



Disciples of Jesus

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Discipleship Guide

Introduction

The Apostle Paul sums up discipleship beautifully and succinctly in two verses:

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” **1 Corinthians 11:1**

“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people who are able to teach others also.” **2 Timothy 2:2**

This booklet is just a tool to help you lead others (and yourself) in this process of becoming more like Jesus. Make it work for you and your group; be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading, you may want to mix things up or change things as you go to suit the group you are a part of.

On a typical evening I would recommend you start by checking how people are, how they got on with the reading since you last met and what in particular jumped out at them from either their Bible reading or the chapters you encouraged people to read from the recommended book. Spend up to half the set time discussing what they have read/listened to. I find it helpful to have several points ready to share from the chapters that I have found challenging or insightful to add to the conversation.

After this, move on to ask one or two questions from each of the sections. Be prayerful beforehand and sensitive to the Spirit’s prompting as to what questions he leads you to ask. You can ask more or less questions depending on the time, but allow space to pray and prophesy over each other. Agree what you will read through/listen to before you next meet.

Next time you meet consider reversing the order and ask the questions first as the order is not important, however more often than not what you do first ends up taking the majority of the time!

Once you have led the group two or three times ask one of the group at the end of the session to lead the next gathering, and then let each member of the group have a time leading the session. This helps give them confidence to lead their own group if they haven’t already.

Also, don't let one person dominate the group. If you have someone who talks a lot, then just have a quiet word with them outside the group about the need to let everyone contribute, and don't be afraid to close them down in the group by interjecting with something like "Thanks for that, what things challenged others of you?" This is all part of the discipleship process, as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17).

Finally, keep in mind that it is an immense privilege to be part of someone's discipleship process. It is not a programme but doing life together, it is not delivering a course but developing a closer relationship (with Jesus primarily but also each other). It is not about meeting set criteria but changing hearts and lives to become more Christ like.

May God bless you and your group greatly as you embark on this journey together.

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There are many great tools for discipleship out there and various discipleship programmes. Yet it is helpful to remember that discipleship is in fact a lifelong process of sanctification by the Holy Spirit and is as much about obedience in our heart and hands (actions) as it is about our head (thoughts & understanding) agreeing with God's word. Romans 12:1-2 starts with the offering of our bodies (all of who we are) before it mentions about our minds being transformed.

The idea behind the image of the hand is to aid your memory of different areas of discipleship that the Holy Spirit will be working on in his people. The Spirit's goal is to form Christ-like maturity in the believer (Ephesians 4:12-16), thus that is what the palm signifies, and all the other areas represented by the fingers and thumb are the outworking of someone becoming more like Jesus. In each phase there are questions designed around each area represented by the various digits on a hand in order to check and spur growth in this area, enabling us to grow more into the person Jesus wants us to be.

The Thumb

The thumb has a unique role on the hand and is arguably the most important of all the digits. Thus, in our Christian life our understanding of God's word, our prayer time and our need to be regularly filled by the Holy Spirit are key for us to grow into all God has for us. This in turn should impact all the other areas. Many discipleship models focus solely on these areas, so important are their primary roles in shaping us. However, this is only part of discipleship as God wants to flow out through his people in every area of our lives. If God's work in a Christian doesn't flow through them, which can often be a problem, you can end up with fat, lazy Christians who are full of the rich goodness that God has for them but they are not exercising the muscle of faith by converting what they have received into action. Hence the need to focus on other areas within discipleship.

Index Finger

The index finger is often used for pointing when directing someone, and so it represents mission and outreach. God has called every believer to be involved in the Great Commission, and whilst we are all not called to be evangelists, we are all called to evangelise. Christ will not return until the gospel has gone out to every tribe and nation (Matthew 24:14). Every disciple has a part to play in being salt and light in the areas of influence God has for them (Matthew 5:13-16). Our witness is a key part of being a true disciple of Christ (Acts 1:8, Revelation 12:11).

Middle Finger

The middle finger is normally the tallest of the fingers and it represents growing in the gifts God has given you. God in his goodness has a unique role for each of his people to do and has given each of us specific gifts to grow in and use for his glory. A key part of growing into Christ-like maturity is recognising and developing the gifts that the Holy Spirit has seen fit to give you for the benefit of others (1 Corinthians 12:11).

Ring Finger

The ring finger is used in many cultures to indicate if someone is married, therefore appropriately it represents accountability and community. Whilst we are saved individually through faith in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:8), we are saved into a community – his church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Our Christian journey is not supposed to be in isolation but as part of the church community, building the church community and allowing God to use it to challenge and shape us. It is also in this smaller community of the discipleship group that it is appropriate to allow God to bring into the light areas of darkness within us, that we struggle with, so that God can deal with them and others can stand with us in prayer over the areas in which we may be weak.

Little Finger

Finally, the little finger, often seen as the most insignificant of all the fingers, reminds us of acts of service particularly towards the poor, vulnerable and God's church. Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). He washed his disciple's feet (John 13), he gave his time to the poor, needy and isolated. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus, we should be copying his example by serving his church, the poor, the needy and the vulnerable that God brings across our path too.

This holistic approach to discipleship, summed up in the easy to remember image of a hand, is a simple tool to help check and challenge believers to be growing increasingly into the person that God has called them to be, as they strive to become more like Jesus in every area of their life. It is also helpful to remember that in any discipleship process the primary discipler of God's people is the Holy Spirit, who is transforming the believer from the inside out (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:1-17, Galatians 5:16-25); our role in the life of another is secondary. So be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in people's lives at that particular moment and work with him in all areas that he wants to address. To put it in a nutshell, be Spirit led in how you use this tool.

Phase 1

Foundations: It is all about Jesus

Length of time: between 4-6 months

(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

- Mark
- Matthew
- Luke & Acts
- John

Booklets to work through and discuss

- Terry Virgo *Start* - An interactive study guide to help Christians grow
- John Groves *Foundations* - 7 group studies to introduce the essentials of Christian living
- *ChristChurch Foundations* pack

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas:

- *Word and Spirit*
- *Mission / Outreach*
- *Growing in the gifts God has given you*
- *Community / Accountability*
- *Serving the church, poor & vulnerable*

Just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to which questions to ask each time - be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the main aim of this phase is to help new believers grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and to start living for him.

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Word and Spirit

- Did you feel God's Spirit challenge you on anything when reading the Bible or whilst you were praying?
- Do you have any questions or find anything difficult to understand/accept from what you read?
- What have you learned about Jesus from your time in the Bible, your prayer time or any of the church gatherings?
- Are you seeking God to fill you each day with his Spirit? What difference have you noticed when you do?

Mission/Outreach

- Who have you told that you have become a Christian since we last met?
- Have you been able to tell them why you choose to follow Jesus?
- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular, whom you want us to pray about?
- Have people asked you any questions that you have struggled to answer?
- What things hold you back from telling people you are a Christian?

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for?
- What would you like him to give you to help you serve him/his people better?
- How can you make the best use out of the natural gifts God has already given you?
- All areas of your life should bring glory to God. In what ways does that truth affect your day to day living?

Community/Accountability

- In what areas do you feel Jesus is challenging you to become more like him?
 - Has anyone commented about you being/looking/behaving differently recently?
 - Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?
 - Have there been things you have done recently that you really felt in your spirit God say "well done" over?
- 7 •** What can you do to ensure you are living for Jesus in every situation?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- How have you tried to serve others since we last met?
- Did God prompt you to stand up for anyone/anything lately?
- Is God laying on your heart a way he wants you to serve his church, the poor or vulnerable?
- In what ways have you noticed God changing your attitude towards his church, the poor or the weak?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it.

Work through what they have done in the booklets and discuss key things taught, whilst answering any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again. Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

Actions to consider during this phase

During this time, if the person hasn't done an Alpha or Freedom in Christ course, recommend they go on an Alpha Course first, then a Freedom in Christ course.



Phase 1 - Notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. A single vertical red margin line runs down the left side of the page. The paper is otherwise empty of any text or markings.

Phase 2

Understanding the basics

Length of time: between 4-6 months

(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Over the next 6 months starting at Matthew read through the whole New Testament. Don't worry there will be lots of things that are confusing, but get them to make notes on those bits and ask you questions next time you gather.

Books to work through and discuss

- John Stott *Christian Basics*
- Terry Virgo *God knows you're human*

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas:

- Word and Spirit
- Mission / Outreach
- Growing in the gifts God has given you
- Community / Accountability
- Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

Just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to what questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the major aim of this phase is to build on the first phase and increase their understanding of basic biblical truths in order to be able to apply them to their lives.

Word and Spirit

- What things are you praying about at the moment?
- Did you feel God's Spirit challenge you on anything from reading the Bible or whilst you were praying?
- Do you have any questions or find anything difficult to understand/accept from what you read?
- What have you learned about Jesus or the Christian faith from your time in the Bible, through your prayer time or any of the church gatherings?
- Are you asking God to fill you each day with his Spirit? What difference have you noticed when you do?

Mission/Outreach

- Have you been able to tell people why you choose to follow Jesus?
- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular, whom you want us to pray about?
- Have people asked you any questions that you have struggled to answer?
- Has God led you to any strangers, or people you don't really know well, to speak to them about him? How did it go?
- What is holding you back from engaging in the mission God has for you?

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for?
- What would you like him to give you to help you serve him/his people better?
- What steps of faith do you feel God is asking you to take at the moment?
- How can you make the best use out of the natural gifts God has already given you?
- What have you learned from when you stepped out for God and things seemingly failed?

Community/Accountability

- In what areas are you struggling to change to become more like Jesus?
- What are you doing that helps other believers grow in their love for Jesus?

Community/Accountability (cont.)

- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?
- Have there been things you have done recently that you really felt God's pleasure on?
- What things are helping you live more for Jesus and less for yourself?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- How have you sought to serve others since we last met?
- Did God prompt you to stand up for anyone/anything lately?
- Is God laying on your heart a way he wants you to serve his church, the poor or the weak?
- In what ways have you noticed God changing your attitude towards his church, the poor or weak?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it.

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again. Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

Actions to consider during this phase

During this time if the person hasn't done an Alpha or Freedom in Christ Course, recommend they go on an Alpha Course first, then a Freedom in Christ course.

Why not encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1 if possible?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a clean, solid white color.

Phase 3

Context is key

Length of time: between 4-6 months

(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Genesis, Exodus 1-20, Numbers 10-14, Deuteronomy 31-34, Joshua 1-13, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Luke & Acts, Revelation 21-22

Books to work through and discuss

- V. Roberts *God's Big Picture*
- S. Ferguson, J. Beerke, M. Haykin *Church History 101*
- *ChristChurch Early Church Creeds*

Exercise to do on the first meeting of this phase

For the first time you meet up in this phase, start with the following exercise that I have adapted only slightly from R. Reese and R Loane's book *Deep Mentoring* (pp96-97)

Spend some time looking at the story of your life to see what God is already doing and what things he is leading you into. You will need:

- 100 yellow post it notes
 - 40 orange post it notes
 - 20 green post it notes
 - 20 blue post it notes
1. Take 15 minutes, to write on the yellow post it notes key incidents/ events that shaped your life (don't dwell on their significance yet).
 2. In the next 10 minutes, transfer any painful/negative incidents onto the orange post it notes. Continue adding positive (yellow) and negative (orange) incidents onto the appropriately coloured post it notes.

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3. Over the next 10 minutes, lay out the post it notes in chronological order with things that happened at the same time arranged one underneath another. Continue to add more incidents as you see fit.
4. In the following 10 minutes, look for natural breaks in the flow of the incidents, then split them into 4 or 5 chapters. Name the chapters to represent the theme/thrust of that period of your life story. Add any more incidents that come to mind.
5. Take a further 10 minutes, to reflect on the lessons learnt in each chapter. Record this on the green post-it note and put it underneath each chapter.
6. Over the next 10 minutes, reflect on your story and share with people the key things you think God has been doing with you.
7. Over the next 10 minutes, allow the group to respectfully highlight what they think God may have been doing in your life. Record these on blue post it notes and add them to the very bottom.
8. Pray for the person that God would guide them into all that he has for them and give them the courage to do it.

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas, so just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to what questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember a major aim of this phase is to build on the first two phases and help the individual catch a glimpse of God's big salvation story throughout history into eternity and how our own life story is weaved into that.

Word and Spirit

- What things are you praying about at the moment?
- Can you summarise God's big salvation story in the parts of the Bible you have read?
- Do you have any questions, or find anything difficult to understand/accept, from what you read?
- What have you learnt about Jesus or the Christian faith from your time in the Bible, your prayer time, or any of the church gatherings?
- What bad habits/character traits is the Holy Spirit highlighting you need to change through his word?

Mission/Outreach

- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular, about whom you want us to pray?
- How are you coping with the struggle to live differently and tell people a message they may not want to hear?
- Has God led you to any strangers or people you don't really know well to speak to them about him? How did it go?
- How does knowing your life fits into God's big story of redemption affect the way you live?
- Is God giving you clarity over the unique role that you have to play in extending his kingdom locally and further afield? Pray into this.

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for, and are there gifts you would like him to give you?
- What steps of faith do you feel God is asking you to take at the moment?
- What gifts are you aware of that God has given you that you are trying to use to serve him and his people?
- Is there anything God is stirring you to do, in which you are struggling to step out?
- What things are you doing to grow in your gifting?

Community/Accountability

- In what areas do you feel Jesus is challenging you to become more like him?
- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?

Community/Accountability (cont.)

- As you look back over your life are there key strengths and weaknesses that you need to build on and deal with respectively?
- Are there positive or negative things, from your past or recently, that God is highlighting that he wants you to grow in/deal with?
- What things are helping you live more for Jesus and less for yourself?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- How have you sought to serve others since we last met?
- Is God laying on your heart any new area in which he wants you to serve his church, the poor or the weak?
- In what ways have you noticed God changing your attitude towards his church, the poor or weak?
- Are there areas of disappointment from when your service goes unnoticed or is taken for granted?
- Does your level of service in church reflect how you feel about the church? Explain.

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again.

Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

Actions to consider during this phase

During this time if the person hasn't done an Alpha or Freedom in Christ course, recommend they go on an Alpha Course first, then a Freedom in Christ course. Also suggest they may like to serve on an Alpha course this time as it will not only bless others but them too. As Philemon verse 6 says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (NIV).

Finally, why not encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1 or 2 if possible.

Phase 3 - Notes

[illegible]

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Phase 4 Positioned for fruitfulness

Length of time: between 4-6 months
(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs,
Matthew, Romans - Revelation

Books to work through and discuss

- Terry Virgo *God's lavish grace*
- Hartmut Kopsch *The Struggle: The battle between flesh and Spirit*

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas, just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to which questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 1:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the major aim of this phase is to build on the previous phases and help the individual recognise they have been chosen to live a life that produces much fruit for Jesus (John 15:16).

Word and Spirit

- What things are God putting on your heart to pray into?
- Did you feel God's Spirit challenge you on anything from reading the Bible or whilst you were praying?
- What have you learnt about Jesus, his word or God's salvation story from your time in the Bible, through your prayer time or any of the church gatherings? Was there anything you found difficult to understand or accept?
- How are you doing at differentiating between when the Spirit of God is talking to you/prompting you as opposed to your own wants and desires?
- What fruit(s) of the Spirit is God trying to produce in you through the various trials you are currently undergoing?

Mission/Outreach

- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone about your faith in Christ?
- Have people asked any questions that you have struggled to answer?
- How does knowing your life fits into God's big story of redemption effect the way you live?
- How are you coping with the struggle to live differently and tell people a message they don't really want to hear?
- Is God giving you clarity over the unique role that you have to play in extending his Kingdom locally and further afield? Pray into this.

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for and are there gifts you would like him to give you?
- What steps of faith do you feel God is asking you to take at the moment?
- How are you using the gifts you have to serve God, build up the body of Christ and bless those he has called you to?
- What things are you doing to grow in your gifting?
- When people criticise or wrong you, how do/should you deal with it? (Remember these are often great growing opportunities)

- What things can you do more of to help generate more genuine community in your church/life group?
- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?
- Have there been things you have done recently that you really felt God's pleasure with?
- Jesus addresses money more than any other area, except the Kingdom of God, in the gospels. He tells us quite clearly, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21. How does your current use of finances indicate how you are doing before God?
- Are there things you're going through which you can't accept are part of God's plan for your life?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- Is God laying on your heart a new area in which he wants you to serve his church, the poor or the weak?
- Serving is hard work. In what ways are you ensuring you get re-energised by God so that you don't burn out?
- Are there areas of disappointment from when your service goes unnoticed or is taken for granted?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it? (If they have not ever sensed the Father's pleasure as they serve, something's not right, so you need to teach and pray into this.)
- Have you tried to encourage others in serving God lately? How did that go?

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again.

Actions to consider during this phase

Suggest they may like to serve on an Alpha course this time as it will not only bless others but them too. As Philemon verse 6 says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (NIV). Encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1, 2 or 3 if possible.

If there are particular courses, training or ministry development opportunities in the areas to which they are feeling called, recommend they go on these and spend time with people who are gifted in these areas.

Phase 4 - Notes

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Phase 5

Digging in deep

Length of time: between 5-8 months

(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Genesis, Exodus 1-20, 32-34, Leviticus 26, Numbers 10-14, Deuteronomy 1-6, 31-34, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Chronicles, John, Romans, Ephesians & Hebrews

Books to work through and discuss

- Bruce Milne *Know the Truth*
- G. Fee & D. Stuart *How to read the Bible for all it's worth*

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas, just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to which questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the major aim of this phase is to build on the previous phases and deepen the individual's understanding of God's word, knowing that "[God's] word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Ps 119:105.

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Word and Spirit

- In what areas is the light and truth of God's word causing transformation in your life?
- Have you felt God's Spirit guiding/speaking to you about anything whilst praying or reading the Bible lately?
- What fruits of the Spirit is God trying to produce in you through the various trials you are currently undergoing?
- How do you sense when the Spirit of God is talking to you/prompting you, as opposed to your own wants and desires?
- What things are you doing to help you experience more of God's presence in your life?

Mission/Outreach

- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular lately? How did it go?
- How are you coping with the struggle to live differently, and tell people a message they don't really want to hear?
- Is God giving you clarity over the unique role that you have to play in extending his Kingdom locally and further afield? Pray into this.
- How do you think God is calling you to play your part in the Great Commission to the nations?
- In what ways are you actively trying to extend God's Kingdom here on earth?

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for?
- What faith steps are you taking with the gifts God has given you?
- What things are you doing to grow in your gifting?
- How are you trying to encourage others into the giftings that God has given them?
- When people criticise or wrong you, how do/should you deal with it? (Remember these are often great growing opportunities)

Community/Accountability

- In what ways are you helping to protect the unity of your church community?
- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?
- Have there been things you have done recently that you really felt God's pleasure with?
- Are there areas where you feel disappointed with yourself, others, or even God that we can talk about and pray through?
- What would others say is the main passion of your life?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- Serving is hard work. In what ways are you ensuring you get re-energised by God so that you don't burn out?
- Are there areas of disappointment from when your service goes unnoticed or is taken for granted?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it? (If they have not ever sensed the Father's pleasure as they serve, something's not right, so you need to teach and pray into this)
- How have you tried to encourage others as they serve God in his church, the poor or vulnerable?
- Do you feel there are areas in which you are serving Jesus that are drawing to an end, and others that he is calling you to?

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again.

Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

5

Actions to consider during this phase

Suggest they may like to serve on an Alpha course this time as it will not only bless others but them too. As Philemon verse 6 says, "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (NIV).

Encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1, 2, 3 or 4 if possible. Encourage them to go deeper with God's word through making time to attend some theology training courses that your church or group of churches provide.

Remember, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Phase 5 - Notes

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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Phase 6

Serving through your gifting

Length of time: between 4-6 months

(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Isaiah - Malachi, Mark, Romans - Revelation

Books to work through and discuss

- Rick Warren *Purpose Driven Life*
- J.I. Packer *Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God*

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas, just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to which questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the major aim of this phase is to build on the previous phases and help the disciple flow in the giftings and areas of service that God has for them, so that they know the truth of Eph 2 v 10. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

- What in God's word is really challenging you at the moment?
- What have you felt God's Spirit guiding or speaking to you about whilst praying or reading the Bible lately?
- What things do you do to help you meet with and hear from God? (Be alone in your room, go for a walk and pray in the forest, be in a worship context etc.)
- How do you sense when the Spirit of God is talking to you or prompting you, as opposed to your own wants and desires?
- In what areas is the Spirit calling you to be a peace maker at the moment?

Mission/Outreach

- Have you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular lately? How did it go?
- How have you encouraged others to reach out to people in their lives?
- How are you coping with the struggle to live differently, and tell people a message they don't really want to hear?
- In what ways are you seeing God use you to help spread the gospel to those around you, and even enable it to go to the ends of the Earth?
- What holds you back from engaging in the mission God has for you?

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for?
- What faith steps are you taking with the gifts God has given you?
- What things are you doing to grow in your gifting?
- How are you trying to encourage others in the giftings that God has given them?
- What have you learned from when you stepped out for God, and things seemingly failed?

Community/Accountability

- In what areas of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's power to bring transformation?
- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?

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- Have there been things you have done recently that you really felt God's pleasure with?
- How have you been stirred by God to help others grow in Christ-like maturity?
- In what areas of your life do you need to grow in your trust of Jesus?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- Serving is hard work. In what ways are you ensuring you get re-energised by God so that you don't burn out?
- Are there areas of disappointment from when your service goes unnoticed or is taken for granted?
- Do you feel there are areas in which you are serving Jesus that are drawing to an end, and others to which he is calling you?
- How have you tried to encourage others as they serve God in his church, the poor or vulnerable?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it?

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again. Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

Actions to consider during this phase

Serving the church with their time in the areas they are gifted in, and also the areas where the church most needs people to serve. Encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 if possible.

Phase 6 - Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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Phase 7 Focusing on Jesus

Length of time: around 1 year
(Assuming people will read 2 chapters a day)

Bible Reading

Read through the whole Bible using the Jesus Bible (www.thejesusbible.com), reading the accompanying notes included. I would recommend using a “reading the Bible in a year” reading plan; journaling thoughts, comments and questions in the spaces provided.

Books to work through and discuss

- R.T. Kendall *Meekness and Majesty*
- John Stott *The Cross of Christ*
- John Owen *The Glory of Christ*
- J.I. Packer *Knowing God*

Questions

These questions are to generate conversations in each of the five areas, just ask one or two from each section every time you meet. Let the Spirit lead you to which questions to ask each time, be open to him giving you other questions too. Remember discipleship is essentially saying, “Imitate me, as I imitate Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Therefore, you will need to be honest and open too.

Remember the major aim of this phase is to build on the previous phases and leave the disciple in a place that along with the apostle Paul they can honestly say, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

Word and Spirit

- What have you learnt about Jesus from your time in the Bible, through your prayer time or any of the church gatherings?
- The Bible makes it clear everything should be for and about Jesus, ultimately. How are your times reading Bible, praying and worshipping causing you to grow in your love for him?
- What things do you feel God's Spirit highlighting he wants to lead you into?
- What practical choices can you make that will help you grow closer to Jesus?
- What fruits of the Spirit is God trying to produce in you through the various trials you are currently going through?

Mission/Outreach

- Have you been able to tell people why you choose to follow Jesus?
- Do you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to anyone in particular, that you want us to pray about?
- Has God led you to any strangers, or people you don't really know well, to speak to them about him? How did it go?
- Is God giving you clarity over the unique role that you have to play in extending his kingdom? Pray into this.
- How are you encouraging other believers to engage in the Great Commission?

Growing in the gifts God has given you

- What has God given you that you are grateful for?
- How are you using the gifts you have to serve God, build up the body of Christ, and bless those he has called you to?
- What things are you doing to grow in your gifting?
- How are you trying to encourage others into the giftings that God has given them?

Community/Accountability

- In what areas do you feel Jesus is challenging you to become more like him?
- What spiritual fruit(s) do you struggle to grow in the most?

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Community/Accountability (cont.)

- Have there been things you have done since we last met that you wish you hadn't?
- Jesus addresses money more than any other area in the gospels except the Kingdom of God. He tells us quite clearly, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matt 6 v 21. How does your current use of finances indicate how you are doing before God?
- Are there areas where you feel disappointed with yourself, others, or even God that we can talk about and pray through?

Serving the church, poor & vulnerable

- Serving is hard work. In what ways are you ensuring you get re-energised by God so that you don't burn out?
- Did God prompt you to stand up for anyone/anything lately?
- Are there areas of disappointment from when your service goes unnoticed or is taken for granted?
- How have you tried to encourage others as they serve God in his church, the poor or vulnerable?
- Have you sensed the Father's pleasure on you whilst you have been serving? Tell me about it?

Discuss key things that have come up in the sections of the books they have read, tell them key highlights from that section that stood out to you, and answer any questions the person has.

Finish by praying for each other, and asking God to help, strengthen and encourage us to do all that he has called us to between now and when you meet again. Pray for each other to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit's power.

Actions to consider during this phase

Serving the church with their time in the areas they are gifted in, and also the areas where the church most needs people to serve. Encourage the person being discipled to take someone through Phase 1, 2, 3,4, 5 or 6 if possible.

Phase 7 - Notes

[illegible]

Conclusion

Well done for completing this course of discipleship, but remember the journey is not complete until the Lord Jesus calls you home or he returns. I hope that this booklet has helped you think about discipleship in a holistic way, enabling you and those you are discipling to grow to be more like Jesus as you become obedient to all God calls you to do. Stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and obedient to God's word.

What God has called you to do, whilst it is unique for every individual, he has not called you to do it alone. Jesus had his 12 disciples and 120 regular followers, he sent people out in twos (Mark 6:7-13, Luke 10:1-23) and the early Apostles worked together with teams of disciples throughout the book of Acts. Therefore, we would be wise to follow this example set for us in scripture of not trying to follow the path Jesus has for us alone, but to have others walk along it with us holding us accountable to all the Holy Spirit is leading us to do; whilst raising up other disciples alongside us to extend God's Kingdom wider and further than we ever could by ourselves. Knowing that one day the gospel will reach every tribe, tongue and nation and then the Lord Jesus can return and only at that point will the call to make disciples be fulfilled.

So, until that point, keep being a disciple who seeks to make disciples who disciple others into the Christ-like maturity that God has for them. Remembering that whilst we have the privilege of having a part to play in the Great Commission, ultimately it is not dependent on us but on the living God who will accomplish all that he has purposed to do. Hallelujah.

Si

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

Quick guide to reading through the phases

Phase	Bible Reading	Books/Booklets
1	Matthew Mark Luke & Acts John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Video Start • John Groves Foundations • ChristChurch Foundations Pack
2	Read through the whole New Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Stott Christian Basics • Terry Virgo God knows you're human
2	Genesis, Exodus 1-20, Numbers 10-14, Deuteronomy 31-34, Joshua 1-13, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Luke & Acts, Revelation 21-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V.Roberts God's Big Picture • Ferguson, Beerke, Haykin Church History 101 • ChristChurch Early Church Creeds
4	Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Matthew, Romans - Revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Virgo God's lavish grace • Hartmut Kopsch The Struggle: The battle between flesh and Spirit
5	Genesis, Exodus 1-20, 32-34, Leviticus 26, Numbers 10-14, Deuteronomy 1-6, 31-34, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Chronicles, John, Romans, Ephesians & Hebrews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Milne Know the Truth • Fee & Stuart How to read the Bible for all it's worth
6	Isaiah - Malachi Mark, Romans - Revelation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Warren Purpose Driven Life • J.I. Packer Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God
7	Read through the whole Bible using the Jesus Bible reading the accompanying notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.T. Kendall Meekness and Majesty • John Stott The Cross of Christ • John Owen The Glory of Christ • J.I. Packer Knowing God



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