

# Journeying with Jesus

## A Discourse on Discipleship

### Guidance for the Bible Study

This toolkit provides a framework for small group Bible Study. There are three (3) lessons, each that can be completed in one (1) hour. Families or groups can meet on Wednesdays or another day/time if preferred. Meeting can take place in-person or virtually (i.e. Zoom, Google Meet, Cisco Webex)

**Need a group?** Send your name and contact information to [info@gracecovenantbr.org](mailto:info@gracecovenantbr.org).

**Leading a group?** Help us measure our collective impact by sending group information to [info@gracecovenantbr.org](mailto:info@gracecovenantbr.org).

### RECOMMENDED AGENDA FOR BIBLE STUDY

Opening Prayer • Read Lesson Scriptures (*New King James, New Living Translation, and Amplified Bible versions preferred*) • Group Discussion/Questions • Closing Prayer

# LESSON ONE

## Discipleship, Our Duty

*Matthew 10:1, 5-15 / Matthew 28:18-20*

### OPENING PRAYER + LESSON SCRIPTURES

#### INTRODUCTION

Having completed His earthly ministry, Jesus articulated a timeless, divine directive to His Disciples – make more! He had repeatedly alluded to His departure, and the need for them to continue and expand His Work (John 14:12, 19-21, 25-28). This calling remains today. Jesus has returned to the Father, but those who profess salvation must represent Him on earth until He returns (Ephesians 2:10).

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Commissioning means to “instruct, command, authorize, or officially charge one with a particular function” (*Oxford University Press, August 2025*). How does this definition help you better understand Jesus’ instructions in Matthew 10:1 and Matthew 28:18-19?
2. Why do you think Jesus started His Disciples’ ministry in Israel (Matthew 10:5-8)? What might that imply to us today?
3. Teaching is a critical component of sustained discipleship. How can we prioritize teaching among believers, especially in the age of information technology?

#### ESSENTIAL THOUGHT

Discipleship is not a suggestion! Jesus called and *commissioned* us to represent Him on earth until He returns to rapture the Church. Jesus reminds us that we don’t need much; His Power is sufficient and propels us to life-changing ministry. Additionally, the ‘good news’ is that you usually don’t have to look far to share THE Good News (Gospel). Live a life so that those who know you best are inspired to follow Christ. Let’s reach and teach others that Jesus is the way (John 14:6)!

#### CLOSING PRAYER

# LESSON TWO

## Diligence and Determination

*Matthew 28:20 | Mark 8:34-38 | Ephesians 5:15-17*

### OPENING PRAYER + LESSON SCRIPTURES

#### INTRODUCTION

Discipling yourself (and others) requires intentionality. It begins with a commitment to learning, which facilitates spiritual growth (II Timothy 2:15). It also requires a sense of urgency! The stakes are high, and time is not as long as we think. We called to live and minister gracefully; yet we cannot lose focus on the truth – God’s Truth (John 1:14; John 17:17; Ephesians 4:14-15).

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes ‘teaching’ and ‘studying’ God’s Word effective? Share strategies with your group members.
2. Why must we include concepts like *self-denial* and *suffering* when discipleship (Mark 8:34-35; Ephesians 5:15-17)?
3. Some believe that teaching on judgment is a turn off (Mark 8:36-38). How do we share this message with wisdom? Discuss the difference between judgment and condemnation.

#### ESSENTIAL THOUGHT

No one stumbles into excellence. It takes time and effort. First, be sure that you’ve secured your soul in Jesus (Philippians 2:12 AMP), then work diligently to help others! Nothing is worth your soul! Let’s become (and remain) determined to expand the Kingdom of God.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

# LESSON THREE

## Diversity among Disciples

*I Corinthians 9:19-23 | I Corinthians 12:12-26*

### OPENING PRAYER + LESSON SCRIPTURES

#### INTRODUCTION

It is said that “no two tigers have the same stripes.” Similarly, despite an estimated global population north of eight billion (Worldometer), no two human beings have identical fingerprints. God’s artistry and design are unmatched! Appreciating diversity is fundamental to soul-winning. Reaching people from varying walks of life often requires awareness, education, training, and understanding. Beyond cultural competence, the Holy Spirit is a Masterful Teacher, and He willingly grants us discernment to represent Him well (Proverbs 11:30).

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul’s testimony demonstrate the importance of adaptability in ministry (I Corinthians 9:19-23)? Share a time when you’ve used different methods to relay the Gospel message?
2. How does intergenerational ministry help the church adapt without doctrinal compromise?
3. How do unity and diversity work together to help the Body [of Christ] function (I Corinthians 12:12-26)?
4. Some abhor the term ‘diversity’ for religious purposes. Some leverage diversity to challenge orthodoxy and/or orthopraxy. How do you express diversity with a Biblical perspective?

#### ESSENTIAL THOUGHT

Diversity and discipleship are complementary concepts, not competing ideologies. Just as we are all made in God’s Image, we all require alignment to God’s Word (Genesis 1:27-28; Romans 12:1-2). Let’s celebrate our differences **and** elevate God’s universal call to holiness!

#### CLOSING PRAYER