

The Way of Jesus

Week 1

*A 12 Week Seminar For Disciples Of Jesus
St Stephens/Sewickley
January-March 2010*

Seminar Outline

- Week 1:** Introduction to Discipleship
Weeks 2-3: The Gospel Jesus Taught and Brought
Weeks 4-5: How Christian Spiritual Growth Happens
Weeks 6-12: Specific Training on Some Fundamentals in "The Way of Jesus"

Homework for Weeks 1-4

- Read 1 chapter of Philippians each week
- Read 6 chapters of Luke each week

Our Goal

At all times, we will be focused on Christlikeness as our goal, with Christ himself as our strength and source.

Other Homework

Later in the seminar we will experiment with a few of the core 'habits' or 'disciplines' of the Christian life, especially those that parallel the Jesus' own style of life. As with the reading and our response to the reading, your willingness to engage these habits and try them out will be essential to the purpose of the seminar.

Comments on Reading In this Seminar:

The Bible is God's fully trustworthy description of himself and of us, of his salvation and of our life. The stories and letters of the bible are historically accurate ancient texts that have profound bearing on modern life. There are many important ways to read and study the Bible. In this seminar we will focus on a devotional style reading where God invites us into the text as a bystander, and even as participants! Prayerfully step into the events and picture yourself present. Listen and watch.

When reading, read slowly with a paper (not digital) text in front of you. When you see something to imitate (for example), mark it – perhaps with an "I" for "Imitate", or an "O" for "obey", or a "T" for "Trust, etc.

Remember that Jesus himself is your discipler, your master, your teacher – alive today and free in this world of ours. Quickly respond to Christ's teaching, leading, and instructions. Trust and follow him. Pray to him about all things.

Keep a weekly journal of how he has led you, how you have responded, and what you have learned.

A Personal Spiritual Conversation

Later in our weeks, we will give everyone a short biographical form to fill out and bring to a scheduled 'spiritual conversation' with one of our leaders. The focus of this 60-90 minute conversation will be to help you clarify what God is doing in your life, and what his leading is for you in the months ahead in personal growth and ministry. More intensive 'mentoring friendships' will be available after the seminar for those who wish.

Perspectives on Discipleship

Disciples of Jesus Obey Him

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matt 7.21

Disciples of Jesus Are Called By Him

And he said to him, "Follow me."

And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

Luke 5:26,27

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow

John 10.3-5

Disciples of Jesus are Attentive To Him

He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Matt 17.5

'He who has ears to hear, let him hear.'

Matt 11.15

Disciples of Jesus are Forgiven By Him

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

John 8.10,11

Disciples of Jesus Are Served By Him

For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Luke 22.27

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John 13.14-17

Disciples of Jesus Learn From Him

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matt 10.28-30

Disciples of Jesus Become Like Him

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."

Luke 6.40

"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit..."

Luke 6:43-45 (cf Matt 12.33)

Disciples of Jesus Are Loved By Him

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 13.1

Disciples of Jesus Are Filled By Him

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth... You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."

John 14.16-20

Disciples of Jesus Stay Close To Him

He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out...

Mark 3:14

Disciples of Jesus Receive (From) Him

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1.12

Disciples of Jesus Stick With Him

After this a lot of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him.

Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?"

Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6.66-69

Disciples of Jesus Are Redeemed By Him

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10.15

Disciples of Jesus Make their Home In Him

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

John 15.4

Disciples of Jesus Imitate Him

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 Cor 11.1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

Eph 5.1

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit

1 Thess 1.6

Question: As you look back over these notes on discipleship, who is the 'primary actor' in the process of discipleship, you or Jesus? Are you surprised by your answer?

We think that discipleship is all about our effort, our commitment, and our obedience. While discipleship cannot happen without our active involvement, there is no doubt that it is primarily something that Jesus himself did (and still does!). He chose, called, served, taught, loved, sacrificed for and filled those first disciples. He does the same today. Christian discipleship is a partnership between his initiative towards us and our response to him; in this partnership, he does all the heavy lifting! We can't do it without him, and he won't do it without us!

The 'Life-Style' of Jesus A Study In Luke

"His Habits"

Obedient to his parents	Luke 2.51
Baptized	Luke 3.21
Led by the Spirit	Luke 4.1; 4.14
Fasting	Luke 4.2
Traveled... to Galilee	Luke 4.14
To Nazareth	Luke 4.16
To Capernaum	Luke 4.31
To Gerasenes	Luke 8.26
To Bethsaida	Luke 9.10
To Jerusalem	Luke 17.11; 19.29
Elsewhere	Luke 5.12; 6.1; 8.1; 10.38; 13.22; 14.22 (<i>with large crowds</i>); 18.35
Went to Synagogues	(<i>"as was his custom"</i>) Luke 4.15, 16; 4.31; 4.44; 6.6;
• Every Day	Luke 19.47; 21.37
Solitude w/wo Prayer	Luke 4.1; 4.42; 5.16; 6.12; 9.10; 9.18; 9.28; 21.37; 22.41
Prayer	Luke 5.16; 6.12; 9.16; 9.18; 9.28; 11.1; 22.40

"His Ministry"

Confronted Demons	Luke 4.2; 4.33-35; 4.41; 6.18-19; 7.21; 8.27-33; 9.37-43; 11.14
Confronted	
• Pharisees	Luke 5.17, 21, 30; 6.2; 6.7-11; 7.29-30, 34, 39; 13.32; 15.1-2; 16.14; 18.9
• Hostile People	Luke 4.28-30; 8.37
• Answered Q's	Luke 10.25; 13.23; 17.20; 18.27; 20.2; 20.22; 20.33; 21.7;

Teaching

- **in Synagogues** **Luke** 4.15; 4.31; 4.44; 6.6; 10.1; 10.25; 12.10; 13.10; 13.18; 18.18 (*to rich young ruler*); 19.45 (*money changers - Righteous Anger*); 20.1; 20.9; 20.41; 21.10; 21.29
- **Outdoors** **Luke** 5.1, 17; 6.17-49; 7.24; 8.4; 9.11; 11.17; 11.29; 12.13; 12.54; 14.25; 15.3; 17.17 (*speaking to cured lepers*); 18.16; 23.28 (*final teaching from cross*)
- **Disciples** **Luke** 10.1; 10.18; 10.23 (*privately*); 11.2 (*teaching to pray*); 12.1 (*spoke first to disciples*); 12.22; 16.1; 17.1; 17.22; 18.1; 18.31; 19.11; 19.30; 19.42; 20.45; 22.24

Ministry to/for Children

Luke 18.15

Ate in Pharisee's Home

Luke 4.38; 7.36; 11.37; 14.1

- **Ate in Sinner's Home**

Luke 5.29; 19.5

Ministering in Spirit's Power

Luke 1:35; 4.36; 5.17; 6.19; 8.46; 10.21

Healed People

Luke 4.39,40; 5.13; 5.24-25; 6.18-19; 7.21; 8.47; 9.11; 9.37,43; 12.10; 17.14; 18.42; 22.51

- **Healed on Sabbath**

Luke 13.14; 14.4

Forgave Sins

Luke 5.20; 7.48-49

"Nature" Miracles

Luke 5.4-7; 8.24-25; 9.15-17;

Glory/Future Miracle

Luke 7.14; 9.28-36

Befriended Sinners, Sick, Etc.

Luke 4.24-27; 5.12; 5.17; 5.27; 7.2; 7.21; 7.48; 8.27; 15.1 (*taught them*)

Responded to Interruptions

Luke 4.33; 5.12; 5.18-20; 7.6; 7.13; 7.37-38; 8.19; 8.24; 8.27; 8.41; 8.43-45; 9.10-17; 11.27-28; 12.13

Built Ministry Teams

Luke 5.9-11; 5.27-28; 6.14-15; 8.1-3; 9.1-6; 9.12-17; 9.18-27; 9.28; 9.41-45; 10.1;

Went Into Homes

Luke 10.38

Spoke Truth/Prophezized

Luke 19.30; 19.42; 22.34

Paid Attention to Rich/Poor **Luke** 21.1

Celebrated **Luke** 22.7; 22.14 (*Last Supper/Passover Feast*)

Interpreted the Times **Luke** 12.54-57

Called People Into Repentance **Luke** 13