



Discipleship Study Questions

Week 1



**Have you ever wondered what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus?
Why is it important? What do we do? How do we act? What is our responsibility?
We are going to explore these questions and look at the template Jesus lays out in
scripture for what it looks like to be His follower, His disciple, and how that plays out in
our lives here and now.**

Hide God's Word in Your Heart:

Individual: Take a few days and do your best to memorize, or deeply familiarize yourself with, the scripture passage for the week.

Group: Choose one person from the group to commit the week's scripture passage to memory, or summarize it in their own words, and present it to the group during the meeting.

Read the story:

Individual: After you've committed the passage, or the essence of the passage, to memory, read two different translations of the scripture for the week.

Group: At your next group meeting, have two different group members read the story using different Bible translations.

Tell the story:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory, or tell it to a friend or family member.

Group: Introduce the person who has learned the story for this week. Be ready to assist them if they get stuck at any point.

Rebuild the story:

Individual: Re-read the story to fact check yourself.

Group: Use questions to help the group highlight the main points of the story and correct any omissions or misrepresentations of the story. The point is not to point out the story teller's mistakes, but rather to point people to the Word to ensure everyone understands it accurately.

Dig into the Word:

Individual: Work through the questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member, if you choose.

Group: Work through the questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

You Are Called

Week 1: Read Luke 5: 1-11

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What is Jesus teaching the disciples?

What are you learning personally?

What might God be calling you to do with what you've learned this week?

Life Application:

Jesus' instructions to Simon in v4 were counter-intuitive in several ways. One, they were given by a carpenter rabbi to an experienced fisherman. Two, the type of fishing Simon had been doing was done at night, perhaps when the fish could not see the net and were more likely to be caught. Three, their fishing in that same spot had been unfruitful just hours prior.

However, what was the result when Simon followed the instructions given by Jesus, which seemed to go against his every instinct, but that he followed just because Jesus said to? What would he have missed if he had declined, because he didn't think it made sense?

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something that went against your normal instincts? What did you do? What was the result?

What was Simon's response to Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish? Why do you think he responded in this way?

What might it mean to fish for people? How can we follow Simon's lead in how we set about 'catching' them? How did he know who to fish for and where? Were his tactics gentle or aggressive? What condition were the fish in when they were brought into the boat...were they wounded by Simon in the process? Was it something he did alone? How can we apply all of that to how we draw others in toward Jesus?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for Jesus and the call that He has put on our lives. Thank you for the example he set for the disciples, and for us, of how to bring people to Him. May we obey like Simon when the Spirit calls us to act. And Lord, may the harvest of people we bring to new life in you be great. In the name of Jesus, amen.