

## MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 2 APPLICATION

### The Significance of Abiding

 **READ:** John 15:5; Luke 1:37

 **REMEMBER:** Apart from Christ our lives will fail to produce spiritual fruit. Yet with Him nothing is impossible.

 **WRITE:** How would you explain the difference between the fruit or product resulting from mere human effort versus the fruit produced as a result of Christ working in and through a person's life?

 What would be the benefits of availing oneself of God's Word and His presence throughout the moments of each day? (Be specific.)

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** Disciple-making is God's idea and His work. Therefore, it is vital to Christ's kingdom that we learn to rely fully on God to accomplish His will in us. This is achieved by developing an intimate, abiding relationship with Christ through meditating on God's Word and through continual communication with Him.

 As we grow in our knowledge of Scripture, we will be increasingly equipped to help disciple others. By depending fully on the Holy Spirit, He will provide us with wisdom and discernment to know when and in what manner to best apply truth in the details of our lives and the lives of those we are training.

 As you become increasingly purposeful in your preparation to disciple others this week, ask God to enable you to clearly understand His Word and to implement truth in practical ways in your daily life.

 **Proverbs 3:5-6, 18:15**

Throughout the Bible, God invites us to pursue His will. This takes intentionality.

- We decide to **lay down** our own desires to seek His.
- We **give up** our selfish way of doing things for God's perfect way.
- We **let go** of our own agenda in pursuit of God's plan.

In doing so, we are preparing our hearts and minds to not only **hear** what the Lord has to say to us but to **receive** what is said. The next step is to **abide** with God through conversation.

 **Psalm 5:3; Isaiah 48:17**

 **ACTION:** Read over the 6 recommendations below. While considering the enormous spiritual benefits, or blessings, that each intentional action could add to your life, write out the potential benefits. (The first one has been completed as an example for you.)

1. Develop a daily habit each morning of acknowledging each day as God's gift to you and thanking Him for it.  
**Benefits:** This will aid in centering immediate focus on the Lord and beginning the day with a heart of gratitude. It will also help me remember that this day was given to me to live for Him.

2. Commit your schedule to His care, trusting that His plans are best, regardless of your routine.  
**Benefits:**
  
3. Ask God to enable you to be flexible, open, and available to what He desires to accomplish through you.  
**Benefits:**
  
4. Communicate with the Lord, sharing openly those thoughts & concerns that are on your heart and mind.  
**Benefits:**
  
5. Anticipate opportunities the Lord may provide to share truth with others, expecting Him to do the work.  
**Benefits:**
  
6. Ask Him to enable you to consistently recognize and acknowledge His presence and mighty works.  
**Benefits:**

 If you were to turn the recommendations above into personal habits, what potential influence could they have in the lives of those you will encounter? (Be specific.)

### 1 Thessalonians 5:17

The apostle Paul understood that communication was vital to having an intimate relationship with Jesus. As with other relationships, good communication develops as a result of both talking and listening.

 Begin to develop a lifestyle that has continuous, open-ended conversation with God.

 Write out the potential benefits the following recommendations could have in your life.

1. Ask the Lord to speak to your heart as you read His Word.  
**Benefits:**
  
2. Rather than divide each day into increments by task or activity, include the Lord throughout the moments of each day by inviting His input in your life and sharing your thoughts and concerns with Him.  
**Benefits:**
  
3. Become sensitive to what God may want to say to you by restricting unnecessary noise and distractions.  
**Benefits:**

✦ As you practice this week being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His leading, respond by being immediately obedient to what He shows you.

➡️ As you strive to abide with Christ by walking in His truth and acting under His guidance and authority, He will provide you with personal opportunities to influence others for His kingdom. It is in these moments of opportunity that we need to be able to discern God's will.

➡️ **1 Kings 3:7-9**

Consider for a moment the life of Solomon. Although God had appointed him as king, Solomon acknowledged that he was uncertain about carrying out such a great task. Solomon could have asked for anything, but he most valued discernment. Even though Solomon had been taught right from wrong, he needed God's wisdom to be able to distinguish the Lord's will for His people.

God has appointed us to make disciples of others. And, even though we have His Word to help us distinguish right from wrong, we also need His wisdom and discernment to know how to best assist others. As we depend on the Holy Spirit through abiding prayer, He will show us what to do and say.

➡️ What difference might developing greater personal dependence on God make in the lives of those you encounter? (Be specific.)

✍ Consider for a moment the nature of God by identifying and listing some of His attributes.

✦ Because everything you need God is, develop a habit of identifying each specific personal need throughout the day and converting it into a prayer request. For example, do you need perseverance for the current task? Ask God to provide abundant endurance and strength. Do you need patience with a co-worker or child? Ask the Lord to give you genuine patience and the ability to be gentle and kind.

📖 **John 15:8**

By choosing to abide in Christ Jesus and relying fully on His provision, we best represent Him to those around us.

📖 **1 Corinthians 15:56-58**

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (any victory we experience is only through Christ). Therefore (as a result of who God is, the truth of His character), my dear brothers (fellow believers, disciples of Jesus), stand firm. Let nothing move you (don't be moved by doubt, weakness, fear, what others think of you, etc. Don't let anything move you from what the Lord desires to accomplish in you!) Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord (achieving His will, His way), because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (emphasis added)*

➡️ As we set forth to fulfill God's desire for us to make disciples, firmly set your mind on Him, becoming fully resolved to do His will. There may be times when you wonder whether or not you are being effective or if what you are doing is fulfilling God's purpose. In these times focus on the truth of God's Word. Because of the unlimited ability of Christ at work in the life of each believer, when we intentionally rely on His strength to accomplish what He asks according to His will, we can stand firm on the promise that our labor will not be in vain!

## Colossians 3:23

-  In response to our precious Lord, become determined today to do His work as an offering to Him rather than working merely for people.
-  Abide in Jesus—depending fully on Him rather than on self or others.

## Recognizing Opportunities

### Ephesians 2:10

How freeing to know that the God of the universe created and appointed us to specific work that is fitted just for us. The world may choose commitments based on time, convenience, location, or the people involved. And, although many causes are good, we need to be mindful of God's best paths for our lives and only commit to what He shows us to do.

#### Reread Isaiah 48:17

Establish a habit of seeking God's will concerning specific opportunities. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to clearly recognize what you are called to and released from. Then, practice communicating to others God's personal appointments with total confidence that He knows what is best for you. In doing so, Christ will receive the glory and you will be influencing others to more carefully consider their own commitments.

-  What will you tell those you disciple concerning the importance of pursuing God's best, rather than settling for merely good or better than?

## Being Relational

### 1 Samuel 16:7

Since our purpose is to share truth, we should quickly move past the things that we do not have in common with others to the unity that Christ can bring to every relationship. Some people hesitate to approach others because of their appearance of prestige, while others fail to approach those who are unkempt or those treated as outcasts.

-  If it is difficult for you to love others unconditionally, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to look past outward appearances and to see others the way Jesus does.
-  Develop a lifestyle of one who is continuously sensitive to the Lord's leading, especially concerning those He would have you to relate to and influence for Christ.

### Romans 2:11

Jesus loves others every bit as much as He loves you and me, and He desires for us to make disciples of all people. Focusing on His amazing love should motivate us to become relational.

-  Invite the Holy Spirit to **reveal** to you groups or individuals you may favor, as well as those that you avoid.
-  Then, ask the Lord to **enable** you to convey unconditional love as He does and to be impartial with everyone.

## **Philippians 2:3-4**

Since Jesus set the example for us to follow, we should humbly place the spiritual well-being of others ahead of any selfish ambition. In doing so, we will draw attention to Christ within us rather than to ourselves.

-  As you prepare to disciple others, ask God to enable you to become more aware of the lives of those around you and to become a better listener to those who engage you in conversation.
-  Practice showing your care and concern for each individual by giving them your undivided attention. Listen carefully without interrupting and rely on the Holy Spirit to give you clear comprehension of what is being said.
-  Rather than only relating biblical truth as it applies to your own life, ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the lives of others, enabling you to become more effective in sharing applicable truth. Remember Jesus used the life experiences of others to teach them truth. Through reliance on the Holy Spirit we can do the same.
-  As you continue to become prepared to make disciples, rely on the Lord to equip and enable you in every way. Please don't skim over the questions in the remainder of this study, but instead use them to invite the Holy Spirit to provide insight into His will concerning your life. By knowing the answers to personal, spiritual questions, you will be better prepared to disciple others.

Our lifestyles should be ones that consistently exhibit the attributes of Jesus. As followers of Christ, we should not only pursue holiness by ridding ourselves of undesired behaviors but should also be diligent in implementing those behaviors that please our Lord.

## **Galatians 5:22-23**

As we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us, the fruit or actions produced will reveal Christ's nature to those around us.

-  **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Are you consistently inviting the Holy Spirit to transform your life into one that better exemplifies Christ?
-  How do your actions reveal Jesus' unconditional love for others?
-  Would others say that your demeanor consistently exudes the joy of the Lord?
-  In what ways does your life reflect the abiding peace only Christ can give?
-  How does your body language and communication convey genuine patience to others?
-  Are you consistently kind to everyone?
-  How are you being intentional in mirroring God's goodness?

✍ How do your attitudes, words, and actions reflect your faithfulness to God and His faithfulness in your life?

🌿 Would others define your behavior as being harsh or gentle?

✍ How are you striving to bring your life under the complete control of the Holy Spirit?

➡️ } **1 Timothy 4:12-13**

The life of one training others in discipleship should be grounded in the Word of God and consistently affirmed by biblical truth. In these verses, Paul is encouraging Timothy to be an example of Christ to those under his care.

➡️ } Is your speech consistently pleasing to our Lord Jesus?

➡️ } In what ways do you actively live out your faith?

➡️ } Does your behavior exemplify one who is pure in thought, motive, and action?

➡️ } How does your lifestyle reflect the life of Jesus?

➡️ } Do others experience the qualities of Christ in the way you dress?

➡️ } What do the places you frequent and the activities you participate in say about your relationship with Jesus?

➡️ } Are you able to love others as Jesus does regardless of how they treat you?

➡️ } It has been said that *it is a powerful influence to communicate God's Word to others and increasingly powerful to be a living example of it*. What is the significance of this statement concerning your role in making disciples?

➡️ } Are your responses to others grounded in the Word of God?

⚡ **TO ENCOURAGE:** And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, so that in **all** things at **all** times, having **all** that you need, you will abound in every good work. (**2 Corinthians 9:8**)