



Edify Church

Boston

STUDY GUIDE

DISCIPLESHIP 101

BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

LESSON 1

SALVATION, FAITH & RELATIONSHIP

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BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

THE WHY & THE
HOW

Our Mission

We edify believers to mature in Christ, empower believers to engage in the work of ministry and equip believers to disciple the world.

Commitment

noun

the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.

"the company's commitment to quality"

Interactive

ZOOM + Discipleship101 Manual

What's the point of this study time together?

1. Be a disciple first!

John 14:15 KJV

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.

While we endeavor to live out that instruction by sharing our testimonies that will prayerfully draw our family, friends, etc. We need to understand that sharing God's word is vitally important as well. God's word is the foundation of our faith in God.

2 Timothy 2:15

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2. Make a disciple next!

Matt 28: 19-20 NIV

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our goal as a child of God is to do what every good child does...obey! Jesus left instructions to share the gospel with everyone we can. This was not a passive conversation to consider if and when we felt like doing it but instruction that we need to live out.

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Part 1

Salvation

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Salvation – By Faith!

Multitudes think they are saved by their good works. They practice penance and self-denial. They give alms and say prayer. They visit the sick and the imprisoned and perform numerous long pilgrimages and afflict their bodies, and thus they expect to get to heaven. All of this without first having a personal relationship with Christ is nothing but dead works. You cannot work “for” salvation, because God tells us that salvation is a gift from God. It must become yours first; then they can work it or live it out. The part you plan is receiving the gift!

The gift of God is Eternal life” (**Rom 6:23**).

What can you do to earn a gift? If you pay for it, then it is not a gift. If you work for it you have a right to it, so then again, it is not a gift. A gift is free and so is salvation. What did the prodigal son pay? He was bankrupt and so are you! Salvation is without money and without price. It cannot be bought.

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is of the gift of God not of works, lest any man should boast” (**Titus 3:5**).*

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justified the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. God imputes righteousness without works” (**Rom. 4:5,6**). “Worketh not...” and “.... not of works. No works of yours, no deeds of merit, nothing that you can do will avail in the least. It is Jesus Christ and He alone who saves. The work for our salvation was completed on the cross!

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Christ Is the Only Savior

“I am the way; no man cometh unto the father but by me” (John 14:6; Jn.3:18). “I Jesus Christ. There is no other. Not religion. Not morality, nor good works. Christ the Son of God is One and Only Savior.

“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). What a verse! (**Jn3:18; Act 16:31**) There no clearer statement in the Bible. Salvation is no other. No other church. No other individual. Will you believe it? No other name! “Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save.” will you, then turn from all others and trust Him and him alone? He alone can save you.

What you must do

Perhaps you think that because God has provided salvation there is nothing for you to do. What a mistake!

Remember there is a difference between believing with the head and receiving with the heart.

You believe that the plane can fly prior to purchasing a ticket or entering the plane before you have faith that it can take you to your destination. You believe Jesus can save you, but you are not saved until you act on your faith and trust in him. This is the way the New English Bible states it: “Put your trust in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved” (**Act 16:31**).

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The need for Salvation

- Who am I? (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7)
- Why am I here? (Mark 12:29-31)
- Where do I go from here? (2nd Cor. 5:1-2)
- To get to God through Jesus Christ the Son.
- To know what God wants from you
- To know about our future (Eternity)
- To seek first the kingdom (Matt. 6:33)

God's Plan for Salvation

- Introduction of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ
- For God so loved the world (John 3:16)
- What is this man's record?
- What does He promise?
- Why did He die?
- The Second coming of Jesus Christ (John 14:1-3)

Facts about Salvation

- All men have sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- God loves all men nonetheless (John 3:16)
- Sin has a penalty (Rom. 6:23)
- Jesus Christ paid the penalty (Rom. 5:8)
- Salvation is a free gift (Eph. 2:8-9)
- Christ is at the door of your hearts (Rev. 3:20)
- We must open for Him and receive Him (John 1:12)

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Part 2
***Faith &
Relationship***

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Faith & Relationship

Faith has always been the mark of a disciple of Jesus. The early disciples were known as BELIEVERS. Jesus said, everything is possible for him who believes (**Mark 9:23**).

Faith means total dependence on God. When Adam sinned, he stepped out of God's dependence into in-dependence (which is unbelief). This is the reason God has placed such a high priority on faith. Faith is the way we come back into relationship with God (God dependence).

This dependence on God is called faith. Faith advances you beyond your five senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. Faith releases you from your limited ability to God's ability. This is the work of faith to which all of us are called – where nothing is impossible (**Matt. 17:20**).

What Is Faith

True faith is expressed in (i) obedience and (ii) action, in response to (iii) hearing God's Word (voice). Faith means having assurance or confidence in another person or that person's word. Having faith in God involves an exchange of self-trust for God's trust. We abandon reliance on our limited source of knowledge and start receiving from His unlimited source.

Two Kinds Of Knowledge

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive Words, but with a demonstration of the spirit's power so that your faith may not rest on man's wisdom but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and ordained by God for our glory before time began. (**1Cor. 2:4-7; verses 8-16**).

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The Basis Of Faith

The basis of having faith in God is in three important realities.

- 1. The Nature of God:** When God made His promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, He swore by Himself (**Heb. 6:13**).
 - He cannot change - I the Lord do not change (**Mal. 3:6; James 1:17**).
 - He cannot be hindered— I know that you can do all things, no plan of yours can be thwarted (**Job. 42:2**).
 - He cannot lie – God is not a man that he should lie, not a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he speak and not fulfill? (**Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2**).
- 2. The Redemptive Work of the Son of God.**
 - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and set down at the right hand of throne of God (**Heb. 12:2**).
 - Christ has become the source of our faith in God. The fact of His death and resurrection provides a foundation for our faith in Christ Jesus by which has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption (**I Cor. 1:30; Rom. 5: 1-2**).
- 3. The Word of God.**
 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (**Matt. 24:35; Isaiah 40:8**).
 - *The Lord said to me ... I am watching to see that my Word is fulfilled* (**Jere. 1:12**)
 - His Word stands true forever. Faith comes when God brings a specific Word out of all he has ever said - directly to us in our situation. Spoken in this way, the Word of God comes alive in us, releasing our faith.

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How Faith Works

The principle of faith is to operate in our lives continually, no matter what the circumstances (**2 Cor. 5:7, James 1: 5, 6**). It works in the following way:

1. God Gives Us Faith

- For in the gospel righteousness from God is revealed, righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:
- *The righteous will live by (HIS) faith (Compare **Rom. 1:17** and **Habakkuk 2:4 NIV**).*
- *The righteous lives by His faith that is, the faith He gives us as a gift.*
- For by faith are we saved through faith, it (the faith) is the gift of God (**Eph. 2:8,9**) ... according as God has dealt to every man ... faith (**Rom 12:3**)

2. Faith Comes by a Word from God

- Firstly, God encourages us by speaking a word relevant to our circumstances. This may come as you read the Bible or by hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit inside your spirit. Faith comes from hearing the Word and is heard through the Word of Christ” (**Rom 10:17; Genesis 15:3-5, 17:15 –21 Joshua 1:8**).

3. Obedience to the Word

- For faith to operate in our situation, we must live that Word. Faith is ACTIVE, not passive. Most of God's promises are conditional – He will do His part, if we do our part. Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (**James. 2:17; Genesis 15:6, Matthew 7:24-27**).

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How Faith Works

4. The Crisis or Trial of Our Faith

- Sometimes everything happening around us appears contrary to what God has said, and there seems to be no natural evidence for our believing. At this point, our faith rests completely on God's Word (what He has spoken to us). In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed (**1 Pet. 1:6-7; Rom. 4:16-21; Psalms 105: 17-19**).
- In faith we rest ourselves on His FAITHFULNESS. In our times of doubt and struggle, God is faithful and does not abandon us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful. He cannot deny himself (**2 Tim 2:13**).

5. The Result

- The result is always victory on the part of the believer, bringing glory to God (**James 1:2-4, 12: Gen. 21:1-3; Ps. 105:19-22, Acts 3:6, Heb 6:13-15**). For everyone born of God has overcome the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith (**1 Jn. 5:4**)

COMMITMENT:

*“Today I decide to live faith and put God first in all areas of my life. I acknowledge my need to be totally dependent on God – which is faith in action. In problems, challenges and difficulties, I will rely on his faithfulness. **God's response will be His grace and His enabling power.** I will teach others also to rely in God's faithfulness and walk with faith in God.”*

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It Takes Faith To Be In Relationship

It takes faith to be in relationship with anyone but especially with God. In a human relationship we love to see, hear and feel that relationship otherwise it doesn't really appear to us that we're in a relationship at all. We need to hear "I love you"; we need to feel "I care about you"; and we need to see that person "providing for me" or "there for me". Experiencing love, feeling cared for or protected is important in any relationship. We have proof of Jesus being in relationship with us once we can self out of the picture and take an honest look at our lives, we can testify that He is and has been all those things to us! Let's look at a couple of examples of relationships:

Book of Ruth

In short, Naomi had become a widow while moving to Moab because of a famine where they were and was left with 2 son's and their wives (Orpah and Ruth). Orpah and Ruth were not from the same tribe as their husbands; their traditions and ways of worship were very different. Once Naomi's 2 sons died, she advised her daughter's-in-law to return to their families so they could marry again. In that time, when a woman lost her husband; she would marry the next single son in the same family whether or not they were in love. This tradition was to keep with wealth of the family intact. Orpah left as she was told and returned to her family to marry again. But Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi to take care of her.

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Both women loved Naomi; but Ruth had a special affection for her in order to stay behind and take care of her mother-in-law. She trusted that God would provide for them both and He still had a plan for them. Ruth would submit to Naomi's instructions and those instructions proved beneficial to her. Boaz also had his part to play, he used wisdom in protecting Ruth while she worked among his people. He quietly provided for her and made life a little easier for her. He also had a heart to do what was right by Naomi and her family.

- What kind of relationship did Ruth have with Naomi?
- What is Boaz's relationship with Naomi?
- How did this close relationship between Naomi and Ruth affect their outcome?
- What's your conclusion about the importance of faith within your relationships?

It takes faith to trust, it takes trust to be in a relationship and everyone is in relationship. How's your relationship?

There is a lesson in the book of Ruth for everyone!

Pray:

"Lord, my desire is that you are at the root of all of my relationships. Help me to develop, nurture and grow each relationship. Let my relationships with others be a demonstration of the love relationship I have with you and in areas where I'm weak...strengthen me to grow. In Jesus name...Amen!"

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A Loving Relationship

Prayer: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7-“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely; does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In a healthy relationship, one of the primary requirements is love. We often look at love as “just what I need” but love is a two-way street. We need to have the ability to receive love as well as give love and that’s not always easy. And full disclosure, love is not always 50/50 either!

Scripture says that love suffers long but who wants to suffer and especially long...and at the same time being kind? But hasn’t Jesus suffered for us and I’m not talking about more than 2000 years ago, I’m talking about right now. He patiently waits for us to make decisions that align with His will. He watches while we exercise free-will even when it’s painfully obvious that we’re going in the wrong direction. And for those who are hardheaded, arrogant and self-pleasing, He continues to show mercy on them while He waits for them. Shouldn’t we try to give to others what has been given to us.

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A Loving Relationship

The scripture also speaks about other qualities that display or define what love is; things such as being thoughtful, not jealous; doesn't brag; not proud or arrogant and so on. It lists specific behaviors, so no one can avoid remaining in ignorance concerning the issue of love. As the scripture goes on, it also describes what is not love: it does not act rudely; it's not self-seeking or easily provoked; it doesn't rejoice at injustice but rejoices in the truth. It's funny and sad because most of us can behave opposite of what the bible describes as love and not even realize it. It's covered up by the devil as "this is just how I am" but that is a lie! It's not who you were made to be, our behavior can be influenced by the devil. So, it's very important that we guard our hearts as the bible instructs so that nothing confuses our understanding of Godly love.

- This lesson, like all lessons, should be used not to look at others but to look inwardly in making sure we as individuals line up with the word of God as much as possible.

To be in a relationship it takes faith...

- ***To Love Anyway***

1 John 4:10 "This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven". GNT

- ***To Love No Matter The Cost***

Romans 5:8 "But God commanded his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." KJV

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- ***To Endure To The End***

James 1:3 “For you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.” GNT

1 Corinthians :13:7 “Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail.” GNT

- ***To Trust***

Hebrews 12:2 “Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends on beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross and he is now seated at the right side of God’s throne.” GNT

It takes faith to be involved in any relationship: between God and man and between 2 human beings. So, it’s very important to build our faith so that we can enjoy each relationship that we are involved in. Now, we have a responsibility to examine our personal relationship with Jesus so that all other relationships will be positively affected.

There is a gospel song by Jonathan Butler that says, “falling in love with Jesus is the best thing I’ve ever known”. When you’re in love with someone, your daily goal or desire is to do what’s best for them. To do the things that please them. To somehow include them in your plans, goals and decisions. Being in love is more just about “you” but it’s about the other person too! But being or falling in love is also a decision you must make and it’s personal. To love the person of Jesus, you love His attributes (who He is) and share His desires. I encourage you to fall in love with Jesus. Make that your decision! Make that your ambition! Fall in love with Jesus...He is already in love with you!

