

Essentials of Discipleship

Chapter 2 – The Disciple is a Learner

Offered by Ron Lively, M.Div., M.A. – MedicalMobilizers.org/Resources/essentials-of-discipleship

Resource: Essentials of Discipleship by Francis Cosgrove published by Roper Press in 1988.

This short 12 chapter book outlines eleven essentials of what a disciple of Jesus Christ is and how each disciple should become a disciple-making disciple. These study guides offer an outline of the book with some questions to be used in reviewing and discussing the content. Each student will need to obtain and read the book as well. After the initial chapters titled: What is a Disciple? & The Disciple is a Learner; the author reviews the Lordship of Jesus Christ which is the umbrella for the remaining nine essentials or characteristics of a disciple.

- I. Introduction – EOD #1: A disciple is a learner – open and teachable.
 - A. Summary (p17) - Review together the key points in this summary of this chapter.
 1. Who can we learn from?
 2. What can happen if one does not have a teachable spirit?
 3. When is discipline or rebuke necessary for a disciple / believer/ servant?
 4. What does discipline produce (Hebrews 12:11)?
 - B. Review these Scriptures. Write down the key point(s).
 1. Proverbs 9:8-10 _____
 2. Matthew 4:19 _____
 3. John 6:60-66 _____
 - C. Definition of a Disciple: A follower of: a learner; apprentice (like Jesus in a trade of carpentry).
 1. What was Jesus' goal in introducing an added dimension and goal of discipleship for those he taught?
 2. What are the tasks to being a learner?
 - a. Perceiving _____
 - b. Building _____
 - c. Acquiring _____
 - d. S_____ such as evangelism, leading a Bible study, teaching or discipleship training / mentoring.
 3. What we learn is more often _____ than taught. Phil 4:9 – we learn through observation.
 4. Memorize Philippians 4:6-7. (Note – our focus is on one-on-one discipleship training and also on scripture memorization. This verse is one of the key verses to memorize in my opinion. Come prepared next time to quote this verse. We will review this weekly to be sure you have committed it to memory.
 5. The model we must follow is _____ . (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 6. The Christian disciple must be both a learner of biblical truth and a visible follower of Jesus Christ.
- II. Areas of Life (Qualities) to Develop:
 - A. Character
 1. A disciple is a marked person (2 Corinthians 3:18). This means being “transformed _____.”
 2. Character forms the inner man. Explain using Galatians 5:22-23.
 3. Our inner character stands out for all to see.
 4. People should see our faith, i.e., our confidence in God's trustworthiness and promises
 5. People should see both our meekness and our self-control. You cannot highlight your own humility.
 6. Disciples must take personal responsibility for character development that is Christ-like (not of the world)
 7. Review 2 Timothy 2:20-21. Are you being cleansed and made useful for any good work?
 8. What is the effect of a little sin on our overall character? Reminder that one bad apple can spoil the whole bushel basket of apples. Your sins can affect your whole family, church body, community!

- B. P _____ in the _M_____
1. Quality is important (essential) to an effective ministry
 2. The degree of maturity measures the effectiveness of ministry
 3. The key to proficiency is a _____ to _____.
 4. We must try to do everything _____
 5. John Gardner wrote that happiness is found in _____ goals.
 6. There must be spiritual reproduction to meet the challenge to “go and make disciples” as commanded in the Great Commission. It is important to have and maintain essential qualities and proficiency.
 7. Sometimes a disciple-maker should turn down opportunities in order to find and train just one person. Why?
 8. You need to be on the search for the right Prince or Princess type of person to train (high quality / effective).
 9. It is helpful to cast a vision for people to help them see what could happen five years down the road.
 10. Cosgrove says that our appearance is one aspect of our ministry that should not be overlooked. Why?
- C. Conviction - to become a disciple and a trainer / mentor
1. Why is it important to develop our own convictions?
 2. Why is the example of Moses in Hebrews 11:24-25 so important?
 3. Consider the example of military students not keeping their room clean when off campus at the Citadel.
 4. The Christian disciple must stand out as being different from the world.
 5. Can you see how you must develop a strong unrelenting conviction to become disciple-making disciples?
 6. If you have strong convictions, you will find the necessary _____ to apply them.
- D. P _____ from A to Z
1. The disciple needs the ability to see the probable end as well as the _____ (perspective).
 2. That is, the long-range results of our actions today.
 3. How might you impact your city or church in the next 5 years by making disciple-making disciples?
 4. The hope is that we can seek to see things from God’s perspective.
 5. It might mean seeing obstacles as challenges to see God’s faithfulness vs. as roadblocks that hinder you.
 6. What are the three guidelines the author suggested to build conviction and perspective?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 7. Walking by faith with a full trust in God is what is required. But it takes experiences as well.
 8. A concern about the necessary finances cannot be the first matter of concern. What is the first decision?
 9. Beware that non-believers and even some believers have a different perspective about having faith in God to provide for all of your needs.

III. Conclusion

We have learned so far that a disciple is follower and also a learner committed to developing his or her character and growing more Christ-like. It is an honor to be called a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Review Verses: Phil. 4:6-7; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:33

TMS D2 – BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE – Put Christ First for Chapter 2 (Luke 9:23)

Revised: 20200601