

FOUNDATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION // PAGE 4
QUIET TIMES // PAGE 6
PRAYER // PAGE 12
STUDYING THE WORD // PAGE 18
SHARING YOUR FAITH // PAGE 24
PURITY // PAGE 30
COMMUNITY // PAGE 38
WORSHIP // PAGE 44
SERVANTHOOD // PAGE 50
GOD'S CALL // PAGE 56
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY // PAGE 62
DISCIPLE = DISCIPLE MAKER // PAGE 68

INTRODUCTION

I did not write this book as a theological description of discipleship. It is not a workbook, and I did not intend for it to be given to the person being disciplined. In my mind, it is a guide - a springboard for dialogue about important – even foundational principles and disciplines of our faith. This book is what we are to be about. It helps us establish regular practices that help us grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus. Some of these principles are discipline oriented (quiet times, prayer) and give us tools for building into our lives a healthy on-going relationship with Jesus. The other principles are overarching practices that help us experience our life with Jesus to the fullest measure (as designed by God and expressed through scripture). For example, community and servanthood are essential pieces to the Christ-followers lifestyle and should be incorporated into our on-going walk with Jesus.

It is my hope that you the discipler will find this guide to be of benefit in pulling together a dialogue of what I have found to be the eleven on-going foundations of our faith. It provides a framework with discussion questions, Biblical context, ideas for getting started (especially if this is brand new to some), and then resources for further study. I have at times been told – OK now do this, without having a clue of how to get started or what resources are out there that can help me grow in this area; therefore, I have tried to make this as practical as possible. As the discipler, however, you have great freedom to add to this list the things that have helped you in these areas – whether they are practical “this is what I do” kinds of things – or “here are some resources that have helped me.” My prayer is that ultimately this guide helps you to develop disciples who then go out and do the same. Personally, after I have led someone through this guide, I give them a copy of their own and ask them to now go out and find someone that they can take through it. I am sure that with each time it is given out, it is written in, changed and developed further to fit the needs of the people being disciplined. Thank you for being a part of God's Kingdom Work, and I hope this helps you in the process!

Ryan Moore

1 QUIET TIMES

QUESTIONS

Have you ever done (or are you doing) a Quiet Time?

Look back on your spiritual journey. What has been the most significant time of growth?

What circumstances or actions were occurring in that time to help you feel closer to God?

QUIET TIMES HELP US:

- ▶ Draw closer to God – Relationally.
- ▶ Discover Who God is through reading His Word and spending time in prayer.
- ▶ Learn more about God and what He wants from us (or where He is taking us).
- ▶ Develop a Discipline that feeds our Soul.

Quiet Times are our opportunity to meet with God. It is a chance to learn directly from Him. Bible study leader teach us what they have learned. It is secondhand. Bible study groups are important to learn what wisdom leaders have gained from their studies and journey with God. Quiet times give you the opportunity to hear from God firsthand as you read His word and pray,

READ

PSALM 46:10

- ▶ What is the heart of this verse?
- ▶ What does it speak to in the "how" to have a quiet time?
- ▶ What does God desire ultimately in us being still?

LUKE 6:12-13

- ▶ What prompted Jesus' prayer?
- ▶ What is significant about where Jesus prayed?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Start Slow**

- If you have never had a quiet time (or not for a while) – start slow. Begin reading a chapter a day from the Gospels, and then move on to other books. Or use a devotional guide. You are not super spiritual if you are spending two hours a day reading the Bible (especially if you get burned out and quit).

▶ **Set a Goal**

- Set a Goal and work towards achieving that goal. Whether that is three days a week or five days or seven days a week, start with something you can accomplish and then work your way up.

▶ **Build a Relationship**

- Remember you are building your relationship with Jesus. It is not a mindless religious exercise. Every discipline takes time to nurture and develop, and is not always “fun” at first. Much like exercising, quiet times take external motivation at first, and through time the benefits of real growth and intimate relationship create internal drive.

▶ **Don't Worry**

- Do not become full of guilt if you miss a day! This is not a legalistic exercise. It is a discipline that helps us foster our relationship with God. Remember God loves you deeply and longs to meet with you.

RESOURCES

- ▶ Our Journey - is a daily devotional designed for students that includes a Biblical passage and then a story or some commentary on that passage that helps bring its principles into real life. This devotional takes approximately 5-10 minutes to go through. Our Journey can be found at www.walkintheword.com.
- ▶ The One-Year New Testament – takes you through the entire New Testament in a year, including a section from the gospels, a section from one of the letters, and a Proverb. It is a great guide to help you read through the entire New Testament and takes approximately ten to fifteen minutes.
- ▶ The One-Year Bible – takes you through the entire Bible in one year! Each day includes a section from the New Testament, the Old Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs. It gives a good cross section of both the Old and New Testaments and takes approximately 20-30 minutes per day.

** Memory Verse for the Week: Psalm 46:10

2 PRAYER

"Most of the people we meet, inside and outside the church, think prayers are harmless but necessary starting pistols that shoot blanks and get things going."

- Eugene Peterson

"Prayer does not change God. It changes me."

- C.S. Lewis

QUESTIONS

How would you define prayer?

How would you describe your prayer life?

What do you find yourself praying for?

What makes prayer important?

Prayer is often seen as asking God for things, help, or healing. What are some other aspects of prayer?

READ

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

- ▶ What makes you "anxious" or "worried"?
- ▶ How does God through prayer help our worry?
- ▶ What is going on in your life right now, where "peace" would be a welcome friend?

JAMES 5:16

- ▶ What is the significance of confession in our walk with God together?
- ▶ What happens when we pray?

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

- ▶ When should we pray?
- ▶ How can we make this verse practical?

MATTHEW 6:5-15

- ▶ At the beginning of this passage, Jesus addresses the heart of prayer. What appears to be motivating the babblers?
- ▶ Notice the different aspects of His prayer when Jesus shows His disciples how to pray:
 - Hallowed be your name – is a word for honor or adoration
 - Your kingdom come – Jesus prays for God's will to be carried out that people may follow Him
 - Forgive us ... - is a confession – it is calling your sin what it is, sin, and asking for forgiveness for
 - As we forgive – there is an element of "help me" in this line. Help me forgive by remembering how much you forgave me!
 - And lead us not into temptation – Jesus wants you to pray to avoid sin. God's holiness and therefore His people's holiness is truly important to God.

GETTING STARTED

The acrostic A.C.T.S. can be used to retain focus when praying.

- ▶ A is for Adoration – taking time to adore God because He is worthy, is a significant part of prayer.
- ▶ C is for Confession – Secret sin has a way of eating at us. Confession provides an outlet so that you do not feel that you are carrying the weight of sin upon your own shoulders. Confession to God and others allows you to share the burden, find forgiveness and begin the healing process.
- ▶ T is for Thanksgiving – There is nothing that changes your perception on your circumstances and life in general more than developing an attitude of gratitude.
- ▶ S is supplication – Supplication is praying for needs. Help me with ... Please allow me ... God help my friend with ... Supplication is generally where you start and end, unfortunately, you often focus on your own needs. Praying for your lost friends and family to discover the Love of Jesus is one of the most significant things you can pray, behind God help me know you more. These things are far more important to God than money for a bill, a grade, or a cold. Supplication is too often constrained by shallow wants rather than Kingdom oriented needs.
- ▶ Although not in the acrostic – an equally important aspect of prayer is listening! You often run to God with your Christmas list of prayers, monologue at Him for a while and fail to dialogue with your loving Father. Listening gives God the opportunity to whisper to you in the craziness of life, and at the same time it gives you opportunity to hear your creator and Daddy gently remind you that He is in control and can trust Him. We often miss a large part of the dialogue by not listening.

**The best way to learn to pray is by praying. Take time today to practice the different aspects of prayer (A.C.T.S.) as well as some planned listening time. Try to find a space (sacred space) that is quiet and free of distractions. If your mind easily wanders, it may be helpful to write out your prayers.

RESOURCES

- ▶ The book of Psalms.
 - ▶ They are both honest and beautiful. Pray through one of the Psalms this week and make it your own.
- ▶ The Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:5-15)
- ▶ Too Busy Not to Pray - Bill Hybel a helpful motivator for the "busy" minded.

** Memory Verse for the Week: Philippians 4:6-7

3 STUDYING THE WORD

QUESTIONS

What kinds of studies have you participated in? (Book Studies, People of the Bible, Word Studies, Issues?)

How have you approached learning more about God through His Word (outside of devotional reading)?

Whenever you have a specific question about God or a Spiritual Issue, how do you research or study it?

READ

PSALM 119:105

- ▶ What does the imagery of this verse tell us about the significance of God's Word?
- ▶ How have you experienced this?

II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

- ▶ What does inspired or God-breathed tell us about scripture?
- ▶ How is rebuking different from correcting – and why is that important for you?
- ▶ When you think of training what comes to mind?
- ▶ How does this compare to God's Word "training" you in righteousness?
- ▶ What does the phrase "fully-equipped" mean to you?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Choose a Word or Person**

- Choose a word to study (faith, hope, contentment, love, etc.) and look up all the references for this word in the concordance of your Bible. You may choose to do the same for a person in the Bible, look up all the verses referring to them. If you do not have a concordance try looking up the word in a Bible Dictionary or online.
- Look for similarities or differences in **how** the word is used and **what** the Bible is saying about it. For a person, follow the references of their life in regards to their relationship with God or others. See what you learn from their life.
- Jot down notes of things that stick out to you regarding that word or person and how that might relate to your life. Use your notes and all the verses you wrote down as a reference for any time you may have questions about that specific topic. See if this study answers any of your questions in regard to that word, God or life in general.

GETTING STARTED (CONT.)

▶ **Choose a Book of the Bible to Study**

- Read the introduction to the book in a study Bible. Think through what is the Author's main point? What do you learn about God, yourself or the life He has called you to.
- Read through the book one chapter at a time and try to understand the continuity of what the writer is saying. Once you have taken notes through the whole book, go back and read your notes for any continual thoughts that appear. Sometimes it is helpful to write down a synopsis of the book in your own words.
- As you read, ask yourself these types of questions:
 - What am I learning about who God/Jesus is?
 - What do I learn through the other people involved in what I am reading?
 - What does this mean for me in my present world?

▶ **Get Involved**

- Get involved with a small group of people who are studying the Bible together. This is vital for learning more about what the Bible teaches you as well as forming necessary bonds of community.

RESOURCES

The following list of resources can be useful guides for further study of the Bible. They are not necessary to understanding, but can be very helpful.

- ▶ Study Bible – The New International Version has a nice Study Bible which includes introductions to each book, footnotes of explanations of more difficult to understand verses or key verses in the text, or cultural issues that highlight what is being said, and a good concordance in the back to look up words/ people for further study.
- ▶ Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary – A Bible Dictionary can be very helpful in learning about words or customs you come across that you do not understand in the Bible.
- ▶ New Bible Commentary (Intervarsity Press IVP) - There are commentaries for a single book, and sometimes for only a part of a book; however, for most this is a little too much information. A whole Bible Commentary has a little information about the entire Bible. Though they can be quite large, they are a great reference tool for anyone seeking to understand the Bible more.

There are many other tools that can be used for further study, but the above three will help you get started in learning more about what the Bible is saying (and meaning).

** Memory Verse for the Week: II Timothy 3:16-17

4 SHARING YOUR FAITH

QUESTIONS

When you hear the words "witnessing" or "share your faith" – what do you think of?

What motivates you the most to share Jesus with your friends?

What are some of your fears associated with sharing your faith?

How many times this week have you had a spiritual conversation?

Have you ever shared with someone who Jesus is and what He has done for you by dying on the cross?

Have you ever led anyone to the place of accepting Christ?

READ

ACTS 1:8

- ▶ Where does this geographical model start and end?
- ▶ What is the nature of this text – question, possibility, command?
- ▶ What is a witness in non-biblical terminology and how does that apply to this definition of being a witness for Christ?

MATTHEW 28:18-20

- ▶ Why does Jesus say "go?"
- ▶ What is the difference between making disciples and making converts?
- ▶ Why do you think it is significant that Jesus asked you to make disciples of "all nations?"

JOHN 4:1-42

- ▶ When the "Samaritan Woman" went back to tell her town about Jesus – had she been a Christ-follower long?
- ▶ What kind of special training did she have to do this?
- ▶ What did she do to let her town know about Jesus?

3 REASONS FOR SHARING OUR FAITH

- ▶ We love God, are excited about our relationship with Him, and want to obey Him.
- ▶ We love people and want them to know the same love and hope and fulfillment we do.
- ▶ We understand that people really do need Jesus.

3 HINDERANCES TO SHARING OUR FAITH

- ▶ We are afraid. Afraid of what people think of us, how they will respond and how people will react.
- ▶ We are complacent. When it comes down to it we really are happy with our lives and don't want to talk about our faith, expend the energy or take the time to share.
- ▶ We are too busy to talk to people about deeper things. We are not able to talk about much more than sports or the weather with non-Christians because we "don't have time."

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Pray**

- Begin praying for three people in your circle who do not know Christ. If you do not have three friends, not just acquaintances, who are not Christ-followers, then your first step would be to place yourself in a situation where you can get to know lost people. Get involved in an interest group a book club, intramural team or skateboard at a local park. The activity does not matter. The important thing is to place yourself around people who are not Christians on a regular basis. Instead of joining a church softball team or soccer league, join a city team and get to know the people on your team.

▶ **Look for Opportunities**

- Look for opportunities to ask deeper questions. Do you have a spiritual background? What do you think about God? What do you think about the church? Then listen. It is important not to argue with people or get defensive. Just listen. When you do you earn respect and trust, often people will ask you and give you an opportunity to share what God has done in your life.

▶ **Practice**

- Practice telling your story to someone who is a Christ-follower. Remember to include what life was like before knowing Christ, what brought about the change and what God is doing (or what He means to you) now. Your story is one of the most significant things you can share with people. You may not have a lot of answers to their questions, but you know what God has done in and for you.

▶ **Share Scripture**

- Open your Bible and show your friend the following verses to help see what God has said in His word about why we need Him and how we enter in to a relationship with Him:
 - ▶ Romans 3:23
 - ▶ Romans 6:23
 - ▶ John 3:16
 - ▶ I Corinthians 15:3-5
 - ▶ Romans 10:9-10.

RESOURCES

"The Bridge to Life"™ As developed by the Navigators

<http://www.navigators.org/us/resources/illustrations/items/bridge>

Permission Evangelism: When to Talk, When to Walk. - Michael L. Simpson

Romans Road:

- ▶ Romans 3:23 – All have sinned (our need)
- ▶ Romans 6:23 – Result of sin (our reward for sin)
- ▶ Romans 5:8 – God's love for us (our salvation)
- ▶ Romans 10:9-10 – God's answer (our response)

** Memory Verse for the Week: Acts 1:8

5 PURITY

It has been said that nearly every Christian American male and most Christian females struggle with the issue of Sexual Purity. Usually it is not an issue of "if" you will struggle with this issue, but when. With the sexually charged climate we live in, between movies, music, billboards, and the internet, how can you remain true to the calling of Jesus to be holy?

The first step is to be honest with yourselves. What is it you struggle with?

- Pornography (in print, movies, or the internet),
- Looking at and lusting after the people you see around you (keeping your eyes in check)
- Trying to keep your relationships from going to far physically (moving away from the intimacy of friendship to the intimacy of sex before marriage).

QUESTIONS

Which issue do you feel like you struggle with the most?

What are some of the circumstances that surround your struggle? (ie – late at night, alone, etc.)

How have you dealt with this struggle in the past?

What has worked well?

What has not?

READ

EPHESIANS 5:3

- ▶ What does Paul mean by "...not even a hint...?"
- ▶ How does that affect how you look at your actions that haven't led to out-right sin?
- ▶ How does it affect how you look at your decisions that can lead you down a path to sexual sin?

ROMANS 12:1-2

- ▶ How do you present your body as a "living sacrifice?"
- ▶ What does "living sacrifice" mean?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

- ▶ How does it help you in your struggle to know you will not be tempted beyond what you can bear?
- ▶ Have you ever known in the midst of temptation that God is giving you a way out? (If you feel comfortable, please share)
- ▶ Describe how it makes you feel or what you think about when you hear that God will help you stand up under temptation.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

- ▶ This verse says "flee." Sometimes Paul tells you to stand firm, but with sexual temptation he encourages you to flee. Why do you think that is?
- ▶ What are actions you can take to run away from temptation?
- ▶ What are some tough boundaries you can build into your life to avoid sexual temptation in the areas you struggle?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Love Jesus More**

- As you love Jesus more, you love sin less. This is essential to change. Work on growing a deeper relationship with Christ.

▶ **Be Growing**

- The most important thing in remaining pure is to be growing in your relationship with Christ.

▶ **Recognize Your Struggle**

- It is an important first step to recognize the areas that you struggle. Once you have recognized the struggle, you can target that specific area of temptation and begin to create an action plan to be victorious over sin.

▶ **Make Hard Changes**

- Make hard changes to prevent the possibility of temptation (as much as possible – you will not be able to ever completely remove those possibilities.) For example, if the internet is a big part of your temptation (with so much readily accessible this is a common issue), perhaps buying a filter to keep out websites that have pornographic materials would help prevent the temptation. It is often an easy and fairly inexpensive answer to “flee-ing” from temptation. Choosing not to be alone with your girlfriend/boyfriend in a private place late at night may also prevent you from falling into sin. Hanging out in public; dropping your date off at home and not staying; or spending a lot of your time together talking in public places will help you prevent some of these “natural” situations to be overly physical.

GETTING STARTED (CONT.)

▶ **Be Accountable**

- Find someone in your life, whom you trust, and tell them what your struggles are. Having someone hold you accountable can be a huge step to begin winning some of these battles. Just the act of sharing what you wrestle with relieves the huge burden of secrecy that weighs you down. Share what steps you are making to overcome this temptation. Ask them to ask you specific questions about how you are doing in this area so that you know someone is going to ask you how you are doing, someone who will pray for you, encourage you, and be brutally honest when you are choosing apathy.
- A few questions you could consider having someone ask you are:
 - ▶ Have you been alone in a room with your significant other late at night or in the dark?
 - ▶ Have you looked at any pornographic material? Magazines, on the internet, words, pictures or videos?
 - ▶ Have you allowed admiration of a person you have seen to move to lusting after them?

▶ **Don't Live in Guilt**

- Remember if you have messed up, God does not wish you to dwell on your guilt, instead realize your weakness and move forward. Christ Jesus died for your sins and offers forgiveness. Do not dwell there, or stay in sin, instead move forward in the strength of Jesus to live a pure and holy life.

RESOURCES

- ▶ Internet Filter:
 - ContentProtect and Net Nanny: www.hermanstreet.com

- ▶ www.XXXchurch.com - provides FREE accountability software - [X3Watch](#) - that e-mails whoever you choose the websites that you surf. (Mac/PC/iPhone/iPad)

- ▶ [Every Man's Battle](#) - Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker

** Memory Verse for the Week: I Corinthians 10:13

6 COMMUNITY

QUESTIONS

How would you describe real community?

Can you think of examples of strong community from a book, TV or movie?

How are you experiencing community right now?

In what ways are the groups your involved in lacking community?

READ

ACTS 2:42-47

- ▶ What elements of community do you see in this passage?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

- ▶ How do you see these elements in your own community?
- ▶ Which elements seem to be missing?
- ▶ Why are these elements missing?

HEBREWS 10:24-25

- ▶ What two elements of community do you see here?
- ▶ Why is "showing up" or meeting together so important?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Find a Community**

- The only way to find community is to place yourself in a position to experience it. Get involved in a small group. If you are not already in a small group, find a Bible Study or discussion group through your local church or campus ministry. A large group worship gathering is a great way to connect with a larger community, however, it is not possible to find depth of community in a large group setting. Make a commitment to yourself and the group to be there for a semester or through the course of the study the group is completing. Consistency and time create the fertile ground where community grows.

▶ **Be Open and Vulnerable**

- Work at being more and more open and vulnerable with time and comfort. It is important that you do not just hope for community, but that you work at it. Vulnerability is easier for some personality types. If you are a person who easily opens up, help lead your group to a deeper sense of community by sharing openly. If you struggle to be open it is important to build up the courage to share openly, even if it is just a little at a time. There is a direct relationship between our ability to share openly and our feeling of being a part of a deep, satisfying community. Many of us have a tendency to be critical of our lack of community, even though we are not sharing at a deeper level personally to foster community.

▶ **Accountability**

- Sometimes it is helpful to be connected to an even smaller group, in a one-on-one setting or a group of three. It is often easier to have accountability with one other person with whom you trust and can share at the deepest level. Find a mentor or peer with whom you can share deeply. Confess your struggles, joys, hopes and dreams with someone who loves you and can pray for and with you. This mentoring or peer relationship can be your greatest source of care and support.

GETTING STARTED (CONT.)

▶ **Church**

- It is important to connect to a local church and be apart of a larger community. Some churches do not have a "larger" setting, and that is great, although, even small churches usually divide into smaller groups, then all gather together for worship or fellowship. Most American churches have a larger group setting. Participating in this larger community helps you connect with a greater community and allows opportunities to develop other relationships that can encourage you in your spiritual journey and help you know you are not alone. Involvement in the larger community also helps you be involved in the purposes of the church as a whole.

RESOURCES

Life Together - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

** Memory Verse for the Week: Hebrews 10:25

7 WORSHIP

QUESTIONS

How would you describe worship?

What has been one (or more) of your most meaningful times of worship?

Make a list of different things that help you experience depth in worship.

What hinders you from worshipping?

READ

ROMANS 12:1-2

- ▶ How does this passage describe worship?
- ▶ How can we be "living sacrifices?"
- ▶ How is this idea of worship different or similar than how you described it?

PSALM 95:1-7

- ▶ How does this passage describe worship?
- ▶ How is this idea of worship different or similar to what you described?
- ▶ How do the two concepts of worship described in these two passages of scripture fit together to give us a picture of worship?

EXODUS 20:8-11

- ▶ What appears to be involved in taking a Sabbath?
- ▶ What reason is given for resting?
- ▶ What else is asked of you for your Sabbath?
- ▶ Why is having a day to rest and worship so important to God?
- ▶ Why is having a day to rest and worship so important to you?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Worship is Corporate and Individual**

- It is important to connect with a local church and worship with your church family. Throughout the Old Testament and into the New, God's people gathered together to worship. The early church met in the temple courts to worship together. We too should gather together to lift our voices as one in praise to our Father, and to learn from the leaders of whom God has called to teach.

▶ **Get Involved**

- Many people get into a habit of church shopping. Unfortunately, many people find several good options and fail to choose one local body to connect with. Some find themselves attending one church for worship and another for a small group or age-related ministry. The problem becomes that you are not really investing anywhere. You miss the depths of community because you are divided. You may feel connected to one church, but it does not have the caliber of small group or specialized ministry that you enjoy. Instead of doing the hard work of building and being a part of seeing that ministry really grow through investing time, you just go somewhere else for that need. In so doing, you sacrifice what you long for, seeing God work in and through you! Choose one church, not two or three, be apart of their ministries (or if you are a part of a para-church ministry, choose one of these and don't try to attend two or three ministries on top of being involved in your local church!).

▶ **Rely on Christ**

- Romans 12 describes your spiritual act of worship as offering ourselves as "living sacrifices;" therefore, living a life of purity and striving for holiness is worship. It can be helpful to begin your day by giving the day to God and asking for His courage and strength to live completely for Him.

RESOURCES

Face Down - Matt Redman

Worship Evangelism - Sally Morgenthaler

** Memory Verse for the Week: Psalm 95:6-7

8 SERVANTHOOD

QUESTIONS

What comes to mind when you think of serving or a servant?

What is hard for you when it comes to serving?

Why do you think more people do not practice servanthood?

READ

JOHN 13:1-17

- ▶ Why should you serve?
 - ▶ Jesus asked us to.
 - ▶ Jesus modeled it.
- ▶ "We are wired by God in such a way that we receive joy from serving." Ryan Moore

- ▶ What are the Characteristics of a Servant?
 - Humility
 - ability to see and meet a need.
 - willingness to do whatever.

- ▶ Why is serving important?
 - It opens doors words cannot.
 - reflects who God is and wants you to be.
 - It shows God's love to those around you
 - It show your love for those around you

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Start Small**

- For something practical that you can do this week to meet someone's need. It might be bringing a cup of chicken noodle soup to a sick friend, or helping someone move. If you keep your eyes open and ask God for opportunities, they will come!

▶ **Volunteer**

- Find a local organization where you can volunteer some time to serve this month. A food bank, shelter or the Salvation Army are good places to check. They require nothing but time, and you can give that, even if it is just a small amount.

▶ **Practice Serving**

- Ask your church leaders if there is someone in your church who has a need. Get together with a group of friends and encourage each other to see how you can meet that need. These projects are both fun and rewarding!

RESOURCES

- ▶ [Conspiracy of Kindness: A Unique Approach to Sharing the Love of Jesus](#) - Steve Sjogren
- ▶ [101 Ways to Reach Your Community](#) - Steve Sjogren

** Memory Verse for the Week: Mark 10:45

9 GOD'S CALL

QUESTIONS

What is an area in your life now that you are asking God for guidance?

How do you discern between what is from God and what is not?

How has God made His direction clear to you in the past?

READ

PROVERBS 13:20

- ▶ What is the advantage to walking with someone who is wise?
- ▶ Who is someone in your life now that you can go to if needed?

PSALM 119:105

- ▶ God's words is a measuring stick for your life. If anyone ever says ..."God told me ..." and it is contrary to God's Word you know it is not true.
- ▶ How can you make God's word a "light to your path?"

ROMANS 12:1-2

- ▶ According to this verse, how do you "know" God's will?
- ▶ How do you present your self as living sacrifices?
- ▶ What does it mean to renew your mind?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Ask Questions**

- Here are a few principles to look at before making a big decision:
 - Does it line up with God's word?
 - Is God giving you a strong sense one way or another.
 - Have you talked to someone wise to get their thoughts?
 - Use your brain. Is there one option that makes sense.
 - God uses this sometimes, but be careful, sometimes God calls you to something that is not logical, He wants you to trust Him.
 - Do the circumstances seem to be pointing you a certain direction?
 - Is God closing a door? Opening a lot of things in one specific area?
 - Pray. Pray. Pray. Remember Romans 12. When you are living for Jesus you are able to "test and approve what is God's will."

▶ **Formula Free**

- There is no formula to knowing God's Will. The above things will help in making decisions and should be pursued, but God chooses to speak to you and guide you in His own way. If you are walking with Him, you will be able to "...test and approve what is God's will ..."

RESOURCES

Chasing Daylight - Erwin McMannus

Experiencing God - Henry Blackaby

** Memory Verse for the Week: Romans 12:1-2

10 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

QUESTIONS

Do you find it difficult to keep track of your money?

What part of your finances do you wish you could change?

Do you feel you have a strong desire to want more things or are you generally content?

Do you enjoy giving money or things to people in need?

READ

PHILIPPIANS 3:8

- ▶ What is Paul's attitude towards the things he has gained?
- ▶ How would you compare this with your attitude toward the things you have earned or been given?⁶⁴
- ▶ What is the point of this attitude Paul has come to?
- ▶ Why is this hard?

II CORINTHIANS 9:6-9

- ▶ What does this verse teach you about God's desire and expectation in your giving?
- ▶ How does this affect how or what you give?
- ▶ What is the "principle of the sower" described here?
- ▶ How does this impact how you look at giving?
- ▶ What is the promise that Paul shares in relationship to your giving?

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

- ▶ What secret has Paul shared?
- ▶ How does this concept impact how you live?
 - ▶ What we do with our lives?
 - ▶ What we buy?
- ▶ How can you take practical steps to begin to practicing this principle?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Check Yourself**

- Look inward and determine what your attitude or philosophy is toward things or money. Does it line up with scriptural concepts of knowing that your relationship with Christ is above all, sowing generously and being content? If not, ask God to help move you in that direction.

▶ **Find a Mentor**

- Someone who can help guide you through developing a Biblical perspective on material things.

▶ **Evaluate where your Money Goes**

- Look at where your money is going. Track your spending habits and set a budget. See how your spending lines up with your goals and priorities.
 - ▶ Are you giving to your church (tithing)?
 - ▶ Giving to people in need?
 - ▶ Saving for long term goals?
 - ▶ Paying off debt?
- If your priorities, and where your money goes do not match you need to make some changes in your spending habits!

▶ **Tithe and Give**

- Are you tithing and giving back to God? The truth is God does not need your money. Tithing is about obedience. It is humbling to realize that all your things are not yours, they are from God and He has allowed you to manage them. With this knowledge, it is easier to give a small portion back, tithe means a tenth that is a good starting place. Tithing is an act of worship, a reminder that God is the center of your life and not yourself. An added benefit is knowing that by giving to God through the church you are a part of His Kingdom work.

GETTING STARTED (CONT.)

▶ **Now try something**

- Go through your things, and give some away. Do you have clothes that a shelter or clothes closet could use? Jackets, blankets, etc are always needed.
- Are you getting something new? Consider giving the old one away. Books, sheets, washer and dryer, or even a car. What a blessing to give something to someone who has a legitimate need and could not afford what you need to get rid of.
 - Yes you could get money for old items, especially larger items like a washer, dryer or car. Be wise about this, often what you get for something old is not much in comparison to what the item is worth to someone in need.
 - For example: "I looked at the \$1000 I would have got from a car, and realized that it would have reduced my car payment on the new (used) vehicle we were getting by about \$5 a month!!! Think about it! I could easily afford \$5 a month for the sake of someone else having a car! Try it! It is a kick to give someone a car when they have a legitimate need and have no idea how they are going to make it happen!

RESOURCES

[Family Financial Workbook](#) - Larry Burkett (This resource has some great budget worksheets in it!)

[Debt Free Living](#) - Larry Burkett

[Complete Financial Guide for Young Couples: A Lifetime Approach to Spending, Saving and Investing](#) - Larry Burkett

** Memory Verse for the Week: Philippians 4:12-13

**11 DISCIPLE =
DISCIPLE MAKER**

QUESTIONS

What does it mean to be a disciple?

How would you describe the heart characteristics of a disciple?

How would you describe the life decisions or actions of a disciple?

How important is it that you take what you have learned in regards to following Jesus and share it with others?

READ

MATTHEW 28:18-20

- ▶ What is the calling that Jesus has given to those who follow Him? (what are we to do?)
- ▶ Who has Jesus called us to make disciples of?
- ▶ Does this sound optional?
- ▶ How are you carrying this out?

II TIMOTHY 2:1-2

- ▶ How many generations of disciples do you see?
 - ▶ 4
 - ▶ Paul to Timothy, Timothy to reliable men, reliable men to others
 - ▶ Disciple makers are spiritual generations
- ▶ Who is Timothy to teach?

GETTING STARTED

▶ **Pray**

- Ask God to lead you to someone who you can teach what you have learned. Remember you are not expected to be a Bible scholar, or have all the answers. You are to simply teach what you have learned.

▶ **Ask**

- Approach this person and ask if they are willing to meet weekly to talk about foundational principles of your faith.

▶ **Use**

- Use this handbook as a guide to discuss what you have learned about these important principles.

▶ **Do It**

- There is no homework, each week, except a memory verse. You can take this guide and use it as a framework for dialogue. It is not a workbook or something that they need to have in order to discuss these topics.

RESOURCES

Make a copy of this guide to use throughout your discipleship process.

Bring any other useful materials (devotional guides, etc.) to show each week if possible. It can be helpful to bring notecards that you can give to write down the memory verse for the week.

[Multiply](#) - Francis Chan

[The Cost of Discipleship](#) - Dietrick Bonhoefer

[The Divine Conspiracy](#) - Dallas Willard – is a great book on what it means to be a disciple. It can be a little heavy at times, but is an excellent resource for learning and wrestling with what it means to be a true follower of Jesus!

** Memory Verse for the Week: II Timothy 2:1-2

