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Spiritual Disciplines: Discipleship

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Introduction**

Our mission as a church is “To glorify God through lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

**Q15. Why did God make us?** God made us to glorify Him, so His glory would be known and praised.

**Isaiah 43:7** “everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

**1 Corinthians 10:31** (NASB1995) Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**Q16. How should we glorify God?** We glorify God by trusting in Jesus, enjoying Him, treasuring Him, growing in our knowledge of Him, believing His words, obeying His commands, and by showing and telling the world how great He is.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

* **Definitions**
* **What is a spiritual discipline?**

**Donald S. Whitney**: “Spiritual disciplines are those practices found in Scripture that promote spiritual growth among believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are habits of devotion, habits of experiential Christianity that have been practiced by God’s people since biblical times.”

**1 Timothy 4:7** (NASB) … discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

* **What is a disciple?**

**Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The standard definition of a disciple is someone who adheres to the teachings of another. It is a follower or a learner.

**Luke 14:25-33**

**Luke 9:23** And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

* **What is discipleship?**

**Word of Truth Catechism:** Discipleship is the process of following and learning from more mature Christians and doing the work of disciple-making ourselves: calling people to saving faith, then training them in sound doctrine and how to live as imitators of Christ.

**1 Peter 2:2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

* **Why Discipleship?**
* **Commanded by God in Scripture**

**Matthew 28:19** “... make disciples ...”

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

* **Spiritual growth (sanctification)**

**Word of Truth Catechism:** Progressive sanctification is growing in holiness through obedience to the Lordship of Jesus and His word from a right heart. By grace, it is a lifelong process powered by the Holy Spirit to change believers to become more like Christ.

**2 Peter 3:18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Colossians 1:10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

**Hebrews 5:12-14**

* **The dangers of neglecting discipleship**

It is dangerous to neglect discipleship because without authentic Christian accountability and training in sound doctrine, we will be tossed to and fro by the waves of every wind of doctrine as Scripture says, and we will do life the way we think it should be done, but not the way God has prescribed in His word.

* **Application for the Spiritual Discipline of Discipleship**

Discipleship is a willingness to prioritize one’s life to being taught and mentored and trained up to be more like Christ.

* **At Disciples Church**
* **Sunday worship**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Ephesians 4:11-14**

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calls out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit, those that are given unto him by his Father, that they may walk before him in all the ways of obedience, which he prescribes to them in his word. Those thus called, he commands to walk together in particular societies, or churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which he requires of them in the world.”

**Matthew Henry**: “Sunday is a privilege and a benefit, not a task and a drudgery.”

**Pastor John MacArthur**: “The source of most of the problems people have in their Christian lives relates to two things: either they are not worshiping six days a week with their life, or they are not worshiping one day a week with the assembly of the saints. We need both.”

* **Midweek Gathering**
* **Further growth discipleship**

**2 Timothy 2:1-2** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

**Titus 2:3-5** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

* **Leadership discipleship**
* **In the family**

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

**Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

**Ephesians 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

* **Family worship (Bible reading, prayer, and singing)**
* **Discipleship of children (catechizing)**
* **Conclusion**