

THE
DISCIPLESHIP
PLACE

Discovering and Developing
Christlike Disciple Makers



SESSION 2

How Are We Being
Discipled?

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How Are We Being Disciplined?

SESSION OVERVIEW

DISCIPLINED BY GOD'S WORD

GOD'S WORD IMPACTS ME CONSISTENTLY IN SEVERAL WAYS.

DISCIPLINED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

DISCIPLINED BY OTHER CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

SUBMIT TO OBEYING GOD AND TO THE DISCIPLINES OF THE FAITH.

TAKE TIME TO BE DISCIPLINED AND BE A DISCIPLE MAKER.

APPLICATION

REVIEW QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT

LEARNER OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, you should:

- Be committed to being disciplined by God's Word
- Be committed to being disciplined by the Holy Spirit
- Be committed to being disciplined by other Christ-followers and to discipling others

Introduction to How Are We Being Disciplined?

INTRODUCTION



Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) endeavors to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifelong journey of being and making Christlike disciples. It is important for each Christ-follower to be engaged in this *Journey*. But how are we being disciplined? Are we welcoming God's Word, the Holy Spirit and other Christ-followers to guide our journey with Jesus? Christians need to be highly committed to being disciplined by God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and other Christ-followers. Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me* challenges us to ask searching questions like: "Do I spend time with Jesus daily through interacting with God's Word? How sensitive am I to His ever-present Holy Spirit in my everyday situations? Am I being mentored by passionate Christlike members of the Body of Christ?"

Please read chapters 1 and 2 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me* in preparation for this session.

SESSION 2: HOW ARE WE BEING DISCIPLINED?



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DISCIPLINED BY GOD'S WORD

One of our Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) core principles (see [NDI Bylaws](#)) is “comprehensive biblical learning.” So, I must ask myself: “Do I spend time with Jesus daily through interacting with God’s Word?” Since knowing God’s Word is essential to being a Christlike disciple, a fruitful discipleship journey requires establishing quality time to interact with God’s Word. Jesus’ example places a high priority on learning from the Scriptures. This shapes our knowledge of God and His work in us and through us. Learning the Scriptures helps us to become more like Christ. When we study the Word of God, we uncover how God loves, and how we are to love God and others. We allow God to speak to us, mold us, and sanctify us. Being actively engaged in the systematic study and application of the Word of God is a catalyst for spiritual transformation and growth. As we learn the Word of God and grow spiritually, we begin to fully understand and obey Christ’s mission to go and reach out to unbelievers with God’s love. When we allow the Word of God to transform us, we can model to others the importance of learning from and living by God’s Word.

GOD'S WORD IMPACTS ME CONSISTENTLY IN SEVERAL WAYS IN MY LOCAL CHURCH AND MY FAMILY

I am privileged to receive Bible-based sermons each week. In my “Disciples Class” (adult Sunday school) we interact with Bible-based lessons from [the Foundry Publishing](#). In our mid-week prayer meeting, we begin with a Bible-based devotional thought. During our early Friday morning men’s fellowship, several of us share a meaningful passage of Scripture. For my family devotional times, we normally follow the hardcopy [Reflecting God](#) guide produced by the Foundry Publishing and provided by our local church. However, sometimes we have utilized the [online version](#). My wife and I also have our individual prayer and Bible study times. She was part of a Bible study and prayer group in Africa for about 30 years and can stay involved online now that she is retired.

GOD'S WORD IMPACTS ME CONSISTENTLY IN MY PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Currently in my personal Bible study, I use the [Africa Study Bible \(NLT\)](#) to study through one book at a time, usually a few chapters each week. For many years, my ministry languages were English and Swahili, so daily I read and compare


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passages in these languages. In recent years, I have also included some of Perkins' suggestions for a biblical journey in being and making Christlike disciples. First, as I reflect on the scriptures that I am reading, I answer 5 of Jesus' questions:

1. Knowing Who Jesus Is: Who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:13-15)
2. Watching What Jesus Is Doing: Do you understand what I have done? (John 13:1-15)
3. Listening to What Jesus Is Saying: Are you listening to Me? (Matthew 17:5)
4. Doing What Jesus Wants: Do you truly love Me? Then care for and feed My sheep (John 21:15)

Believing What Jesus Has Promised: Do you believe Me? (John 11:17-26)
 Thereafter, I reflect on and answer the question: "What are 3 ways I can celebrate what God is doing in my life today?" And, finally, I think about 2 people who I could share with "today" the amazing things God is doing in my life. Sometimes it's face to face sharing. Other times it's a phone call, a text, an email, or a card.

DISCIPLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Christian life is only possible when a believer is "born of the Spirit" (John 3:5-8). Everyone who is born again in Jesus Christ has His Holy Spirit and spiritual privileges. The Holy Spirit does a work in us, causing us to come to know Christ. Thereafter, the Spirit's new life, presence, assurance, and leadership are ours.

Allow me to share some thoughts from Charles "Chic" Shaver in his *Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit-filled and Sanctified Life*. Shaver observes that when we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we begin to follow Him even when problems arise. As part of our spiritual growth, we begin to study the Bible. Then, we discover we need to grow more to become what God wants us to be. We desire to know more about the Holy Spirit of God. We want to better understand who He is and how He acts in the lives of Christians. We realize the Holy Spirit is our Helper. He helps us become true disciples of Christ. We discover the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, and He wants to make us like Jesus. We realize the Holy Spirit is God. So He has the power to transform us.

But how sensitive are we to the ever-present Holy Spirit of God in our daily situations? As followers of Christ, we must dedicate our entire lives to God as we ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit. We invite Him to cleanse us and make us pure. We trust that God will do what He has promised. Thereafter, a successful

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discipleship journey requires time as we become more and more sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Once we are filled with the Spirit in a moment, a new quality of life begins. It is important to continue this relationship. We begin an exciting, moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit. We make a commitment to keep in step with the Spirit and avoid walking after the flesh. But there are some limits of what the Spirit will do in this life. So if anything breaks this relationship with God, we should seek to be restored immediately.

The Christian who is filled with the Spirit and walking in the Spirit can enjoy a wonderful spiritual victory. As Christ's disciples, we learn what it means to see the righteous requirements of the law fully met. Yet there are limits on what God does for disciples in this life. We should not expect the Spirit-filled and entirely sanctified life to be more than what God has promised. There are some things reserved for heaven. God does not remove all problems. So we must realistically face life as Christ-followers. Although there are many benefits the Holy Spirit brings into the life of disciples, Christians are still required to live in a problem-filled world. Nevertheless, the same Holy Spirit who brings peace and purity in the believer's heart will work blessings through the Christian in powerful ways.

DISCIPLED BY OTHER CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

Are we being mentored by passionate Christlike members of the Body of Christ? As the [Africa Study Bible \(NLT\)](#) points out: "A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who follows Him, receives His teachings, His forgiveness, His values, His worldview, His way of life, and obeys Him. Christ not only wants us to be disciples, but He also wants us to help others want to become His disciples as well."

Our Nazarene Essentials offers many intentional discipling insights for us to apply. It is **essential** for Christ-followers to prayerfully invite a mature Christian to intentionally disciple or mentor each of us. Likewise, it is essential to prayerfully invite several believers to become a part of our discipleship group. We then invest our lives in these disciples. Together we will seek to become more like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nazarenes have an intentional method for making Christlike disciples. A fruitful discipleship journey requires time being with, praying with, and being accountable with other Christ-followers as we continue to develop Christlike thoughts, beliefs, motives, and obedience. We have a purpose for what we do along our journey of grace. Our discipleship is not accidental. We are committed

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to being and making disciples of Jesus. Thus, we engage in intentional relational discipleship. This discipleship requires helping people develop obedient intimate relationships with Jesus. In these relationships, Christ's Spirit transforms our character into Christlikeness. Our values are transformed into Kingdom values. We become involved in God's mission. We invest in others, their homes, our churches, and our world. With this in mind, we are committed to providing the means through which believers are encouraged to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith and in their relationship with each other and with God.

SUBMIT TO OBEYING GOD AND TO THE DISCIPLINES OF THE FAITH

Our Nazarene Discipleship International core principles ([see NDI Bylaws](#)) help us understand that this discipleship includes submitting ourselves to obeying God and following the disciplines of the Christian faith. We believe we are to help each other live the holy life through mutual support, Christian fellowship, and loving accountability. Discipleship is the means through which the Holy Spirit gradually brings us to maturity in Christ. We practice Christian discipleship as a way of life. We discover it to be a process of learning how God would have us live in the world.

We learn to live in obedience to the Word of God, in submission to the disciplines of the Christian faith, and in accountability to one another. Then, we begin to understand the true joy of the disciplined life as well as the Christian meaning of freedom. Discipleship is not merely human effort, submitting to rules and regulations. It is the means through which the Holy Spirit gradually brings us to maturity in Christ. It is through discipleship that we become people of Christian character. The ultimate goal of discipleship is to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

TAKE TIME TO BE DISCIPLED AND BE A DISCIPLE MAKER

Would you take the time to share with others how you are being disciplined? Each of us has our particular area of ministry that provides the context of our making disciples. Would you also share with others some ways you are making disciples in your context?

It is our hope that you are already finding ways to implement the [Journey of Grace](#) denominational discipleship framework in your area of ministry.

APPLICATION



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1. Read chapter 1 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me*. Reflect on the question: How did Jesus walk? How well does your walk match Jesus' walk? How much help do you think you will need to effectively walk as Jesus walked?
2. Is it possible for you to find some others and invite them to join your walk with Jesus?
3. Read chapter 2 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me*. Reflect on "History's most empowering relationship." How would you describe your relationship with your heavenly Father?
4. Who is your Christian mentor as you walk with Jesus? What kind of questions does he/she ask you regarding your ideas about God? Concerning your knowledge of the Bible and theology? And about your plans to serve God?
5. Go to the Nazarene Discipleship International [video resources](#) for the LC2021 workshops and watch Rev. Hal Perkins' "Multiplying Christlike Disciplemakers: Part 2" video. Describe what kinds of disciples we are commissioned to make.
6. Go to the [Way, Truth & Life Videos](#) and watch the "Amazing Grace" video (12:56 duration) and continue to think about discipleship as a Journey of Grace with Jesus. Then, describe God's "Amazing Grace" for you.

EXAM



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1. Which of the following happens when we study the Word of God?
 - A. We discover how God loves.
 - B. We discover how we are to love God and others.
 - C. We discover a catalyst for spiritual transformation and growth.
 - D. All of the above (A, B, and C)
 - E. None of the above
2. When we study the Bible, we need to allow God to speak to us, mold us, and sanctify us.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. What are some ways God's Word can impact us consistently in a local church?
 - A. Through Bible-based sermons each week
 - B. Through Bible-based Sunday school discipleship lessons
 - C. Through Bible-based devotional thoughts during prayer meetings
 - D. All of the above (A, B, and C)
 - E. None of the above
4. God's Word cannot impact us consistently in our personal Bible study.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. Which of the following is NOT one of Jesus' questions to reflect on in personal Bible study?
 - A. "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:13-15)
 - B. "Do you understand what I have done?" (John 13:1-15)
 - C. "Are you listening to Me?" (Matthew 17:5)
 - D. "Do you truly love Me?" (John 21:15)
 - E. "Do you deny Me?" (John 11:17-26)
6. The Christian life is only possible when a believer is "born of the Spirit."
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. Which of the following is true about being disciplined by the Holy Spirit?
 - A. The Holy Spirit is God and has power.

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- B. The Holy Spirit wants to make us like Jesus.
 - C. The Holy Spirit wants to help us become true disciples of Christ.
 - D. We must dedicate our entire lives to God as we ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit.
 - E. All of the above (A, B, C and D)
8. Although there are many benefits the Holy Spirit brings into the life of disciples, Christians are still required to live in a problem-filled world.
- A. True
 - B. False
9. Which of the following is NOT true about being disciplined by other Christ-followers?
- A. Christ wants us to be His disciples, and He wants us to help others become His disciples.
 - B. As Christ-followers, we need to prayerfully invite a mature Christian to intentionally disciple or mentor us.
 - C. A fruitful discipleship journey does not require time being with, praying with, and being accountable with other Christ-followers.
 - D. We can prayerfully invite a small group of believers to become a part of our discipleship group.
 - E. We can help other Christ-followers to develop Christlike thoughts, beliefs, motives, and obedience.
10. Christ-followers refuse to submit themselves to obeying God and to the disciplines of the faith.
- A. True
 - B. False

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT

**NOTES**

Be prepared to discuss the following with your mentor:

1. How well am I doing in spending time with Jesus daily through interacting with God's Word?
2. How sensitive am I to God's ever-present Holy Spirit in my everyday situations?
3. How well am I being mentored by passionate Christlike members of the Body of Christ?
4. Is God's Word impacting me consistently in my local church? How is it impacting me?
5. Is God's Word impacting me consistently in my family? How is it impacting me?
6. How am I submitting myself to obeying God and the disciplines of the Christian faith?