

DISCIPLE RETREATS
OUTCOMES TO ACHIEVE IN EACH LEVEL
REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS ACHIEVED FROM THESE STUDIES

Disciple 1 : Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study
--

1. Understanding Spiritual Gifts as described in the Scriptures:
1 Corinthians 12
Romans 12:1-8
Ephesians 4:1-16
1 Peter 4:10-11
2. Discovering what part I play in the Body of Christ
3. Understanding the Servant-Leader:
giving up right to be in charge
available and vulnerable
loss of fear of manipulation which brings freedom
4. Gifts Consultation
Take personal inventory
Validation by peers
5. Where can I serve?
List of opportunities from Connection Point & Mission Ministry

COMMUNION

Disciple 2: INTO THE WORD, INTO THE WORLD

Spiritual Disciplines have been introduced throughout this Study. Select one or two to put into practice.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Celebration. As we learn to trust God to provide, we begin to see ourselves in proper relationship to God's total creation, which frees us for obedience experienced as joy.

Confession. When we face ourselves and give up our pretenses, we recognize that our sin hurts others as well as us and we experience confession as forgiveness and healing.

Service. At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we choose to live as servant, carrying out our ministry in quiet, ordinary ways, whoever the needy, whatever the need.

Submission. We find our true identity – an identity born of obedience – when we give up our need to have our own way and when we turn our attention away from self and toward others.

Worship. When confronted by the seeking, loving God, we worship, are changed, and made ready for guidance.

Prayer. As we hold on to God in Prayer, we tap and work with God's healing, strengthening, and directing power.

Solitude. By turning our times of aloneness into times of listening to God in silence and solitude, we grow in ability to be present and attentive to others.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES AS MY GOAL

During this 9 month study of Disciple 2, we have concentrated on being *Into the Word* and preparing us to go *Into the World*. We have looked at 7 Spiritual Disciplines throughout this study. These disciplines are considered Christian characteristics. We must remember we are not perfect; we are human beings with failings and shortcomings. While we cannot hope to achieve all 7 disciplines in absolute perfection, they can become, individually, goals for living our Christian faith.

By selecting one discipline, or two, at a time to practice, we can strive to become more Christ-like. This, in turn, is a testimony to those around us and a way to take our faith *Into the World*. As we near the end of this study, select one or two disciplines to begin your journey. Think about these and pray about them. You may want to spend a year, or even two, on your choice. Or, you may want to make a new choice after several months. You decide.

Take a few moments and re-read the descriptions of the Disciplines. Pray about them. Then record your choice(s):

Spend more time in considering the following:

In choosing this Spiritual Discipline,

I will pursue these ideas to practice this discipline:

In choosing this Spiritual Discipline,

I will pursue these ideas to practice this discipline:

Search for a Scripture which holds a great deal of meaning for you at this time of your life. Record the location and the text below:

Take a few moments to read this Scripture each day. Let the Word bless your life!

How might I go into the world to demonstrate my faith and understanding of what the Scriptures teach?

COMMUNION

Disciple 3: Remember Who You Are

Revisit your Faith Story. What changes should be made? What are some additions? Evaluate your walk. What should be done to bring you closer to God's loving care?

What God has Done for Us: Share a favorite lesson from D1, D2 and D3. What made it meaningful? What are some practical ways that you can see that your life has changed because of this lesson?

Serving: participate in a class mission project during the retreat. How did this experience help you to "Remember Who You Are?"

COMMUNION

Disciple 4: Under the Tree of Life

(Michelle Guarini's "Prying the Imagination" was extremely thorough and meaningful. Perhaps the material could be condensed in order not to intimidate people)

Disciple 5: Jesus and the Gospels

Reflective question: “Do You Want to Become His Disciples, Too?” are at the end of each lesson. Lesson 30 (the last) has this reflection to consider:

Year Wrap-up:

To be a disciple is to follow Jesus to whom God gave the future. Following cannot be done by proxy. Each of us must decide whether or not to follow whenever we hear his voice. That voice is insistent; it allows no negotiating (What about him or her? What about this or that condition?) before getting an answer, Jesus’ summons is simple and straightforward. He earned the right to expect an unequivocal answer.

Describe your perception, image, and understanding of Jesus as you complete this study. Who is the Jesus you take with you from this study? (Before responding review and reflect on what you wrote in Lesson 1, page 14).

Evangelism:

Read the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20): how does this apply to me?
How can the barriers in reaching unchurched be overcome?

church talk, action

Mark 12:38-40

Matthew 23

Luke 20:45-47

Views (world church, your church, you)

Game Plan:

Who do you know

Write your practical action plan

What gifts do you have that would lend themselves to this?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Holy Communion: Table with large cross and small crosses, communion elements

on slips of paper, write out some of the barriers/sin that are in our way one at a time, place your barrier/sin at the Cross and pick up small cross to follow Jesus

Communion

Christian Believer - Retreat

As the doctrines and theology of the church is examined during this study, participants should begin to form their own personal statement of belief - their credo.

LESSON 30: The Difference Believing Makes

Writing Your Personal Credo – I Believe Statement

The word believer is often caught somewhere between naiveté on one hand and fanaticism on the other. Think about your perception of the word *believer* when you began this study and how you perceive it today. Write a brief statement of that perception:

The Scriptures encourage us to examine our lives in order that we may grow in righteousness and to examine it to judge whether we have grown. So, what difference has this study of Christian Believer made in my life ?

We call ourselves Christian believers. Such identification doesn't mean we will never have questions. Instead, questioning brings more perception, more depth, and more fortitude. During this year, I have gain a greater perception in the following area:

More depth in the following area:

More fortitude when I am faced with:

In what area of belief have I seen my greatest growth over the last nine months?

What area of my belief has been most confirmed during this study?

Write a personal credo -- "I believe" statement building it entirely on the areas that currently stand out in your mind as the most important elements of your believing. The statement need not be lengthy. Be concise but try to capture the beliefs you feel most strongly about:

I Believe...

COMMUNION:

Ask people to share insights during this exercise
Ask for volunteers to read their personal credo
What do these personal credos require of us now?
What is the next step for you?

Communion – laying on of hands during prayer