



LEVEL 1

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP



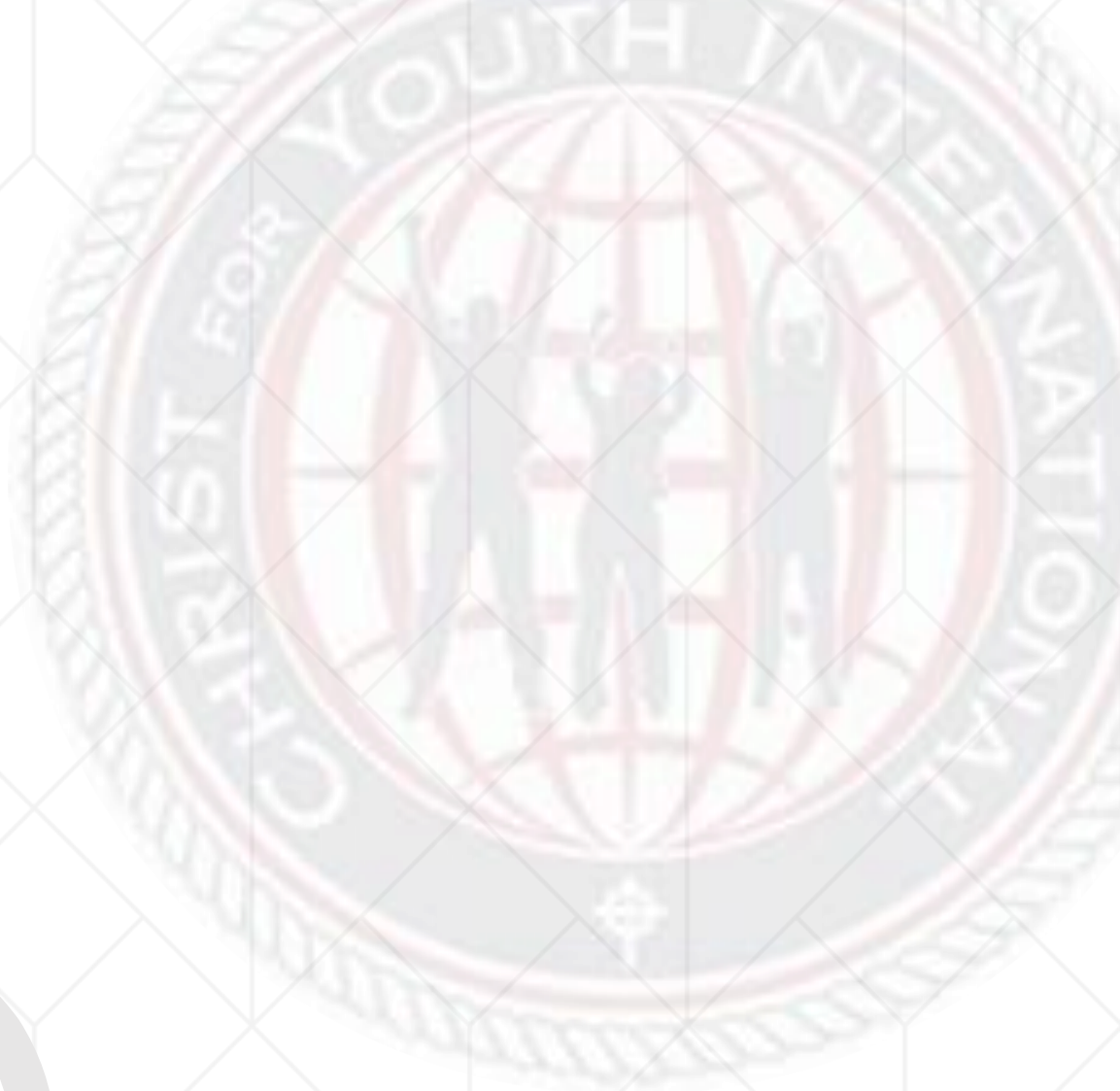
CLASS 1

INTRODUCTION



THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

The goal of the discipleship class is to raise Christ-like disciples. The aim is not to teach everything, but to set disciples on the path of learning. It takes one disciple to raise another disciple. The discipleship programme has five levels with each level having various classes.



THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

The main work Jesus gave to the church is to make Christ-like disciples. What we usually call the Great Commission, does not just deal with the sharing of the Gospel. The sharing of the Gospel is the first step to fulfilling the work of raising Christ-like disciples. In Matthew 28:16, Jesus gave the command to His disciples to also make disciples. It is important to note that, it takes someone who has been discipled to raise another disciple. If you have not been discipled, you cannot raise other disciples



THE INITIAL CALL OF JESUS

When Jesus was on earth, He preached about the kingdom and spent His life raising disciples. If Jesus used discipleship as a tool for kingdom expansion, we have no option but to also use the same tool. This is because, the initial call of Christ to the men He associated with, in His purpose of world evangelization, was a call to discipleship. The call shows how Jesus wants us to be followers (disciples) of him, so He can make us into what He wants.



THE INITIAL CALL OF JESUS

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men"

[Mark 1:16–17].

His initial call was for men to come and follow Him. Before he ascended to heaven, Jesus gave these same men (and to us) the command **“Go and make disciples of all nation”** [Matthew 28:19-20].



DISCIPLESHIP IS A FORMAT.

The reason many people cannot pass on their faith to other people is that, although they know some things about their faith, they have never been discipled and so it is difficult to pass on what they believe. Without being taken through the formal discipleship training, the informal disciple has a problem of passing on formats to another person. What we mean by format here is a systematic way of training people.



DISCIPLESHIP IS A FORMAT.

Example: Driving schools have a systematic way of training new drivers. Someone who has not been to a driving school can know how to drive, but there will be a problem when he or she has to teach another person how to drive. This is because he/she has not gone through a systematic training process. The same applies to other institutions or schools of learning. A look at universities shows us that there is a systematic way of raising doctors, lawyers, nurses amongst others. This confirms that there is a need for systematic training of disciples in the Kingdom of God.



DISCIPLESHIP IS A FORMAT.

Let us always remember that a disciple is a **student** or an **apprentice**. If a disciple is an apprentice, then there should be formal training for him. We can conclude that if there is a format for raising teachers, nurses and doctors, then more importantly, there should be a system for training Christ-like disciples



IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Jesus raised disciples [Mark 1:16-20]

When Jesus walked on earth, He raised disciples. Jesus' ministry is a model for us, and if He raised disciples then we also have to raise disciples [Hebrews 12:2 & 1 John 2:6]

2. Discipleship is a command from our Lord Jesus [Matthew 28:18]. If we are followers of Jesus and we love Him, we will be obedient to His commandments [John 14:15].

3. In the early churches, it was a common apostolic practice. The early church used discipleship – [Acts 6:1 / 6:7 / 9:1 / 9:26]. A look at these scriptures shows that the early church raised disciples and not just believers.



IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

4. Discipleship expands the ministry. Every disciple has the same mind as the disciple-maker [Luke 10:1]. Disciples take the ministry beyond one generation. Moses had a Joshua, Elijah had Elisha and Paul had Timothy. Discipleship allows us to pass the torch to the next generation. One's ministry should not end when he is dead and gone. The Methodist church started by John Wesley was broken down into small cells which allowed for discipleship.

Today, these cells expanded to become branches of the Methodist Church. Therefore, discipleship is an added advantage. Although discipleship looks slow, it works. That is the method Jesus used and we are all here today. Doctors from different universities all over the world work with this same principle. Having a format for discipleship will therefore help us realize the goal of discipleship.



IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

- 5. Discipleship ensures spiritual growth [Ephesians 4:13]. It makes you go deep in your faith. God desires that all His children grow and not remain the same.
- 6. Discipleship ensures that a believer becomes an effective witness of Jesus Christ [Acts 11:26 | Acts 1:8].



THE GOAL OF DISCIPLESHIP

The goal of all discipleship is to raise Christ-like disciples. Once somebody is born again, the person begins the journey of becoming more and more like Christ. People are not saved to become better versions of themselves or to become like pastors or other believers. They are saved to become more and more like Christ. The standard for our growth is Christ. He is the measure of Christianity [Ephesians 4:13/15 | Romans 8:29 | 1 John 2:6 | Luke 6:40 | 2 Cor 3:18 | 1 Cor 11:1 | Col 1:28-29].

If the standard of our growth or the goal of all discipleship is Christ-likeness, then we must note that all resources given to us (the body of Christ) must go into this project



DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

Discipleship is the personal commitment to obey imitate and follow Jesus until you become like Him. This is an ever-increasing commitment. To become a convert is instantaneous but to become a disciple is a lifelong process. It is not a single-step process. One must commence a walk of discipleship in a moment, but the first step must lengthen into a lifelong walk.





CLASS 2

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISCIPLESHIP



DISCIPLINES THAT MAKE CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLES

Since discipleship is a lifelong process, it requires discipline. People who are not disciplined cannot become Christ-like, for Christ was very disciplined when He walked the earth.



1. THE DISCIPLINE OF LEARNING!

A disciple is a student who must be ready and willing to learn at all times. This discipline is vital to the growth of every disciple; it allows him/her to identify and incorporate other disciplines.

There are two main ways we learn as disciples:

1. Learning from God's Word
2. Learning from your shepherd (disciple-maker)



1. THE DISCIPLINE OF LEARNING!



LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

We cannot grow outside God's Word. The main manual for discipleship is the Bible. We can read other books, but everything must be based on His Word.

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation”

[1 Peter 2:2].

****We must place a very high value on God's Word. We must make time for His Word****



LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

There cannot be discipleship without one making the conscious effort to read God's Word. It is not enough for a student to listen to teachings on discipleship and just write them down. He or She must search the Scriptures personally.

The Bible says; “They found that the Jews of Berea were of more noble character and much more open minded than those of Thessalonica. They were hungry to learn and eagerly received the word. Every day they opened the scrolls of Scripture to search and examine them, to verify that what Paul taught them was true” [Acts 17:11 TPT].



LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

A disciple must fall in love with the Scriptures. His delight must be in the Word of God – as the Bible says; “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night” [Psalm 1:2].

Discipleship is a deliberate process and so a disciple must be deliberate about reading God's word. The more we read His Word, the more we would like to read it. The more we look into His Word, the more we see our standard (Jesus) and the more we yearn to be like Him in all things.

****Our delight in His Word increases when we read more of His Word****



LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” **[2 Corinthians 3:18]**.

“The scriptures make us wise unto Salvation: and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” **[2 Timothy 3:15-17]**.



LEARNING FROM YOUR SHEPHERD (DISCIPLE-MAKER)

You cannot become a disciple on your own. Every student needs a teacher. God has blessed us with gifts that include disciple-makers. A disciple must learn to receive from His master (disciple-maker). Every disciple must decide to follow. The disciples had to follow Jesus to learn. Many do not like following or many start following but stop along the way.

This is why it says: "When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men" [Ephesians 4:8].

****A sheep would always follow a shepherd****

No matter how much you know, you must be ready to follow your disciple-maker.



LEARNING FROM YOUR SHEPHERD (DISCIPLE-MAKER)

“When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice” **[John 10:4-5]**.

One must humble himself if he is going to learn from his leader/disciple-maker. Humility would always make learning easier. The disciples of Jesus humbled themselves enough to follow Jesus and His teachings. One must be teachable if he would ever learn. To be a teachable person is a choice one must make. To be a disciple is to be an apprentice. An apprentice is a teachable person.



2. THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL THINGS.



2. THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL THINGS.

Discipleship is a spiritual thing and so it involves spiritual activities. We cannot spend 95% of our time on carnal things and hope we become Christ-like disciples. *“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace” [Romans 8:6].*

****We are filled spiritually after we have a personal thirst for spiritual things****



2. THE DISCIPLINE OF COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL THINGS.

We must weigh our activities and see which ones are making us Christ-like disciples and which ones are not making us Christ-like disciples. We must spend more time on things that make us Christ-like disciples and less time on the things which do not make us Christ-like disciples. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” [Matthew 5:6].

Our flesh would not like it initially when we begin to switch from carnal things to spiritual things. But with time, we would begin to get used to spiritual things.

****We must be ready to commit our time to discipleship instead of doing things that are not beneficial****



3. THE DISCIPLINE OF PRIORITIZING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.



3. THE DISCIPLINE OF PRIORITIZING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Our relationship with God should always be the most important in our life. When we put our earthly relationships above our relationship with God, discipleship is difficult. We must make sure we spend time with God each day before we do other things.

Several scriptures show the need for disciples to prioritize their relationship with God. This is not intended to be done in a ritualistic manner, where you are eager to fulfil a religious obligation and not a desire to know God. Below are some of the scriptures that point to prioritizing God, God must be first in all we do.



3. THE DISCIPLINE OF PRIORITIZING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" **[Luke 9:61–62]**.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” **[Matthew 6:33]**.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength **[Mark 12:30]**.

****Discipleship would not be possible if we don't place a high value on our relationship with God****





CLASS 3

QUIET TIME



QUIET TIME [MARK 1:35]

Quiet Time / Precious Moment is time made by a disciple of Jesus to read, meditate on the word and pray.

It is a time a disciple spends alone with the Lord in His presence.

From **Mark 1:35**, we see Jesus rise a great while before day to be alone with the father. Jesus, who is our example, made time to be alone with the Father. We as His followers must also make time to be with the Lord.



QUIET TIME / PRECIOUS MOMENT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING;

Bible reading; Reading a portion of scripture. [1 Peter 2:2].

The Word of God is food for us. Just like how the physical body needs a daily intake of food to ensure healthy growth, our spiritual lives also depend on the Word of God for sustenance.



QUIET TIME / PRECIOUS MOMENT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING;

Scripture memorization and meditation. [2 Timothy 3:15 | Jeremiah 1:8].

Do not be in a hurry to just read the scripture and move. Do well to make time to eat the word of God through meditation. Meditation is to think deeply and consistently about the portion of scripture that you read until it settles in your heart.



QUIET TIME / PRECIOUS MOMENT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING;

Prayer [1 Thessalonians 5:17].

Speaking directly to our heavenly Father is one of the greatest privileges we have through Christ. Prayer is necessary for our daily growth and walk with the Lord. Not only are we edified by prayer, but we are also empowered through prayer.



IMPORTANCE OF QUIET TIME/ BENEFITS OF QUIET TIME FOR A BELIEVER

- Builds a believer's faith **[Romans 10:17]**.

A daily intake of the Word of God strengthens a believer's faith. What we hear consistently has a way of bringing faith or fear to us.

- Quiet time helps you to prioritize your relationship with God. **[Matthew 6:33]**.

When we make time to be with the Lord each morning, it helps us prioritize our relationship with God. 'When God comes first in our lives, we end up living fulfilled.'



IMPORTANCE OF QUIET TIME/ BENEFITS OF QUIET TIME FOR A BELIEVER

- Quiet time helps you have a conversation with the most important person in your life.
- Quiet time enables you to grow up spiritually. [Ephesians 4:15]
- Quiet time helps you to know the Lord and love Him eventually. [John 14:15]
- It helps you to meditate properly on the word of God.
- It helps you to maintain a healthy prayer life.
- It draws you into intimacy with God.



HOW TO HAVE YOUR QUIET TIME:

- 1. Choose/Select a particular time to always be with the Lord.
- It is a great thing to schedule a particular time each day to spend with the Lord. Preferably rising early has proved to be more fulfilling.
- 2. Choose a particular place to have your quiet time. Move away from all distractions. If possible, switch off your phone, so that you can have a single focus towards your devotion.
- 3. Have a book or journal specifically for your quiet time. Write the things you learned and also how you are going to apply them to your life.
- 4. Pray and worship the Lord before you start your devotion.



HOW TO HAVE YOUR QUIET TIME:

There is no rigid way to go about your quiet time. The time to have it is not cast in stone. However, it is best to have it during the time where you have the most energy and are very alert. This is usually in the morning. Again, we have an example in Jesus who also had quiet times in the mornings during His days in the flesh.





THANK YOU

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