

## OPEN

There are countless books written about discipleship. There are probably few definitions of discipleship that a room full of Christians would agree upon.

Have no fear, this study is aimed at providing you with a well-rounded approach to your personal discipleship journey. You will learn together as a group, but you will apply these lessons individually. For a church is made up of her people and her people determine, to an extent, what kind of disciples they will be.

Discipleship will be comprised of four areas and we will describe a disciple as one who is participating in these four areas, as they journey with Jesus this side of heaven.

## What are these Four Areas?

**GET** Christ's forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

**GROW** in grace and knowing Him.

**GLOW** with His love in your callings and through your local church.

**GO** tell the Good News about Him in your callings (vocations) and through your local church.

You could break these four areas into two general categories: faith and love. You could break these four areas into two general actions: receiving and giving.

## Opening Discussion

*(Answers will vary widely)*

What is the best hiding place you have ever been in, personally? Share with the group and have some laughs. This could be at the office, in a game of hide-and-seek, a deer stand, or something altogether different.

What are some ways where people, individual members of the local church, do a great job at "hiding" in the church? What has been your experience? Have you ever hidden inside a community of faith? How can a member stay under the radar and not be found "hiding?"

What are some things you could do, individually, to go in search of these people? You've discussed how and where members tend to hide, how will you find them and how will you seek to remove any anxiety they may have?

## Matthew 28:18-20 (Receive)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

In what way are the GET, GROW, GLOW, and GO aspects all illustrated in these verses, whether clearly, implied,

or simply necessary in fulfilling this Great28 Commission?

### Matthew 16:13-18 (Receive)

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What made Peter a member of the church?

What proclamation of the truth is the church built on, as it relates to these verses?

Does **1 Corinthians 3:11**, help us with the above question, if so, how?

### Isaiah 40:1-11 (Give)

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD's  
hand

double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of  
the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway  
for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made  
low;

the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be  
revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has  
spoken.”

### The Word of God Stands Forever

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of  
the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on  
it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand  
forever.

### The Greatness of God

<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

<sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with

might,  
 and his arm rules for him;  
 behold, his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
 he will carry them in his bosom,  
 and gently lead those that are with  
 young.

In what way does verse 9 apply to the church, today?

Jesus says, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Jesus also says, “You are the light of the world,” in Matthew 5:14. Why and for what purpose does Christ bestow this gift on us?

### 1 Peter 2:1-10 (Give)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.  
<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,<sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
 a cornerstone chosen and precious,

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
 and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The word “Priest” means “bridge builder.” A priest builds bridges between God and His people. What are some bridges we could build, which may connect someone else to God? Could service be a bridge? Could prayer be a bridge? Could sharing the Good News be a bridge? Discuss.

Why are we not whisked out of the world the moment we are saved?

**Quick Personal Assessment**

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being “fantastic” and 1 being “please help me,” how would you rank yourself in the following areas?

**GET** Christ’s forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

**GROW** in grace and knowing Him.

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**Prayer Time:**

Please pray about an area, as it relates to these four areas of discipleship, where you would like the Spirit to help you grow.

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