

Disciple

AUDIO RESOURCES

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- ▲ **Follow the Rabbi** – *Ray VanderLaan*
- ▲ **Commitment to Training** – *Walt Henrichsen*
- ▲ **Scripture Memory** – *Dawson Trotman*
- ▲ **Commitment** – *Billy Graham*
- ▲ **Born to Reproduce** – *Dawson Trotman*

What is a disciple?

Part 1

“...and the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch” Acts 11.26 (NASB)

*“It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master...”
Matthew 10.25 (NASB)*

WHERE DID “CHRISTIAN” COME FROM?

From the passage below, where did the word “Christian” come from?

Acts 11.26

WHAT WERE THE FIRST FOLLOWERS CALLED?

The word “Christian” was not used until many years after Jesus. In the passages below, how did Jesus refer to his followers, and what were they called after his departure? Did this term apply to all his followers or only to a select few?

Luke 6.13

John 6.66-67

Acts 6.2,7

DOES JESUS WANT ALL HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE LIKE HIS FIRST DISCIPLES?

Matthew 28.19-20

WHY DISCIPLES?

From the passages below, what purpose and goals did Jesus have for his disciples?

Matthew 10.24-25

Mark 1.17

John 15.8,16

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENT DID JESUS REQUIRE OF HIS DISCIPLES?

Luke 14.26-33

Matthew 10.37-39

Luke 9.57-62

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ In your own words, what do you think is the purpose and goal of being a disciple of Jesus? If you are a follower, **how does this compare the priorities of your life currently?**
- ▲ Jesus demands a high level of commitment from his disciples. Why do you think this is? **How does your own commitment to him compare to the statements Jesus made to his first disciples?**
- ▲ Many of Jesus' first disciples had to leave something in order to follow him (i.e. Mat 4.18-20; 19.21,27). **What are the things you will have to leave and change in your life to pursue Jesus as a disciple?**

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **REPENT** from any other priorities and make changes in your life so that Jesus is your only priority—**make him Lord of your life!**
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 2 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this section)

Luke 14.26-27

ESV

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

THE USE OF “CHRISTIAN” AND “DISCIPLE”

Matthew 27.57	Acts 1.21-22	Acts 16.1
*Luke 6.13	*Acts 6.2,7	Acts 21.16
John 4.1	*Acts 11.26 “xtian”	Acts 26.28 “xtian”
*John 6.66-67	Acts 14.21	1Peter 4.16 “xtian”

THE PURPOSE AND GOALS OF A DISCIPLE

*Matthew 10.24-25	Luke 6.40	*John 15.8,16
*Matthew 28.20	John 13.15-16	Acts 1.8
*Mark 1.17	John 14.12	Romans 7.4

THE COMMITMENT OF A DISCIPLE

Matthew 8.18-22	Luke 6.46	John 12.26
*Matthew 10.37-39	Luke 9.23-24	John 14.15,21,23
Matthew 16.24-25	*Luke 9.57-62	
Mark 8.34-38	*Luke 14.26-33	

JESUS’ INTENT FOR DISCIPLES AFTER HIS DEPARTURE

*Matthew 28.19-20	Romans 8.29	Colossians 1.28
John 17.20-21	1Corinthians 11.1	1Thessalonians 1.6

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Luke 6.46 (NASB)

“For I have given you an example, that you should do just as I have done to you” John 13.15 (ESV)

THE 1ST CONDITION OF DISCIPLESHIP

In his recorded teachings Jesus only gives very few “conditions of discipleship” – things that a disciple must be committed to in order to follow him. What requirement does Jesus give in the passage below?

John 8.31-32

“MY WORDS...”

Jesus exemplified a thorough understanding of all the scriptures, but for his own disciples his main concern was that they consume themselves with his own teaching. In these passages observe the value Jesus places on his own teaching.

Mark 13.31

Luke 6.46-48

Matthew 28.20

John 6.63

John 15.7

John 5.39-40,46-47

MORE THAN WORDS

Western cultures associate “teaching” with verbal instruction and passing on knowledge and skills. In the passages below how does Jesus “teach” his disciples and what is the goal of his “teaching”?

John 13.13-17

Luke 6.40

John 15.12

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ The Greek word translated “continue” or “abide” in John 8.31 is defined by *Thayer’s Greek Definitions*, “to remain, abide, tarry; not to depart; to continue to be present; to be held or kept continually.” **What will it look like for you to do this with Jesus’ words?**
- ▲ Jesus considered his example and lifestyle to be as important to his “teaching” as his words. **List some things you know about the lifestyle, customs, and priorities of Jesus?** If you are a disciple of Jesus, **how can you become more familiar with his lifestyle and teachings?**

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **START READING** one chapter of from Jesus’ life every day (in the Bible that’s *Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John*) and look for ways to become like him
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 3 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this section)

John 8.31-32

ESV

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

DISCIPLES ARE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING THE MASTER'S TEACHING

John 6.68	John 15.4-10	Acts 2.42
*John 8.31-32	John 17.6	

JESUS' EMPHASIS ON HIS OWN WORDS

Matthew 7.24	John 5.24	John 12.47
*Matthew 28.20	*John 5.39-40	John 14.15,21,23
Mark 8.38	*John 5.46-47	*John 15.7
*Mark 13.31	*John 6.63	
*Luke 6.46-48	John 8.51	

JESUS TEACHES BY EXAMPLE

*Luke 6.40	*John 13.13-17	*John 15.12
John 1.1,14,18	John 14.12	1John 2.6

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” Matthew 28.19 (ESV)

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4.19

CONDITION #2 — MAKE DISCIPLES

Observe the condition of discipleship that Jesus gives in the passages below

John 15.8 & Matthew 4.19

Matthew 28.19-20

DISCIPLES ARE COMMITTED TO LOVING PEOPLE AND MAKING DISCIPLES

From the beginning Jesus made it clear that following him would result in his disciples becoming “fishers of men.” What does Jesus say about the importance and priority of reaching people around you?

Matthew 9.36-38

Luke 4.43 & Luke 19.10

Matthew 10.27

Acts 1.8 & Matthew 24.14

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ Jesus made it clear that following him would involve loving and sharing truth with other people and eventually making other disciples. ***Who are you connected with that seems to have a desire to learn about God or grow closer to him? How can you meet this person's spiritual and physical needs? What would you like to ask God to do in this person's life?***

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **LEARN TO SHARE** your story of following Jesus and the “Two Kingdoms” illustration on the next page
- ▲ **MAKE A LIST** of 10 people that you can share this with. **START PRAYING** for these people and for opportunities to share with other friends and neighbors.
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 3 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this section)

Matthew 28.19-20

ESV

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

DISCIPLES ARE COMMITTED TO THE WORLD

*Matthew 4.19	Matthew 25.31-46	John 10.16
*Matthew 9.36-38	*Matthew 28.19-20	*John 15.8,16
*Matthew 10.27	Mark 16.15	John 17.18
Matthew 10.32-33	*Luke 4.43	John 17.20-23
Matthew 22.34-40	*Luke 19.10	John 20.21
*Matthew 24.14	Luke 24.47-48	*Acts 1.8

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

THE TWO KINGDOMS ILLUSTRATION

1. The kingdom of God is here!

When Jesus sent his disciples out he told them to proclaim “The kingdom of God is at hand (or near).” Have you heard this before? What does this mean to you (or) what do you think it means that the kingdom of God is near?

2. What is the kingdom of God?

A kingdom is a kingdom because it has a king. Who is the king of the kingdom of God (God)? Do you think this is a good kingdom or a bad kingdom (good)?

3. The kingdom of Satan

There is another kingdom...a bad kingdom. Who do you think is king of this kingdom (Satan; Luke 11.18)? Jesus talks a lot about this kingdom. The consequence of allegiance to this kingdom is total separation from God (Matthew 25.41).

4. Entering the kingdom of God

How do you think a person gets into the kingdom of God? (John 14.6) Does Jesus’ statement seem “narrow” to you? Does it seem offensive?

STORY: Guide leading a group through minefield—“Follow my steps exactly. This is the only way.” Is this narrow (yes)? Offensive (no)?

5. What does REPENT mean?

Jesus’ message was “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Matthew 4.17). This is the way that he said to enter his kingdom. What do you think it means to repent?

STORY: Roman army on a campaign would send a messenger first—“Leave your tribe and give allegiance to Rome. Join us and be trained to fight for us, and we will offer you protection and citizenship”

6. How do you give allegiance to the Kingdom of God?

Make following Jesus your only priority (Matthew 10.37-39)

7. What do you think? Give them a chance to respond. Remember your goal is to provide information, not to get someone to make a decision.

8. Conclusion. Finish with this...

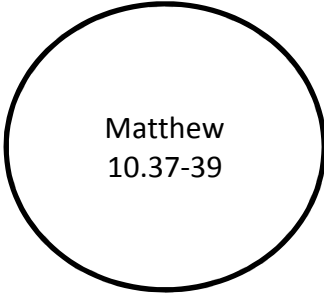
I’m not going to ask you to make a decision or pray with me, but I’d like to ask you to think about two things:

- **WHAT IS THE CURRENT PRIORITY OF YOUR LIFE?** *If it is anything other than following Jesus you are not in the KOG.*
- **HAVE YOU EVER READ THE LIFE & TEACHINGS OF JESUS?** *(invite them to read Jesus’ teachings with you or your group)*

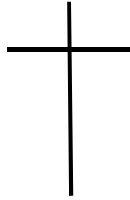
“The kingdom of God is at hand”

Matthew 4.17

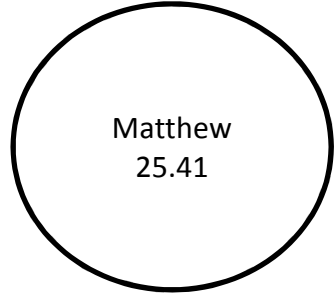
Kingdom of God



John 14.6



Kingdom of Satan



WHO CAN I SHARE THIS WITH

Make a list of 10 people that you can share this with. Begin praying for the people on this list and for opportunities to share with other friends and neighbors.

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” John 15.12 (ESV)

“...he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers”

1John 3.16

CONDITION #3 — LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Observe the condition of discipleship that Jesus gives in the passage below

John 13.34-35

DISCIPLES ARE COMMITTED TO LOVING EACH OTHER AS JESUS DID

In John 13.34-35 Jesus says that his disciples will be known by doing for each other what Jesus did for them. What kind of relationship did Jesus have with his first disciples and how are disciples commanded to treat each other?

Matthew 20.25-28

Mark 3.31-35

John 13.13-15

Philippians 2.3-8

THE BATTLE BUDDY

Consider one or two fellow disciples that you can commit to for consistent fellowship and accountability. Let the passages below guide your interactions.

Hebrews 10.24-25

Luke 17.3-4

Who will I ask to partner with me?

THINK ABOUT IT

What is my main takeaway from this study? How does God want me to apply this?

- ▲ How does the kind of camaraderie and love described in these passages compare to the fellowship that you have with other followers of Jesus?
What can you do to have this kind of relationship with the “battle buddy” you listed on the previous page?

MAKE IT REAL

Follow Jesus now—no hesitations, no holding back!

- ▲ **FIND A BATTLE BUDDY.** Find one or two fellow disciples who are willing to commit with you to “spur each other on” (Hebrews 10.24) as described in this section. **CONSIDER** how to love him/her and begin meeting regularly.
- ▲ **SHOW GOD’S LOVE** to those around you by serving 3 of your neighbors, coworkers, or classmates this week.
- ▲ **SHARE** a story or passage from this section with 3 people this week
- ▲ **INVITE** someone to join our discussion next week

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Memorize and meditate on the verse below throughout this week (or your own favorite verse from this section)

John 13.34-35

ESV

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

OPTION FOR SELF-DIRECTED STUDY

Below is a more extensive list of references for a self-directed study on this topic

DISCIPLES ARE COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER

Matthew 5.23-24	Mark 10.42-45	Ephesians 4.32
Matthew 12.46-50	*Luke 17.3-4	*Philippians 2.3-8
Matthew 18.15	*John 13.13-15	Hebrews 3.13
Matthew 18.21-35	*John 13.34-35	*Hebrews 10.24-25
*Matthew 20.25-28	John 15.12-13	1John 3.16
*Mark 3.31-35	John 21.15-17	1John 4.21

THE CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP—SUMMARY

Matthew 4.19	Luke 9.23-24	John 13.34-35
Matthew 16.24-25	Luke 14.26-27,33	John 15.8,16
Mark 1.17	John 8.31-32	
Mark 8.34-38	John 12.24-26	

**References with an asterisk are also included in the guided study*

Below is the full text for the Bible passages referenced in this study. Text is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

ACTS 11.26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

LUKE 6.13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles

JOHN 6.66-67 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

ACTS 6.2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

ACTS 6.7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

MATTHEW 28.19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 10.24-25 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household."

MARK 1.17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

JOHN 15.8 "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

JOHN 15.16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

LUKE 14.26-33 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

MATTHEW 10.37-39 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

LUKE 9.57-62 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

JOHN 8.31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

MARK 13.31 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

LUKE 6.46-48 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.”

MATTHEW 28.20 “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

JOHN 6.63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

JOHN 15.7 “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

JOHN 5.39-40 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”

JOHN 5.46-47 “For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

JOHN 13.13-17 “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

LUKE 6.40 “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

JOHN 15.12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15.8 “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

MATTHEW 4.19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

MATTHEW 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 9.36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

LUKE 4.43 but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

LUKE 19.10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

MATTHEW 10.27 "What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops."

ACTS 1.8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

MATTHEW 24.14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

LUKE 11.18 "And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?"

MATTHEW 25.41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

JOHN 14.6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 4.17

MATTHEW 10.37-39 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

PART 4

JOHN 13.34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

MATTHEW 20.25-28 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

MARK 3.31-35 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

JOHN 13.13-15 "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

PHILIPPIANS 2.3-8 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HEBREWS 10.24-25 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

LUKE 17.3-4 "Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."