

## Christian Discipleship

**What is Christian Discipleship?** A Christian disciple is a person who follows Christ. A disciple loves Christ, invites Him into his/her life, strives to grow closer to Christ and spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ by both word and deed. Christian disciples are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christ-like.

**Goal: Discover where the candidate is in their Christian Discipleship.**

As a Christian Disciple, we are asked to do the following. Do a checklist to see how your candidate is in doing the following.

- 1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38).** The disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world. Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. We must put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.
- 2. Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31-32).** We must be obedient children and doers of the Word. Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God ([1 Samuel 28:18](#)), and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death ([Philippians 3:6-8](#)).
- 3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8).** Our job is not producing fruit. Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit, and this fruit is the result of our obedience. As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways, our lives will change. The biggest change will take place in our hearts, and the overflow of this will be new conduct (thoughts, words and actions) representative of that change. The change we seek is done from the inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we can conjure up on our own.
- 4. Love for other disciples (John 13:34-35).** We are told that love of other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family ([1 John 3:10](#)). Love is defined and elaborated on in [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#). These verses show us that love is not an emotion; it is action. We must be doing something and involved in the process. Furthermore, we are told to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)). The next verse in Philippians (verse 5) really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: "our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What a perfect example He is to us for everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

**5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20).** We are to share our faith and tell nonbelievers about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer. Too often, we believe the lie from Satan that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference. Not true! Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God. They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the "accepted" way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share.

Together read John 21: 1-19. Put it in context by realizing that this takes place after Jesus' death and Resurrection. He has been appearing to his disciples. In this passage, focus on Peter and remember that Peter has previously denied Jesus three times. Also, recall that Peter goes on to be our first pope. Discuss the following.

1. Describe Peter & his relationship with Jesus.
2. What were the circumstances surrounding this interaction between Jesus and Peter?
3. What happened to Peter because of his encounter with Jesus? (Focus on verses 15-19)  
\*\* Note from Catholic Youth Bible - "Peter must have felt terribly guilty about denying Jesus three times. When the risen Jesus appears to Peter, Jesus offers him three opportunities to reaffirm his love and be reconciled. The Catholic Church also believes that this passage establishes Peter as the leader of the early church and as the first pope, indicated by Jesus' commands to Peter to "feed my lambs," "tend my sheep," and "feed my sheep." By linking Peter's reconciliation to Peter's authority, John seems to be reminding the church to be humble and forgiving."
4. How did Peter live out his decision to follow Jesus?
5. Imagine and try to put into words how Peter felt about Jesus.

Close with prayer