

THE  
DISCIPLESHIP  
PLACE

Discovering and Developing  
Christlike Disciple Makers



**SESSION 4**

How Do We Disciple Believers to Know and  
Follow Jesus and to Obey All He Taught?

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# How Do We Disciple Believers to Know and Follow Jesus and to Obey All He Taught?

## SESSION OVERVIEW

MEETING FREQUENTLY WITH JESUS AND OTHER CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

BEING INFORMED, FORMED, AND TRANSFORMED BY JESUS

MEETING WITH JESUS PRIVATELY AS WELL AS MINISTERING WITH JESUS AND MATURING IN OUR WALK WITH HIM

KNOWING, FOLLOWING, AND OBEYING JESUS

APPLICATION

REVIEW QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT

## LEARNER OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, you should:

- Be frequently meeting with Jesus and other Christlike disciples
- Be allowing Jesus to inform, form, and transform you
- Be ministering with Jesus

# Introduction to How Do We Disciple Believers to Know and Follow Jesus and to Obey All He Taught?

## INTRODUCTION



It is important for each Christ-follower to be engaged in a lifelong journey of being and making Christlike disciples. Christians need to be highly committed to guiding other Christ-followers to become more and more like Christ. Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me* challenges me to ask some searching questions: "Do I meet frequently with Jesus and other Christlike disciples? Am I being informed, formed, and transformed by Jesus while looking at successes and struggles in following Jesus? Am I meeting with Jesus privately as well as ministering with Jesus and maturing in my walk with Jesus with family and friends?"

Please read chapters 7 and 8 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me* in preparation for this session.

## SESSION 4: HOW DO WE DISCIPLE BELIEVERS TO KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS AND TO OBEY ALL HE TAUGHT?



### NOTES

#### MEETING FREQUENTLY WITH JESUS AND OTHER CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

Discipleship involves helping someone else follow Jesus more closely. Thus, Christ-followers need to meet frequently with Jesus and other Christlike disciples. So, we spend time together with other Christ-followers, thanking and praising God. Together we talk with Jesus and confess our struggles to Him. We learn to listen to Him through God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's people. Regularly we report to one another our experiences as we walk with Jesus, and we build relationships centered on Jesus and being His disciples.

We prayerfully invite a mature Christian to intentionally disciple or mentor us. One of our Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) core principles is intentional mentoring and equipping. Jesus' method of discipleship was through personal mentoring and equipping of a chosen group of individuals. It was these methods that helped Christianity grow and transform society.

So every disciple needs to be providing and receiving mentoring. Mentoring and equipping is a discipleship process that first introduces new believers to Jesus and reveals how to follow Him personally and fully. Mentoring is also a loving way to teach accountability and introduce pre-believers to the full knowledge of Christ. New disciples are challenged to continually grow and become more and more Christlike. To become all that God has created us to be as Christ's disciples, we need to be willing to grow and to help others grow as Jesus did. Therefore, mentoring and equipping others on the journey of discipleship is essential to Christian growth and maturity.

Our **Nazarene Essentials** involve intentional relational discipleship. Therefore, we help one another develop obedient intimate relationships with Jesus. In these relationships, Christ's Spirit transforms our character into Christlikeness. We help change new believers' values into kingdom values. We involve believers in Jesus' mission of investing in others, in their homes, churches, and world. We immediately nurture new believers into the community of faith, teaching them from the very beginning that they have been saved not just for themselves but for those whom they will influence and lead to Christ. We want them to become disciple makers who will disciple others, who will also become disciple makers. So we encourage new disciples to intentionally make disciples as the Lord commissioned and authorized us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

NOTES**BEING INFORMED, FORMED, AND TRANSFORMED BY JESUS**

Discipleship begins by first leading individuals into personal relationships with Jesus Christ. It is **essential** for our new believers' faith journey to begin with confession of sin and forgiveness by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Then they will realize they are new creatures in Christ, regenerated and adopted into the family of God. Regeneration produces changed hearts and changed lifestyles with testimonies of God's grace to those they know. Regenerated believers are urged by the Holy Spirit to fully surrender themselves to God, seeking His entire sanctification. Thereafter, discipleship continues as a process of being informed, formed, and transformed by Jesus while looking at successes and struggles in following Jesus. It also involves dialoging with Jesus through Scripture as well as praising God and seeking His will as doers of God's Word.

We prayerfully invite new believers to become a part of our discipleship groups. We invest our lives in these disciples as we seek the Lord together. Story-centered methods of teaching the Bible in small groups provide a solid biblical foundation for enabling disciples to learn the Bible and pass its message on to their circle of influence. Prayer, the Word of God, and intentionally helping each other to be more like Jesus characterize dynamic discipleship in the church.

Nazarenes intentionally develop Christlike disciples through a strong pulpit ministry. Our pastors preach instructional sermons on how to grow in our faith in Christ. They also preach sermons that are biblically based and nurture people toward growth and a deeper hunger for the Bible. Our pastors allow the Word of God to become the basis of all our discipleship efforts. Our pastors teach people how to study the Bible and think about what the Word means as well as how it applies to our lives. Our pastors strive for a balanced scriptural diet of preaching throughout the year. They rely on the Holy Spirit of God to enliven all that they do to come together in a balanced way to form Christlike disciples. Jesus not only preached to the multitudes, but He also carefully taught His disciples in a small group. Jesus' discipleship plan included telling parables (stories) to help the people learn (Mark 4:34).

Nazarenes encourage spiritual growth of Christlike disciples through a well-planned church schedule. Some of these are: Bible quizzing programs; Caravan children's ministry; Vacation Bible Schools; Christmas and Easter outreach programs; Compassionate ministry efforts; ministries for men, women, senior adults, singles, special needs, sports teams, and a variety of other affinity groups to help people make the connection to Christ and His church.

Nazarenes promote Sunday school classes that nurture and grow Christlike

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disciples. Our Sunday school teachers lead sessions that are aimed at making Christlike disciples both in the exposition of Scripture and in the scriptural application to life. Our Sunday school teachers also take a personal interest in individual young believers beyond the group sessions to answer their questions about the Christian faith and encourage them to grow in God's grace. Our Sunday school system of instruction offers programming from infancy to senior citizens. It provides the scope and sequence of material that studies the entire Bible in an organized way. We affirm the biblical mandate to "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

### **MEETING WITH JESUS PRIVATELY AS WELL AS MINISTERING WITH JESUS AND MATURING IN OUR WALK WITH HIM**

Discipleship includes meeting with Jesus privately as well as ministering with Jesus and maturing as we walk with Jesus as well as with family and friends. It is **essential** for the Christian life to be in a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So we encourage all believers to learn to seek daily the presence of God. Intentional disciples grow best in the likeness of Christ as they spend time with Him. Thus, we listen daily for Christ's voice. We feed daily on His Word. We enjoy His daily presence. Christlike disciples intentionally seek Him and readily share Him with those whose lives they touch.

We urge believers to use every means available to grow and develop their personal faith. Some of these are: reading the Bible with study helps; listening to the Bible on audio files; praying daily; listening to Christian music; reading Christian literature; finding an accountability partner who will pray every day that you will be Christlike; finding an accountability partner who loves you so much they will ask you hard questions; and developing the discipline of regularly telling others what God is doing in your life.

In the same way that Jesus gathered travelling companions around Himself, we must challenge His contemporary disciples to journey together as members of the Body of Christ. One of our Nazarene Discipleship International's (NDI) core principles is "Authentic Relationships." Everyone committed to the Great Commission should be engaged in relationships that honor God and edify the Body of Christ.

The core of our faith and life is to love God and love others. When we know we are unconditionally loved by God and unconditionally loved by one another, unity in the Body of Christ results. This unconditional love knows no cultural, generational, or structural bounds. However, this unconditional love is made

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possible only through the working of the Holy Spirit.

When we deeply care for one another, we discover just how rich our identity is in Christ, and spiritual growth results. Such loving relationships help us walk the path of holiness because we are receiving both encouragement and loving correction. These Spirit-enabled relationships are necessary as we support one another in living a fully surrendered and Spirit-filled life.

**KNOWING, FOLLOWING, AND OBEYING JESUS**

Would you share how you are being disciplined to know, follow, and obey Jesus, and how you are discipling others? Each of us has a particular area of ministry that provides the context of our being and making disciples. Would you share ways you are finding success in your context?



## APPLICATION

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### NOTES

1. Read chapter 7 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me*. Reflect on the question: Why do both authentic faith and repentance inevitably result in determination to obey Jesus?
2. How does a discipler help a discouraged disciple who is struggling with sin? How does a discipler help a discouraged disciple who is apparently not too concerned about sin?
3. Read chapter 8 of Hal Perkins' book *Walk with Me*. Reflect on the question: Why should a discipler intentionally seek to know his/her disciple's story, heart, and understanding of truth?
4. What have you learned about heart-probing conversations with your disciples?
5. Go to the [Way, Truth & Life Videos](#) and watch the "Saving Grace" video (22:27 duration) and continue to think about discipleship as a Journey of Grace with Jesus. Then, describe God's "Saving Grace" for you.

## EXAM



### NOTES

1. Christians need to be highly committed to guiding other Christ-followers to become more and more like Christ.
  - A. True
  - B. False
2. Which of the following is NOT true about meeting frequently with Jesus and other Christlike disciples?
  - A. Discipleship involves helping someone else follow Jesus more closely.
  - B. We spend time together with other Christ-followers thanking and praising Jesus.
  - C. We spread gossip about others' failures.
  - D. We build relationships centered on Jesus and being His disciples.
  - E. We talk with Jesus and confess our struggles to Him.
3. Mentoring and equipping is a discipleship process that first introduces new believers to Jesus and reveals how to follow Him personally and fully.
  - A. True
  - B. False
4. Which of the following are true about Christ-followers helping one another develop obedient intimate relationships with Jesus?
  - A. We help change new believers' values into kingdom values.
  - B. We involve other believers in Jesus' mission of investing in others.
  - C. We immediately nurture new believers into the community of faith.
  - D. All of the above (A, B, and C)
  - E. None of the above
5. We best describe the Christian life as a close personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
  - A. True
  - B. False
6. Which of the following are true about discipleship including meeting with Jesus privately?
  - A. We encourage all believers to learn to seek daily the presence of God.
  - B. We grow best in the likeness of Christ as we spend time with Him.
  - C. We must listen daily for Christ's voice.
  - D. We feed daily on God's Word.

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- E. All of the above (A, B, C and D)
7. In the same way that Jesus gathered travelling companions around Himself, we must challenge His contemporary disciples to journey together as members of the Body of Christ.
- A. True  
B. False
8. Which of the following is NOT true about our Nazarene pastors' discipleship ministry?
- A. They intentionally develop Christlike disciples through a strong pulpit ministry.  
B. They refuse to allow the Word of God to become the basis of all our discipleship efforts.  
C. They preach instructional sermons on how to grow in our faith in Christ.  
D. They teach people how to study the Bible and think about what the Word means as well as how it applies to our lives.  
E. They rely on the Holy Spirit of God to enliven all that they do to come together in a balanced way to form Christlike disciples.
9. Which of the following are ways we encourage spiritual growth of Christlike disciples through a well-planned church schedule?
- A. Bible quizzing programs  
B. Caravan children's ministry  
C. Vacation Bible Schools  
D. Compassionate ministry efforts  
E. All of the above (A, B, C and D)
10. Nazarene Sunday school teachers lead sessions that are aimed at making Christlike disciples both in the exposition of Scripture and in the scriptural application to life.
- A. True  
B. False

## DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR MENTOR AND PARTICIPANT

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**NOTES**

Be prepared to discuss the following with your mentor:

1. How well am I being informed by Jesus?
2. How well am I being formed by Jesus?
3. How well am I being transformed by Jesus?
4. How am I meeting with Jesus privately?
5. How am I ministering with Jesus?
6. How am I maturing in my walk with Jesus and with family and friends?