

Christian Discipleship Program



CHANGING
THE FACE OF CHRISTIANITY™

Christian Discipleship Program

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Mentee Name & Email: _____

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Have a Question? Check out our FAQ page at:

<http://www.changingthefaceofchristianity.com/discipleship/mentor-program-faqs/>

Mentor Feedback: Report questionable or inappropriate mentor behavior or let us know how awesome your mentor is by sending an email to: mentor-feedback@changingthefaceofchristianity.com

Introduction: Welcome to the Discipleship Program

Here is how our discipleship program works:

We've created this program to provide some structure for your emerging conversations with your mentor. This is meant to guide you, but not limit you. Feel free to ask your mentor for help on different areas at any time. They will be more than happy to help you.

Our Christian Discipleship program lasts 16 weeks if you are completing one lesson each week. Try to complete one lesson each week and meet with your mentor to discuss your lesson answers. However, if you need to work at either a faster or slower pace, meet with your mentor to determine the best pace for both of you.

Here's what you'll need to do each week:

- 1) Read and complete the brief lesson.
- 2) Forward the lesson to your mentor, with answers or responses filled in or meet to discuss your answers in person.

Your Mentor will provide additional guidance or thoughts for you to consider.

So let's get started!

Answer the following question and discuss/forward to your mentor:

Look up the following verse (Luke 14:27). Re-Type the text of this verse below and spend time in the next few days memorizing this verse.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share your greatest moment as a Christian and what made that moment special/memorable to you?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 01: Mentor/Mentee Orientation-I

Objective: For Mentor and Mentee to get to know one another

Share a little about your background. (church experience, any pivotal events in your faith such as when/how you came to know Jesus Christ):

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Do you have a Christian you look up to/admire, and explain why you admire them?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Open your Bible this week and read John 3:16-17. Think about those verses, and reply with what they mean to you personally? **Re-Read these verses each day this week.**

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Say a short prayer **each day this week** in your own words, inviting God to move in and through you during this program.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

How are you doing with your verse memorization of Luke 14:27? Recite it from memory if you can, and share with your mentor what you think it means to "carry your cross".

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 02: Mentor/Mentee Orientation-II

Objective: For Mentor and Mentee to get to know one another a little deeper

Share what you are most struggling with in your FAITH (spiritual life)?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share what you are most struggling with in your LIFE (beyond faith/spiritual). Such as at home, at school, in your job, in your relationships, etc...)?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share what you hope to gain from this mentoring program?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share what would it mean to your life if you gained what you seek from this program?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Talk to God in your own words this week on the following topics:

1. Thank God for who He is.
2. Thank God for what he WILL do for you through this program.
3. Confess and Ask God to forgive you for something that is currently on your heart.
4. Ask God to deepen your relationship with Him, and to help you know Him better.
5. Pray for your mentor (that they too would be guided by the Holy Spirit)

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Read and start memorizing John 8:31-32, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

What IS the truth that will set you free?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 03: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ-I

Objective: Understand that being a disciple must be an intentional choice, and it's also a command. Saying, "I believe in you" is different than saying, "I will obey you, follow you, and love you as you have loved me."

Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39 that God's greatest COMMANDMENT is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". This is the first and greatest commandment."

Read John 14 about what Jesus expects of you. Then, go back and re-read John 14:15 and John 14:23.

How do we show God that we love him?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Instead of loving God in the way he COMMANDS, how have you been trying to show God you love him?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

A commandment is not a request. It's not a favor. It's an order that we are expected to follow IF we truly love Him.

We are doing what we can to obey God, through this discipleship program, as it says in Matthew 28:19-20, "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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

This means it's of the utmost importance to know what God commands, and then work on being obedient. We know what God commands by reading the Bible. Loving God means to obey His commands.

Read John 15:8-11, to learn more about being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

As you can see, loving God and obeying his commands is incredibly important to Jesus. Obeying God is synonymous to loving Him. To be His disciple, we must love him and obey him.

Are you ready to make a commitment to love God and obey His commands?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

What might keep you from fully loving God in this way?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

For extra credit, pick a verse from this lesson that spoke to you and work this week to memorize it. Share the verse with your mentor and explain why you chose it.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 04: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ-II

Objective: Learn the 2nd greatest commandment God gives us.

Last week, we learned from Matthew 22:37-39 that God's greatest commandment is to Love God. The verse ends with the 2nd greatest commandment..."And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

This command is also emphasized in John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, we must love one another. John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus literally laid down his life for you. So in applying this verse to your life you should understand it to mean that the greatest expression of love is to put your life and your wishes behind the desire to love and serve God and others.

In practical terms today, how can you lay down your life for another person?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

What gets in the way of you loving others in this way?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Read John 15:12-17, to learn more about being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

To be His disciple, we must love others.

Who in your life is the hardest person to love as God commands (and why...briefly)? What action could you take to start loving them anyway?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

This week, memorize John 15:12, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 05: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ-III

Objective: Understand that being a disciple means putting Christ at the center of your life, and prioritizing Him above all else.

Read Luke 14:25-27. "Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate (i.e. 'love less') his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Jesus isn't telling you to hate your family. Read Matthew 10:37 for a parallel verse, which makes it clearer that Jesus is drawing a comparison between His importance and the importance of everything else. Jesus is saying in essence, to be His disciple, you must love Him the MOST of all.

What's more important in your life than your relationship with Jesus Christ? Asked another way, what gets in the way of you regularly spending time with Jesus Christ through Bible reading, prayer, and a daily quiet time? Is it your favorite tv show? Is it your desire for sleep? Is it the busyness of the day? Is it a job or hobby? Is it your ministry? Is it your family? Or maybe it's something else?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Read Luke 10:38-42. "As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Again, Jesus isn't instructing us to ignore the cooking, the laundry, the dishes, and the everyday tasks of running a home. He's instructing you on where to focus your attention and priorities. Mary was focused on Jesus and this was the better choice. It would have been better for Martha to join Mary in listening to Jesus, and then they both could help one another after Jesus had left.

Think about a typical day. What's so important that you put it on your calendar or appointment book so you don't forget? Make a list of things you focus your attention on during a typical day.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Then, considering the words of Jesus, how could you start to realign your priorities around Him? What can you commit to putting on your calendar/appointment book that would help you prioritize your time with Jesus Christ?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

For extra credit, pick a verse from this lesson that spoke to you and work this week to memorize it. Share the verse with your mentor and explain why you chose it.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 06: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ-IV

Objective: Understand that being a disciple of Jesus Christ means denying self and our sinful desires.

Possibly the hardest requirement of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is denying self. We are all born with a "selfish" gene, and resisting our desires is unnatural. Yet, denying self is a key to being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Read Romans 13:14. "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Say this verse out loud several times to let it sink in.

Next, read Romans 13:8-14 for the context and broader message. "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Re-read the verses above, but this time think about your own sinful desires instead of the sinful desires listed. What sinful desires do you think about or follow-thru on that are separating you from a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Read Luke 9:23. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Also, read 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Galatians 2:20, and Romans 8:7-8.

When tempted with a sinful or selfish desire, what could you do or think about instead, to refocus your attention on bringing satisfaction and joy to God?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

For extra credit, pick a verse that you memorized from a prior week, that you may be starting to forget, and focus on re-memorizing it this week. Share the verse with your mentor.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 07: Reading the Bible-The Relationship Begins

Objective: Develop a habit of reading the Bible daily so you know what God wants you to DO.

People often ask, "**How do I know what God's will is for my life?**" Or "**I've never heard God...how do I hear His voice?**" Or "**What do I do when I feel distant from God?**" The answer, as simple as it might seem, is to Read the Bible. The Bible IS his will and his voice. To develop a relationship with Jesus Christ, and to feel connected to Him, a crucial responsibility of every Christian is to read God's word...the Bible.

Here is an example of how reading the Bible can provide such answers. What is God's will for your life? **Read Romans 12:1-2.** *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

God's general will for your life is that you would offer yourself to Him, not conform to the pattern of this world, and be transformed. Until you start doing that, why would you expect him to reveal anything more specific? Prepare yourself for use first, and then He will provide a way to use you for His purpose and His glory. Reading the Bible daily is one step in preparing yourself to be used by God. It's the beginning of a life-long relationship with God.

Another great reason to read and understand the Bible is because Jesus Christ modeled such understanding for us. Jesus said many times, "It is written..." because he knew the scriptures. And so, we should know the scriptures too. Knowing scripture can also help us defend ourselves from being deceived by Satan. **(Read Matthew 4 verses 4, 7, and 10. Read Mark 7:6)**

Read Luke 10:25-28, *"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."*

Notice that Jesus Christ says "do this." It's not enough to simply read God's word. It's not even enough to just understand it. We must also live it. But we can't live what we don't know or don't understand. So, an essential, life-long spiritual discipline is to read and study the Bible for understanding. Then, seek to DO or apply what you are reading.

So, your job this week is to read the Bible every day. No matter how busy you get, read at least some of the Bible each day...even if that means you only read two verses. If you are already following a reading plan, keep going. If you and your mentor agree on a different chapter to read, then do that.

Otherwise, read **James 1** and **James 2** this week. Both chapters are very short and doable. Don't feel like you have to read both chapters in one sitting. Just make sure you are reading God's word each day. If you finish reading these chapters quickly, go back and re-read them. Continue reading and re-reading these chapters this week.

Remember, the Bible is unlike any other book. It's not a book you just read, put down, and then move on to another book. It's not a book you ever "finish" reading. So, don't feel pressure to *finish* reading it. Just CONTINUE to read it.

Read the chapters above and keep reading them several times through. As you read, think about how you are DOING what it says. Ask yourself, "how do I need to LIVE these verses?"

After a time of reading, **share with your mentor what chapter and verses you completed and what you learned about the text.**

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share what you learned about God or yourself.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Share with your mentor how you can apply the verses to your life.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 08: Reading the Bible-Meditating and Journaling

Objective: Practice the habit of meditating and journaling as you read the Bible daily.

For this lesson, you'll need your Bible and a notebook. Have those handy before you continue.

Have you ever read a few chapters of your Bible, closed it, and then realized, "I don't remember what I've just read"? It happens to everyone when we fall into the trap of reading it like other books.

The Bible is not like other books. It isn't meant to be read once and just put down. The Bible is an instruction manual for living a Godly life and is meant to be studied and followed. It is to be studied, meditated upon, and as you are able...memorized. Journaling as you read your Bible is a great way to do this.

Here are a few Bible verses to consider:

James 1:22-25, *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does."*

Psalm 119:15-16, *"I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."*

Psalm 1:1-2, *"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."*

To Meditate on God's Word:

1. Start by reading a paragraph or two. As soon as you feel like you are forgetting what you just read-Stop! Go back and re-read what you've just read.
2. Close your eyes and try to play back (paraphrase) what you've just read. This isn't memorization. This is just asking your mind to get working. If you can't do it, go back and re-read the same paragraph(s). Repeat this until you can easily paraphrase what you've just read with your eyes closed.
3. Next, think about what you've just read. Say a quick prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning of the text to you.
4. Invite the Holy Spirit to convict you of what's most important about these verses to you, right now. Then listen.

To Journal on God's Word:

1. In its simplest form, journaling can be simply re-writing a few of the verses in a notebook. If a verse stood out in the passage, write it down in your notebook.
2. The next level of journaling is to write what you feel God is trying to communicate to you.
3. Next, as in the form of a written prayer, write what you say back to God. Tell God what YOU think of the verses.
4. And finally, write what you will do to apply the verses to your life.
5. Lastly, think upon these verses throughout your day. Re-read your notes during your lunchtime or during a break in your day. Continue to listen as God speaks through His word.

Reading the Bible isn't a race, and there is no finish line. So, take your time and read, meditate, and journal as you go. This is reading for quality. You will be blessed with a much richer experience than if you just read for quantity.

So, your job this week is to read the Bible every day. No matter how busy you get, read at least some of the Bible each day. Every few paragraphs, stop, meditate, and journal on what you've just read. This may mean you only read two paragraphs a day. That's fine. If you miss a day, don't double-up. Just do one day's worth at a time.

After a time of reading, meditating, and journaling, share with your mentor what verses you read and anything you feel is relevant from your journal notes: what God said to you and what you said back to God. If you are unclear about a passage or have questions, ask your Mentor about it.

Share with your mentor any other "aha" moments or spirit-guided thoughts you had during your reading time.

Here is a reading suggestion this week: Read Galatians 5:13-26. If you finish that, continue reading Galatians 6:1-10 or other verses suggested by your mentor. Hint: if you finish all these verses in only a day or two, you are reading too quickly. You have our permission to read more slowly ☺. There is no prize for finishing first.

Feel free to use the space below as you start journaling.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 09: Praying with the Right Attitude and Motives

Objective: Understand the purpose of prayer and the importance of having a proper attitude and motive.

Prayer is a conversation between you and God. When we pray, it isn't just about saying words. It's about connecting WITH God.

Prayer is also more than about asking God for stuff. It's about approaching the holy throne of God with our requests, thanks, and praise.

Something to consider: Prayer isn't just about 1-way communication either. Are you doing all the talking? Or are you also listening with the ears of the Spirit to what God says in response?

Let's talk about your attitude/heart/motives toward prayer and God.

When we approach God's throne in prayer, we must be mindful of His holiness, and our utter lack of holiness. God knows our hearts and motives. We can't fool God or fake it with Him. He is all-knowing. So, let's come before God with a spirit of humility and transparency.

What is your current perspective or attitude toward prayer? Or share any difficulties you've had praying.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Having the Right Motives:

God is not a puppet. We can't manipulate Him into action. God is God and so we must first acknowledge His role in prayer. He alone decides what is worthy of answering and He alone decides on the timing of answering, and how and to what extent he will answer.

This can be very frustrating to people who want a fast answer or an answer on OUR terms. However, to have a fruitful prayer life, you must submit to God's sovereignty in this area.

Read James 4:3 *"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures".*

Just because you ask, does not mean he must grant it. "No" is still an answer to prayer. You must believe that God knows what is best for you in all situations. You must believe that if God allows you to continue suffering through some situation, that He has a higher plan and purpose for that suffering.

This again can be very frustrating. People often ask for an increase in happiness or a decrease of suffering and pain. But our eternal God is concerned with eternal things...things which are more important than our temporary pleasures or pain.

However, don't let that stop you from praying for such things. God wants you to come to him in prayer for all of your needs, and be joyful and thankful regardless of the outcome.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

What do you typically pray for?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lets discuss HOW to pray.

Although it's inappropriate to reduce prayer down to a systematic or ritualistic list of do's and don'ts, we CAN learn from the Master. Jesus teaches us HOW to pray in Matthew 6:5-13 (Lord's prayer).

Read Matthew 6:5-13.

What part of the Lord's Prayer is the most impactful to you, and why?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Action: Pray each day this week. Focus on connecting with God, and be mindful of your motives. So pray in an area that will be free of distractions. When you pray, think first about God's holiness and be reverent and humble as you come before Him. Not sure what to pray about? Just talk with God about whatever is on your mind.

Lesson 10: Prayer - Barriers to Effective Prayer

Objective: Understand God's requirements for hearing and answering your prayers.

If I pray, won't God always hear me and give me what I ask for? A survey of the Bible on this topic suggests that the answer is yes AND no. Yes he hears you, but no, he may not always give you what you ask for.

The Bible refers to several barriers to effective prayer. It is clear that we CAN have a profound influence over God's responsiveness to prayer through important factors, such as 1) are we pursuing God's will or our own, 2) our level of righteous living-how we are dealing with Sin in our lives, and 3) our faith in God's ability to answer our prayers.

Let's explore each barrier and learn what God requires of us.

1) If you are in God's word and will, producing fruit, and loving one another with mutual respect, then God will hear your prayers.

John 15:7 "*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you*". This verse suggests that we need to be reading the Bible and allowing God's words to saturate us. Are you doing this?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

John 15:16 "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*" This verse suggests that if we are producing the fruit that God has called us to produce, we may ask of God in Jesus' Name and he will answer our prayers. Are you bearing fruit according to God's calling in your life?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

1 Peter 3:7 "*Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*" Although addressed to Husbands, this verse can also be applied to Wives. It suggests that if we are not being considerate of our spouse, and treating them with love and respect, then our prayers will be hindered. If you are married, how are you treating your spouse? If you are not married, how are you treating your boy/girlfriend or family members?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

2) The second barrier to effective prayer is based on how you are addressing sin in your life. Are you cherishing/embracing your sin or are you fighting against it?

Psalm 66:17-20 "I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!"

Isaiah 59:1-2 "Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities (sin) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

Ezekiel 14:3 "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?"

Read James 5:13-18. Verse 16: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

1 Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

All of these verses confront the issue of sin in our lives. Have you given yourself over to your sinful desires or are you confessing your sins to one another and striving to live a righteous life? Are there any sins in your life you wish to confess now to your mentor?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

3) The final barrier is about our faith in God. You must believe and not doubt.

James 1:6-7 "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."

Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Do you believe God will answer your prayers? Do you believe God can and does answer prayers?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Action: Sometime this week, re-read the verses from this lesson. Did anything from this week's lesson convict you of an area you need to focus on? (seeking God's will, producing fruit, living a more righteous life, confessing sins, resolving doubts about God, etc.) Continue praying each day this week, and ask God to help you with those specific areas. Share any other thoughts or questions about this lesson with your mentor below.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 11: Prayer - Praying According to His Will and For Others

Objective: Understand the need to pray according to God's will and for other people.

What does it mean to pray according to God's will? Think back to the Lord's Prayer (**Matthew 6:5-13**) discussed in Lesson 9. Verse 10 says to pray that, "*your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Praying according to God's will is praying for what God wants, instead of what we want. It's the difference between asking, "God, please give me this job I'm applying for" and "God, if you want me to have this job, then make it happen."

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means following Him, seeking after what His will is in our lives, and praying that His will be done in our life.

And so although there are no prohibitions against asking God for what you want or need (by all means, do so!), it's God-honoring to simply ask for His will to be carried out through you.

God has a plan for your life. And while we have free will to choose our own path, we are only assured of success if we choose what God wants. In fact, **John 15:5** says, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*" Without God, the fruit of our work is temporary at best.

Instead of asking God to bless your work and your plans, ask God to help you join in His work and His plans.

1 John 5:14-15 says, "*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*"

Why don't you say a prayer to God right now, asking for God's will to be done in your life.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

It's also important to pray not just for ourselves. Praying for others is called "Intercessory prayer" and it can be a powerful thing.

Not praying for others is even called a sin in **1 Samuel 12:23**: "*As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.*"

There are many Biblical examples of God instructing us to pray for one another:

1 Timothy 2:1 *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone."*

1 Thessalonians 1:2 *"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers."*

Philemon 1:4-6 *"I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."*

Other verses to read: **Numbers 21:6-7, Matthew 18:19, James 5:13-16, Ephesians 6:18.**

Who in your life needs your prayers of encouragement right now? Pray for them now.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Who in your life needs your prayers of healing, peace, or perseverance? Pray for them now.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Action: This week in your prayer time, pray for two things:

1. Ask God for His will in your life (not WHAT is his will, but THAT his will be done in you)
2. Pray on behalf of and for the benefit of others in your life

Say a prayer for your mentor too. Let your mentor know if you have questions about God's will or how to pray for others.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 12: Quiet Time - Putting Reading, Meditating, Journaling, and Prayer Together

Objective: Learn to fellowship with God through a daily quiet time of reading, meditating, journaling, and prayer.

Purpose:

You've come a long way and learned some valuable disciplines for being a Disciple of Jesus Christ. Congratulations!

This week is about putting it all together (reading, meditating, journaling, and prayer). It's called having a daily quiet time where you consistently practice all of those things.

A reminder or word of caution before we begin this week. Although we are focusing on fruit-bearing activities (things to DO), the goal of such activities is not to simply perform the activities.

Keep your eye on the goal or purpose of such activities: to know God, to know how God wishes you to live (his will for you), and to be in an intimate relationship with Him.

Here are some of the reasons for having a daily quiet time.

1. Inhibit busyness in our lives. A daily quiet time helps us slow down and focus on our highest priority, a relationship with God. An early quiet time can help you focus on God throughout the day.
2. Resist the "I'm working so hard for Jesus that I forget to spend time with (or have no time for) Jesus" syndrome. Instead, draw near to the Lord, to truly know him. **Jeremiah 9:23-24** says, "*This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.*"
3. Fellowship with God. We are called into fellowship with the creator. **1 Corinthians 1:9** says, "*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.*"

Process:

So, here are some tips for your quiet time with God

1. Go to a place that is free from distractions, where you can be alone and have undivided time with the Lord. We can learn from our master Jesus Christ who modeled such a practice.

Mark 1:35 says, "*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*"

Luke 5:16 says, "*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*"

Matthew 6:6 says, "*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*"

Matthew 26:36 says, "*Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."*

2. Pick a consistent time and place to have a daily quiet time. By picking a consistent time and place, you can more easily say "NO!" to other requests for your time or attention. You already have an appointment with God during that time.
3. In your prayers, ask God to guard this time. Distractions and competing agendas will happen. You will need God's help to protect your time together.

Plan:

OK, so you know the purpose of a quiet time and some tips to get the most out of that time. Now, what exactly are you supposed to do during a daily quiet time?

This is where you put your prior lessons together.

1. Read the Bible

This could be as little as a single verse or paragraph, or a whole chapter. I encourage you to read straight from the bible, but a daily devotional or daily reading plan is also fine. Don't read for distance or quantity. Instead, read for understanding and quality.

2. Meditate

Think about the verses you just read. Think about how the verse applies to your life. What might God want you to hear in those verses.

Here is an example from my own quiet time reading Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

I first thought about God's amazing mercy. Then I thought about how I can offer my body as a living sacrifice-a tool to serve other people. I asked myself and considered...WHAT IS the pattern of this world? I allowed God to renew my mind in opposition to the pattern of this world. And finally, I contemplated God's sovereign and perfect will.

As you can see, trying to do this with more than a paragraph of the Bible can be tough. So, start with just a verse or two.

3. Journal

Write down your thoughts and also your questions. You might even re-write the verses you just read. Write down what the verses spoke to you. Write down your response to the verses. Write what you said back to God in prayer.

4. Pray, intercession, praise

End with a prayer to God about what you've just read. Pray for what you need, and pray for other people that are on your heart. Finally, offer God honor and praise by expressing gratitude for God and your growing relationship with Him.

Action:

So the action this week is simple. **Have a daily quiet time with God.**

If you pick one verse, this can be done in less than 10 minutes. If you can commit more time to God, then go for it. However, this week I would rather you spend 10 minutes a day for 5 days, than once a week for an hour. Our goal is to make this a sustainable habit; something you can do for the rest of your life, along with other life commitments.

What can you commit to? (example: 10 minutes a day for 5 days)

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 13: Fellowship with Other Believers

Objective: Recognize the need to spend time with fellow Christians to strengthen the body of Christ (aka. The Church) and to receive the blessing of Christian fellowship and love.

In western culture, the "church" has become known primarily as a building. In reality, the "church" is a relationship, a bond, a brother and sisterhood of fellow believers worshiping God together. Read **Romans 16:5**, "*Greet also the church that meets at their house....*" Notice, the "church" meets at a house. A church isn't a building, it's a body of believers.

The New Testament is made up of letters written with inspiration from the Holy Spirit TO churches (fellowships of believers in particular cities), such as Ephesus (Ephesians), Galatia (Galatians), etc. The letters weren't sent to a building, but to a body of believers; ie. The Church (which you and I are now a part of).

A question often initiated by someone who has been emotionally scarred by a local church is "Do I have to go to church to be a Christian?" Or instead of a question, it might be phrased like a statement of fact, "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian. I can worship God wherever, whenever, and however I want."

In answer to the question, with "church" properly defined as the body of believers (not merely a building), the answer is yes. Being a Christian does indeed include the practice of gathering together with other believers in worship, hearing God's word, and studying scripture together.

I don't believe one must literally visit a building or "house of worship" in order to be a Christian. However, regular fellowship with other believers, where the scriptures are taught and studied, and where bonds of friendship and mutual service are fostered, is instrumental in the life of a Christian.

This is often done within a traditional church building. However, it can also be done in one another's homes, which was the original church model. If you meet frequently with other Christians in one another's homes studying God's word and worshipping together, you ARE in fact a church. Many people meet as a "small group" which is in essence a church within a church.

However, if you rarely or never meet with other Christians in a church building or one another's homes for study and worship, then you are cutting yourself off from the church (which is Christ's body).

Christians who try this approach of practicing their faith in isolation or on their own terms are often called "Lone Ranger" Christians. If you fall into this camp, I want to shift your mindset about "going to church". Think not about what you are going to get. Instead, think about how you have been gifted to give and serve. Don't rob your fellow Christians of what you have to offer by staying home or attempting to worship by yourself.

Read **Romans 12:3-8**. Then, re-read **Romans 12:5**, "*So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*"

When you only worship by yourself, there is a hole in the body of Christ. And that hole can only be filled by you. A church (body of believers) cannot exist with its members living in isolation.

Let's look deeper into what God's word suggests about the practice of meeting together:

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."*

Acts 2:42-47, *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ..."*

Proverbs 27:17, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."*

1 John 1:3, *"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."*

1 Corinthians 12:12, *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."*

Philippians 2:4, *"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

Matthew 18:20, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*

Ephesians 1:22-23, *"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."*

Ephesians 5:29-30, *"After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body."*

So, what is your current practice as it relates to attending church (including yourself in a body of believers in fellowship)?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Given the examples set forth in the Bible, how might your relationships and fellowship with other Christians evolve as a result of this lesson?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

If you currently don't regularly attend church, what commitment would you be willing to make?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

How can you BE a church with your circle of Christian friends?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Lesson 14: Serving One Another

Objective: Understand the role service should play in our expression of love for one another.

We can love others and bring glory to God through our words and actions. This lesson is about loving others through action; serving one another.

Jesus is our model for how to live. He gave himself up in service to God the Father and to us.

Mark 10:45: *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

John 15:12-13: *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."*

So, if Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve, what does that mean for us and how we should serve others?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Instead of being preoccupied with our own needs and interests, we should be focused on others.

Mark 9:35: *"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*

Philippians 2:4: *"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

How can you start focusing on others and serving their needs?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Loving and serving one another also means to carry each other's burdens.

Galatians 6:2: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

Who do you know that you could bless by carrying their burden?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Through cheerful service, we can be God's messenger of grace and love.

1 Peter 4:8-10: *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."*

Hebrews 13:1-3: *"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."*

What does it mean to love each other DEEPLY and administer God's grace?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

God also **made us** to serve one another.

Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Think of the many ways to serve:

- Volunteering at church
- Planned and random acts of kindness
- Serving family members within your home
- Serving your neighbors
- Aging parents (1 Timothy 5:4)
- Widows and orphans: (James 1:27)

How could you serve others using the gifts God has already given you?

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Conclusion

Objective: Stay connected and continue to grow together.

Well, you've come a long way and it's time to say Congratulations! You've made a big commitment to draw closer to God and learn His ways. To God be the glory! We are proud of you.

So let's talk about next steps and how you and your mentor as well as this ministry can all stay connected and growing together.

First, the official lessons are over but that doesn't mean the mentoring relationship you've fostered needs to end. I want to encourage you and your mentor to continue to work together.

How do you want to work with your mentor going forward? Include any contact info you are open to sharing with your mentor.

MENTEE RESPONSE:

Would you recommend this Discipleship Program to others? Do you have any feedback about our program? If so, could you click our survey link (it's only 3 quick questions)? [Complete Our Survey and Provide Feedback](#)