God and grow within it.

What is discipleship? What does it mean to help others know and love Jesus? What kind of people does God want us to be? What are the things God uses to develop people? These are some of the questions we will explore through this Bible study.

OUTLINE

- I. **What is a Disciple?**
Understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- II. **The Great Commission**
Take a closer look at the final charge of Jesus Christ.
- III. **Developing Christ-likeness**
What happens when a person becomes a Christian? What does a mature disciple look like?
- IV. **Motivation for Ministry**
What are some biblical reasons we engage in disciple-making?
- V. **Jesus’ Vision for the Individual**
- VI. **One to One Ministry**
Where did the concept of One to One Ministry originate? How is this best accomplished?
- VII. **Spiritual Generations**
How can the small investments we make have a big impact on eternity?
- VIII. **Epilogue: Help for the Journey**
Tools to help with Discipleship

I. THE GREAT COMMISSION

To understand what it means to disciple our generation, we will take a closer look at the Great Commission.

A. Jesus' Purpose

Read the following verses and consider these questions: What did Jesus come to do? What was on His heart?

- Matthew 9:9-13
- Mark 10:45
- Luke 4:16-21
- Luke 19:10
- John 10:10

What other passages offer us clear statements about Jesus' purpose?

B. Jesus' Plan

Read the following verses and consider these questions: What is commanded? What is promised?

- Matthew 4:19
- Mark 3:14
- John 15:16
- John 17:18-21
- John 20:21
- Mark 16:15-18
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Luke 24:45-49
- Acts 1:8

Although this is obviously not an exhaustive list of the things Jesus did, how does Jesus plan to accomplish His purpose? What strategy do you see unfolding?

Define "Commission."

To whom was the Great Commission given? What were they commissioned to do?

C. For Thought and Reflection

1. Use the following questions to think and pray through on your own.
 - a. What does the Great Commission say about the One who gave it?
 - b. What is the relationship between the Great Commandment and the Great Commission?
2. Think about someone who has significantly helped you grow in your faith.

- a. What characterized his/her relationship with you?
- b. What did they model that was most helpful to your growth as a disciple?

II. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

In this study, we will explore what it means to be a disciple or follower of Jesus. We will also seek to understand what is meant by discipleship and what it entails.

A. The Disciple

Using Bible dictionaries and other reference materials, look up the word “disciple.” Write down the definitions and any observations you make.

1. What did it mean to be a follower of Jesus in the First Century?
2. What does this mean to you today? How does being a disciple make you feel?
3. What new insights did you discover?

B. Marks of a Disciple

There are many things which mark a disciple, but the following list of “marks” of a disciple are clear statements from Jesus on what makes a person a disciple.

1. Add your own scripture references from the epistles for each “mark of a disciple” in the blanks provided.
 2. On a separate sheet of paper, write your observations, questions, thoughts and feelings for each passage.
- **Puts Jesus First** - Luke 14:26-35
 - Luke 9:23-26
 - Luke 9:57-62
 - John 15:18-20
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 - **Abides in the Word** - John 8:31-32
 - Matthew 7:24-27
 - Matthew 12:46-50
 - John 14:21-24
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 - **Loves like Jesus** - John 13:34-35
 - Mark 12:28-31
 - Luke 6:27-36
 - Luke 7:36-47
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- **Bears Fruit - John 15:8**

- Mark 4:13-20
- Luke 6:43-45
- John 15:1-8
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C. For Thought and Reflection

1. Summarize what you have learned and write a definition of a disciple
2. In what areas of discipleship are you the strongest?
3. What areas could use some work? In what specific ways could you pursue growth in those areas?

III. DEVELOPING CHRIST-LIKENESS

Luke 6:40 (ESV)

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

A. Spiritual Transformation – a Divine Partnership

The process of spiritual transformation, or becoming more like Christ, is just that – a process. It is the spiritual journey each of us is on. As much as God is at work within us, we are also given responsibility for our own growth.

Look up the passages below. What are some of the things God Himself does on our behalf? What are some of the areas of personal responsibility?

- Romans 6:1-14
- Romans 8:9-17
- Romans 12:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 3:18

- Galatians 2:20
- Galatians 5:16-26
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Ephesians 4:1-2
- Ephesians 4:20-24
- Philippians 1:6
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Colossians 3:1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“A farmer plows his field, sows the seed and fertilizes and cultivates – all the while knowing that in the final analysis he is utterly dependant on forces outside of himself. Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer should do. We can say just as accurately that the pursuit of holiness is a joint venture between God and the Christian.” – Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

B. The Role of Other Believers

Our spiritual transformation doesn't happen a vacuum. What do the following passages regarding the role of other believers in our becoming more like Christ?

alone or in teach

- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 27:17
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Hebrews 3:12-13
- Hebrews 10:24-25

C. The Fruit of the Spirit

What does Christ-likeness look like? A great place to start is to look at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Using Bible dictionaries and other reference materials, look up each aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. Find several references to these aspects in other passages (see example for “love” below).

1. Write down the definitions and any observations you make.
2. What does the word mean?
3. What does it look like lived out in your life?
4. What new insights did you discover?

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- **Love** - The underlying essence of *agapē* is a supremely self-sacrificing love. It is characterized by a concern, not for oneself, but for others. (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words)
 - **1 John 4:10**, (New Living Translation) *This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

- **John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

- **Joy**

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- **Peace**

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- **Patience**

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- **Kindness**

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- **Goodness**

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- **Faithfulness**

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- **Gentleness**

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- **Self-control**

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D. For Thought and Reflection

1. What new discoveries did you make about the process of spiritual transformation?
2. What encouragement did you receive knowing that God is very much engaged in the process?
3. What practical steps can you take to engage yourself more in the process?
4. Are there specific areas you sense God speaking to you about becoming more like Christ?

E. Thinking it through for Your Campus

1. Given God's role and a person's own responsibility, what do you think is your responsibility in another person's spiritual transformation?
2. How might you measure intangible qualities such as Faith, Hope and Love?

IV. MOTIVATION FOR MINISTRY

Choosing to serve in a ministry takes time, energy and resources. It means making choices, setting priorities and making sacrifices. Why would anyone do this? Healthy motives for ministry help develop purposeful, enthusiastic, inwardly motivated, authentic persons whose ministry is not driven by self-serving pride, greed or insecurity.

A. Motivations of Biblical Leaders

Study the following passages. Write out all your thoughts and questions from these verses. What are some of the motivations that these biblical leaders had for ministry?

- ISAIAH
 - Isaiah 6:1-6
- JEREMIAH
 - Jeremiah 20:9
- JESUS
 - Matthew 9:35-38
 - Mark 1:35-39
 - John 5:30
 - John 17:4
- PAUL
 - Colossians 1:28-29 (J.B. Phillips Translation) - So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:11-15
 - 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- PETER
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - 1 Peter 5:1-4

What other passages motivate you to minister?

B. For Thought and Reflection

1. What did you discover about motives for ministry?
2. What drives and motivates you in ministry?
3. Why did you join The Navigators staff?
4. What might be some possible results spiritually, emotionally and physically from ministering out of wrong motives?

V. JESUS' VISION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

A. Jesus' Mission

Read Matthew 9:9-13, 35-38, Luke 19:10 and Luke 7:18-23

1. Why did Jesus come?
2. What was on His heart?
3. What did He do to accomplish His plan?
4. What is His vision for reaching the world?

B. Jesus' Prayer

Read John 17

1. What did Jesus accomplish with His men?
2. What did He ask from the Father?
3. What was His overall desire/vision?

C. The Dignity and Value of Every Person

Read the following verses. What do they say about the importance of each individual?

- Genesis 1:26
- Psalm 139:13-18
- Jeremiah 29:11
- John 3:16
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- 2 Peter 3:9

D. The Significance of the Individual

Read the following verses. Write some things God has done or can do through one person.

- Genesis 1:27-29
- Isaiah 43:3-4
- Isaiah 60:22
- Ezekiel 22:30
- 2 Timothy 2:2

“When I see the multitudes, I don’t know where to start, but when I see an individual – then I can begin.”

Reflect on your response to these verses about God significantly using individuals for his purposes. Do you feel honored, amazed, overwhelmed, unworthy...?

Then take time to praise God for his grace and power in your life.

VI. ONE ON ONE MINISTRY

Before we look at One on One Ministry, let's remember that other forms of ministry are valid as well.

A. Forms of Ministry

For each of the following verses, identify the ministry form that was used. What are the benefits and the limitations of each form of ministry?

- Luke 5:29-32
- Matthew 5:1-2
- Mark 6:35-44
- Luke 11:1-4

B. Examples of One on One Ministry (or something similar)

Write down your thoughts and questions as you read through these verses.

- John 1:35-39
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Mark 3:14
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 27:17
- Proverbs 23:26
- Joshua 11:15
- Colossians 1:28-29

Write out the meaning and implications of all the key words in Hebrews 10:24.

How does this verse relate to One on One Ministry?

C. For Thought and Reflection

1. What does it mean to "make a disciple"?
2. How can we best make disciples on our campus?
3. What do we teach these would-be disciples? What do we feel as a team is the minimum that we want every student to know, do and be before they graduate?
4. How can we ensure that they are really understanding and owning these things?

One easy concept to keep in mind as we disciple students is to help them in all the areas described by the Wheel Illustration.

D. A Sample Plan

A sample plan to get you started is on the next page. Use this as a spring board to develop your own plan. Always be sure to keep in mind that tools, intentions and plans are helpful, but discipleship is a *process* (not a project) which requires heart involvement and relational commitment.

A SAMPLE PLAN FOR DISCIPLING SOMEONE

Cover the Basics

- Teach them the Wheel illustration
- Teach them the Word Hand
- Teach them the Acrostic ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)

Quiet Times

- Read the Nav booklet: *7 Minutes with God*
- Have a Quiet Time together
- How to find the "Best Verse"
- Read the Nav booklet: *How to have a Quiet Time* - Myers
- Go over a Bible Reading Plan

Scripture Memory

- Beginning with Christ*
- Topical Memory System

Bible Study

- Show them some study resources
- How to do a Topical Study
- How to do an ABC Study

"Faith is not a synonym for disorder or a substitute for careful planning."
– Chuck Swindoll

Meditation/Application

- Have them draw Psalm 1 and Discuss
- Talk about the SPEAK Principle when reading the Word
(Sin to Avoid, Promise to Claim, Example to Follow, Action to take, Knowledge of God)

Prayer

- Simple Prayer list
- Read the Nav booklet: *Prayer, Beholding Gods Glory*
- Take prayer walks with them
- Read the Nav booklet: *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* - Sanny

Witnessing

- Teach them how to give a short testimony
- Show them how to pray for unbelieving friends (like a 10 Most Wanted List)
- Learn the Bridge Illustration
- Show them how to read the Bible with a friend
- Read the Nav booklet: *Born to Reproduce* - Trotman

Lordship

- Read the booklet: *My Heart, Christ's Home* - Munger
- Talk about areas of particular struggle
- Talk about Sexual Purity
- Show them the *Principles for Discovering God's Will*

Fellowship

- Help them understand the heart and purpose for genuine biblical fellowship. Far beyond just socializing or attending meetings together, it's encouraging and building one another up at the heart level.
- Help them get connected at Navs; get them into a Bible study
- Help them find a church
- Talk about Principles for Friendships
- Establish accountability

VII. SPIRITUAL GENERATIONS

Isaiah 60:22

...the least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.

Establishing someone in their walk with God is just the beginning! There is a vision that extends beyond the individual. In this study, we will explore how the concept of *spiritual generations* relates to our vision for “Advancing the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations...”

A. Generations

In your own words, define “generations.”

Study the following passages. What ideas of reproduction, growth and generations do you find?

- Genesis 1:11–12
- Genesis 1:28
- Deuteronomy 6:1–9
- Psalm 78:1–8

B. Generations from Abraham

Study the following passages. What do you see regarding God’s promises to Abraham?

- Genesis 12:1–3
- Genesis 17:1–2
- Genesis 22:17–18
- Romans 4:16–18
- Galatians 3:7–9
- Hebrews 6:13–15

C. The Vision

What did Jesus want to see happen through his followers?

- Matthew 28:18–20
- John 17:6–26
- Acts 1:8

D. Principles of Generations

What principles of generations do you see in Paul’s letters?

- Philippians 2:19–22
- 2 Timothy 2:1-7
- Phil 4:9
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

E. For Thought and Reflection

1. From the passages you have studied, what did you learn about generations?
2. How does this impact your view of and your role in the Great Commission?
3. What kinds of dreams and prayers do you have about the legacy you want to leave on the earth?

F. Thinking it through for Your Campus

1. What do you need to do to ensure that generations are occurring in your disciple-making ministry?
2. What are some ways you can pray for your campus regarding generations?

Here are a few promises that you can pray from scripture to get you started:

Isaiah 43:4

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life.

Isaiah 54:2-3

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities."

Isaiah 60:22

The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly."

Jeremiah 30:19 (NASB)

'And from them shall proceed thanksgiving And the voice of those who make merry; And I will multiply them, and they shall not be diminished; I will also honor them, and they shall not be insignificant.'

VIII. SUMMARY AND APPLICATION

What has God revealed, clarified or affirmed regarding my...

CALLING (Who I am in Christ, Who we are as Navigators)

CONVICTIONS (What I know and believe)

CHARACTER (Who I'm becoming as I follow and imitate Christ)

COMPETENCIES (What skills I already have and/or need to develop)

CONTRIBUTION (How I minister and serve- now and/or in the future)

What additional step(s) is God prompting me to take as a result of this study in any of these 5 areas?

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