

A lit candle sits on a rustic wooden surface, accompanied by a sprig of dried white flowers. In the background, a wooden cross is visible through a window, with a warm, glowing light source behind it, creating a soft, atmospheric scene.

THE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

8 SESSIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

BY TREY KENT

THE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

1. New Life In Christ
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4. Worship, Baptism and Communion
5. Living In Christ
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THE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

Please find another believer to go through this series with you weekly in person, virtually, or by phone. For best results, complete the session in advance, come together to share your answers and to pray for one another.

Session 1 NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

To be a Christian means you have been given new life in Christ. To be lost or unsaved means that you are dead spiritually and infected in all areas by the depravity of sin.

1. What do we learn in 2 Corinthians 5:17 about those that are Christians, those that are now “in Christ”?

2. What does Ephesians 2:1-3 teach us about those apart from Christ?

What are the practical results of this lost state? How have you been affected?

3. How are we saved from this life of death (see Ephesians 2:8-9)?

Write a brief account of how you were saved by Jesus:

What are we saved for? (See Ephesians 2:10) Explain how the truth of this verse has been revealed in your life.

4. To be saved means we are now filled with the Holy Spirit. He lives inside us (1 Corinthians 3:16). The Christian life is simply a life of walking in the Spirit and dying to the flesh, a life of loving Jesus and others. What do the verses below teach us about this pursuit?

*Ephesians 4:20-24

*Ephesians 4:25-32

How specifically do you most need to apply the verses from Ephesians 4:20-32 right now? Explain.

5. To walk in the Spirit means that we are loving Jesus and others empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. What do these verses teach us about the Spirit?

*1 Corinthians 3:16

*Ephesians 5:18

*Luke 11:13

*Acts 1:8

How do you need the Spirit to empower you most today?

6. What evidence of new life in Christ is revealed in these passages?

*1 John 4:7-8, 4:20-21

*1 John 4:13

*1 John 4:16

*1 John 5:2

Which of these evidences do you clearly see in your life?

7. Pray for one another to walk in the Spirit and manifest this new life daily.

SESSION 2 FIRST THINGS FIRST

1. If you are like me, you are constantly asking the question, “what’s the most important thing for me to focus on right now?” That’s a powerful question to apply to all of life. Thankfully, Jesus answered this question in Matthew 22:34-40.

Write in your own words what Jesus says is most important:

2. If Jesus says Loving Him and Loving Others is the most important thing we do (it’s the “great commandment”), we must figure out how to live all of life loving God and others.

What practical steps does God give us in making all of life about loving God and others in Deuteronomy 6:4-9?

How would this make a difference in your lifestyle if applied consistently and faithfully? How can you apply these truths to your daily life?

3. Jesus is essentially saying that love is the most important part of all of life. The best definition of love I’ve ever heard is: Love is seeking the highest good of another.

What does 1 Corinthians 13 teach us about true love?

4. For me, one of the most helpful verses in the Bible related to love is 1 John 4:19.

What does this verse teach us about love?

If we can't love others until we are truly loved by God, how can we more powerfully experience God's love? Explain.

5. The Bible says in Romans 5:5 that the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Look up Romans 5:5. If love is a person, the Holy Spirit, not just a feeling, being filled with the Spirit is the key to us feeling loved.

Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit? Explain.

6. The Bible commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit over and over again.

What do we learn in Ephesians 5:18?

The ESV Study Bible teaches that this command to be filled with the Spirit is meant to be an ongoing lifestyle, rather than a one-time event. Why is this important?

Take as long as you need to pray over your discipleship partner to be filled powerfully with the person of the Holy Spirit right now.

7. Please describe below what happened as you prayed over one another.

Session 3 HOW TO GROW IN CHRIST

To grow in Christ is essentially growing in love with Jesus and others in fulfillment of the great commandment noted in Matthew 22. To love God is to live for His Glory. To live for His glory is to grow in Christ in all of life. We all need tools or means to help us grow in Christ.

5 Essentials for Growing in Christ

1. The Word of God

What does the Bible teach us about the Word of God in the following verses?

+Psalm 12:6-7

+Proverbs 30:5-6

+John 17:17

+2 Tim. 3:16-17

+Hebrews 4:12-13

Circle the verse(s) above that impact you most. Why does it impact you?

2. Prayer

What does the Bible teach us about prayer in the following verses?

+Matthew 6:6

+John 15:7

+Luke 11:9-10

+1 Thessalonians 5:17

+Jeremiah 33:3

Write down the most impacting verse and begin memorizing it today.

3. Fellowship

What does the Bible teach us about fellowship in the passages below?

+Hebrews 10:24-25

+Hebrews 3:13

+Acts 2:41-42

+Acts 2:46-47

+John 15:12

Who are the Christ-followers you fellowship with weekly? What difference does fellowship make in your life? Explain

4. Serving/Giving

What does the Bible teach us about service in the following passages?

+Galatians 5:13

+Romans 12:4-8

+Philippians 2:3-4

+Colossians 3:12-13

+2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Which verse jumps off the page and you know it's to be applied to a current situation? What do you need to practically do today in response to this verse?

5. Witnessing

What do the following Bible passages teach us about witnessing?

+Acts 1:8

+Matthew 28:18-20

+1 Peter 3:15

+2 Timothy 4:2

Who is God calling you to share Christ with today?

6. Which of the five areas—the Word of God, Prayer, Fellowship, Service/Giving, and Witnessing—are you the strongest in and which are you the weakest in? How can your area of strength empower your area of weakness?
7. Pray over one another to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in Christ and in these five areas.

Session 4 GATHERED WORSHIP, BAPTISM, AND COMMUNION

John Calvin said that what makes the church the church is that we preach the Word of God in gathered communities, and that we administer the two sacraments of baptism and communion.

1. What does the Bible tell us about gathering regularly with other members of the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:24-25)?

What weekly gatherings does your church offer? What weekly gatherings do you consistently participate in?

2. What were the regular commitments of the new believers in the book of Acts (See Acts 2:41-47)?

Why do you think they were so actively committed to gathering weekly, even daily?

3. All those who were saved during Peter's sermon in Acts 2 were immediately baptized (see Acts 2:41). Have you confessed your faith in Christ through baptism yet? Explain

4. Baptism represents our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ! What does Romans 6:4 teach us about the power of our baptism into Christ?

5. If baptism is the one-time initiation into the church where we publicly confess that we are saved, then communion (the Lord's supper) is the ongoing partaking of Christ in order to be sustained and nourished in Him.

Jesus celebrated communion (Passover became communion) with His disciples during His last night on earth before His Crucifixion (read Matthew 26:26-28)

Some of the great saints of God in church history would take communion every day—trading God's life for their life. What is the significance of the Lord's supper to you?

6. What does Paul teach us to do each time we take the Lord's Supper (See 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)?

7. Before you end your session, set up a time to be baptized (if you've never been baptized) and take communion together. Remember Christ, confess your sins, receive forgiveness and be filled with the Holy Spirit!

Session 5 IN CHRIST

Paul uses the phrase IN CHRIST almost 100 times in his 13 New Testament letters. Being IN CHRIST means you are born again, imparted the life of Christ, and that you are forever joined to him.

1. Read the story of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:1-14. What does it mean to be born again?

What has changed in your life since you were born again?

2. What are some of the amazing results for those who are born again? (See 1 Peter 1:3-7)

Which part of this inheritance encourages you most right now? Why?

3. Jesus gave us new life in Christ. What are the differences between your old life and your new life in Christ? How are we now to live in light of this new life in Christ? (See Romans 6:5-11)

4. We have been given new life because of what Christ has done for us. In what ways are we identified with Christ?

*Galatians 2:20

*Romans 6:4

*Ephesians 2:6

What differences are these truths to make in our daily lives?

5. The Bible gives one more astounding truth—as born again children of God we are joined to Christ. We are one with him. Write 1 Corinthians 6:17 below:

If we are one with Christ, Father God will never see us apart from Jesus again! How does this truth change the way we see ourselves and the way we pursue life in the future?

6. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are new creatures in Christ Jesus, and the old is gone. What does it mean to be new creatures in Christ and that the old is gone?

So many Christians get caught going back to the old. Why is it fruitless and full of destruction to go back to your old ways? How are you currently being tempted to go back to the old life?

7. Pray for one another to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Pray that the new life in Christ replaces the old life.

Session 6 SHARING CHRIST

1. What does Romans 10:14-15 teach us about evangelism?

Who first shared Christ with you? Explain

2. According to Romans 10:16-17, how does a lost person receive faith?

What verses did you hear that helped ignite faith in your lost heart?

What does Romans 10:9-10 teach us about how someone is saved?

3. Romans 10:14-15 summarized says: How can they hear unless we go preach...and how can we preach unless we are sent. What motivates you to share Christ with others?

How often do you share Christ? Never, almost never, sometimes, or often. Explain.

4. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Write below the most important truths in these passages:

Which specific part impacts you most? Why?

5. Read Acts 1:8. Why is being filled with the Holy Spirit essential to being a powerful and consistent witness for Christ?

Do you believe you can minister and witness like the disciples did in the book of Acts? Why or why not?

6. What are the downsides of you not sharing Christ? List as many as possible.

7. Pray together to be empowered to both pray for your lost friends and family by name and to be to share Christ with them.

Sessions 7 IT'S ABOUT JESUS

1. R.T. Phillips, the former President of Promise Keepers, told me recently that the game changing moment in the life of a believer is when we realize life is not about us, but about Jesus and others. How has this occurred in your life?

What specific truths does Colossians 1:15-20 reveal about everything being about Jesus?

What other passages from the Bible affirm this truth—"It's about Jesus, not me?"

2. What do we learn about making it all about Jesus in Matthew 16:24-27?

Which of these passages challenges and convicts you most right now? Why?

3. How do we rectify the call to love God first and others second, with the call to love ourselves (See Matthew 22:34-40).

The Bible says to “love your neighbor *as yourself*” ...and it also says to “hate our life”. We are called to love ourselves in the grace of God and at the same time to hate the old us (See Matthew 22:39 and Luke 14:26). Why are both truths vitally important?

4. I’ve personally found that focusing on my self-esteem actually ruins my esteem, but focusing on who Jesus is and who He says I am in Him builds my sense of value and worth. Have you found this to be true? Explain.

What do the following passages teach us about Jesus:

John 1:1

Hebrews 13:8

Hebrews 4:14-16

John 10:7-11

List below the most meaningful attributes of who Jesus is to you:

How do these attributes build the security of who you are in Him?

5. What does 1 Peter 2:9-10 teach us about who we are in Christ?

List below several things the Bible says about who we are now “in Christ”.

(when you run out...google “who I am in Christ”)

6. What do the following passages teach us about who we are in Christ?

John 15:9

Colossians 2:10

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 1:4

Galatians 3:26

If you had to narrow your answer down to 1 thing...what is your most powerful and life transforming identity that you now cling to in Christ? Explain.

In what other aspects of who you are in Christ do you need to grow?

7. Pray two prayers over your prayer partner: (1) That your friend would be driven by the Spirit to have a lifelong passionate pursuit to know Jesus and to experience Him daily. (2) That your friend's identity would be fully rooted in Christ.

Session 8 PRAYER AND EVANGELISM

1. Many years ago our church went on a several days fast together. When it was over, the overarching thing God spoke to me was this: Northwest Fellowship is about PRAYER and EVANGELISM! God will build our church as we give ourselves to Prayer and Evangelism!

Which is most challenging to you, prayer or evangelism? Explain.

2. Why do you think Jesus cleansed the temple (see Mark 11:15-19)?

You find out what's most important to someone by what makes them the angriest. Why was Jesus so angry? What make you most angry?

3. Each of the four gospels shows Jesus cleansing the temple and three of them have this specific phrase: "My house shall be called a house of prayer..."

What does Jesus mean when He calls His church a house of prayer (Read Mark 11:17)? Explain

4. Please write below how each person or group could function as a house of prayer today:

*You

*Your house or family

*Your neighborhood

*Your local congregation

*Your community or city

5. Jesus continued this phrase in Mark 11:17 by calling His people “a house of prayer for all nations.”

*You and I are called to be a church family where *all nations* come together in Christ to be a house of prayer. Ask Jesus now to use you and our church more powerfully in this way.

*You and I are called to go out and reach the nations (all peoples). People from many “nations” are living in our city, often right next door to us. Pray now that you, and we as a church, can be more passionate and disciplined to reach our lost neighbors for Christ.

6. Jesus finished this power statement by saying... “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”? But you have made it a den of robbers.” (Mark 11:17)

We have 2 options, either we are a house of prayer for all nations or we are a den of thieves. What does it mean to be a den of thieves? How have you been that?

7. Finish out this session praying for one another to be rooted in this Jesus exalting identity of being a house of prayer for all nations. Repent for being a den of robbers.

