



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE 1+2



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CONTENTS

pg. **4**

pg. 11

pg. 14

pg. 18

pg. 21

pg. 23

pg. 25

pg. 27

DISCIPLESHP GUIDE 1

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

WEEK 5

WEEK 6

RESOURCES

pg. **29**

pg. 33

pg. 33

pg. 37

pg. 40

pg. 43

pg. 46

pg. 49

pg. 51

DISCIPLESHP GUIDE 2

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

WEEK 5

WEEK 6

WEEK 7

CONCLUSION

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE 1

pg. **6**

WELCOME

pg. **11**

WEEK 1

WHO IS GOD?

pg. **14**

WEEK 2

THE BIBLE

pg. **18**

WEEK 3

HOW DO I KNOW I AM SAVED?

pg. **21**

WEEK 4

THE CHURCH

pg. **23**

WEEK 5

HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

pg. **25**

WEEK 6

HOW DO I MAKE MORE DISCIPLES?

pg. **27**

RESOURCES

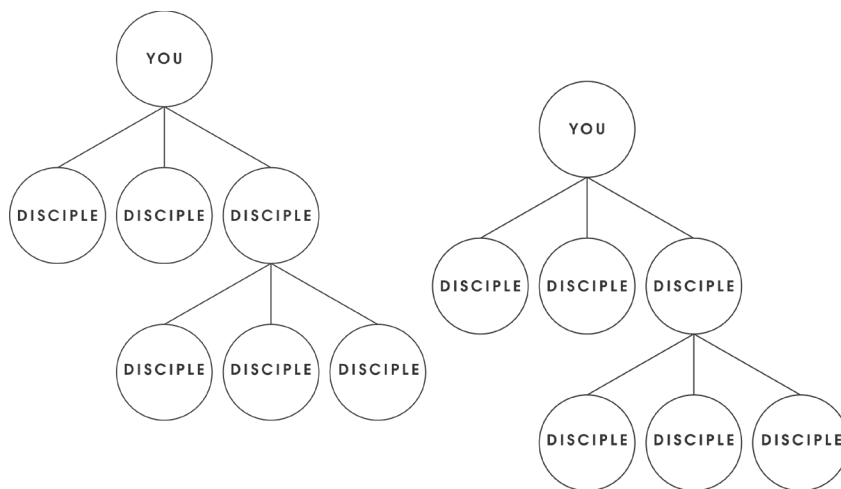
WELCOME

Welcome to Discipleship! We are so excited that you decided to join us in helping people find and follow Jesus. Over the years, we have found that most people want to be discipled and disciple others, but do not know where to start. Discipleship is a lifelong process, so we hope this resource is helpful as your first or next step on this journey! This 6- week resource is designed to help you make the jump into a life of being a disciple who makes disciples. Our goal is to be spiritual multipliers following Jesus' command to reach every neighbor and every nation with the Gospel.

Each week is not a comprehensive study of its topic, but it is designed to help a leader guide a discussion in their "discipleship time." The lessons build on one another with the final goal of multiplying, because healthy disciples always go on to make more disciples!

WHY FOCUS ON MULTIPLICATION?

If you only discipled **three** people per year and taught them to teach others to multiply each year, you could multiply over **3 billion** disciples in just twenty years.



Brainstorm: who are three people that you could possibly form a group with at the end of the 6 weeks?

STRUCTURING YOUR DISCIPLESHIP TIME: THE HOW

Discipleship is about growing closer to the Lord in community and sharing that experience with others. What to do with the time you have together and how to do it doesn't have to be difficult or complicated. This model prepares you to connect with community, grow in God's truth, and then share this truth with others. The following outline is a way to structure your discipleship time that allows you to make the most of every moment together.

Your time will be divided into 3 important sections: a time to **Connect**, a time to **Grow**, and a time to **Engage**. Discipleship involves moving your feet and sharing the truths you learn with others. Each week should involve the group taking action together. If you have one hour total, you will spend around 20 minutes in each section. Or if you have 1.5 hours, you will spend close to 30 minutes in each section. You get the idea! Now let's dive into the purpose of each section a little bit more.

CONNECT

1/3 | 20-30 MINS

Personal care

How are you?

Thank + pray

Accountability

Vision-casting

Why are we here?

Who are your two?

GROW

1/3 | 20-30 MINS

New lesson

Why is this lesson included
and important?

Application

What's the main idea?

How do I apply it?

ENGAGE

1/3 | 20-30 MINS

Practice

Take Action

Following (Christ)

Engaging (lost)

Pray

INTRODUCTION

PART 1: CONNECT

Before we get into the essentials of discipleship, watch this video for a basic overview of the Gospel. This will help you more accurately structure your understanding of the Gospel so that you can start to piece together a more concrete theological framework of discipleship.



Everyone Everywhere: 3 Circles Tool
<http://gracebcs.org/everyoneeverywhere>

How would you define discipleship?

Have you been discipled before?

What are some expectations you have for this time?

Before we jump into week 1, let's take time to focus on what discipleship looks like in the Bible.

PART 2: GROW

Read Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 9:9-13.

What does Jesus command in both of these passages?

Read Matthew 10:1-8 and 1 Peter 2:9 .

How many disciples did Jesus have?

From prior knowledge, what did Jesus and His disciples do together?

After Jesus gave them authority, what did He tell His disciples to do?

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-3 .

How would you describe Paul and Timothy's relationship?

What does Paul expect Timothy to do?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Are you ever going to reach spiritual maturity while on earth? Why does Paul expect us to?

ENGAGE

Below is a portrait of a mature disciple. Jesus is our perfect example of what a mature disciple looks like in action.

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1 TRUTH OF GOD	4 PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH	7 CULTURE OF THE WORLD
BE	2 CHRIST- LIKENESS	5 UNITY IN LOVE (COMM- UNITY)	8 COMPAS- SION IN ACTION
DO	3 WALKING BY THE SPIRIT	6 PARTICI- PATING IN THE CHURCH	9 SHARING YOUR FAITH

Circle the area you are confident in.

Square the area you need to grow in.

How can we praise God this week for the strengths He has given us?

WEEK NO. 1

WHO IS GOD?

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1 TRUTH OF GOD	4	7
BE	2	5	8
DO	3 WALKING BY THE SPIRIT	6	9

PART 1: CONNECT

Begin by asking general questions about each other's weeks to get to know one another better.

Look back at the portrait from the introduction. What are some small steps you can take this week to grow in the box that you squared?

Before we begin our time together, why is our time together important? Why are we here for discipleship?

PART 2: GROW

How would your friends and family describe God? How would you describe God?

THE BIBLE POINTS US TO THE FACT THAT GOD EXISTS AS A TRINITY.

Christians believe that there is one God that always existed as 3 persons called the Trinity — The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God and together make one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). This can be complex.

THE FATHER

Read Matthew 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:3-14

What do we see about God “the Father” from these verses?

When you hear God described as Father, what images or ideas come to mind?

THE FATHER IS THE FIRST PERSON OF THE TRINITY.

It is by the Father’s will that all things have been created (1 Corinthians 8:6).

The Father has ultimate authority within the Trinity, seen in his sending of His Son and his Spirit to earth to rescue and redeem mankind (1 John 4:13-16).

The Father has chosen us to believe the Gospel of his Son and welcomes us into an intimate relationship with himself, calling us children of God (Romans 8:12-17).

THE SON

Read: John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-9.

What do we see about Jesus from these verses?

When you hear the name Jesus, what ideas or concerns come to mind?

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY.

Jesus is God manifested in human form and he eternally exists as fully God and fully man (Philippians 2:5-11).

Jesus expressly came to earth to carry out the Father’s will: to sacrifice himself for the sins of the world (John 6:40).

Though Jesus is God, he willfully submits to the Father’s authority in all things (Luke 22:42; John 17).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read: John 7:37-39, John 3:1-8, and Romans 8:15-16.

What do you see about the Holy Spirit from these verses?

Who is the Holy Spirit? What role does the Holy Spirit have in relation to believers?

THE BIBLE SAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE THIRD PERSON OF THE TRINITY.

He is fully God and distinct from the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:18-19).

He is a person, not a force. He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), lied to (Acts 5:3), teach us (Luke 12:12), and lead and direct us (Acts 20:28).

He came to glorify Christ, and He works in Christians to conform them to the image of Christ.

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and John 14:26.

The Bible says the Holy Spirit dwells within every Christian.

Since Christ's resurrection, all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit from the moment they trust Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13). The moment you believed in Christ, the Holy Spirit entered your life and will never leave you.

PART 3: ENGAGE

As a group of believers, we want to pray for each other and for those around us.

How can we be praying for one another and others in our lives?

How does understanding God as Trinity impact how you relate to God?

TAKING ACTION

This week, pray to the Father...

For anything really

Pray to the Son...

Thanking him for sacrificing himself for our sake

Pray to the Spirit...

For spiritual understanding and for guiding us in righteousness

WEEK NO. 2

THE BIBLE

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1 TRUTH OF GOD	4	7
BE	2	5	8
DO	3	6	9

PART 1: CONNECT

How did you see God move in your life last week? How did he answer your prayers?

PART 2: GROW

What do you think your friends and family believe about the Bible? How has that impacted your view of the Bible?

Read Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

The terms below describe what the Bible does in our lives:

Teaching | instructs believers in God's truth

Reproof | reveals what is sinful in our lives

Correction | corrects errors in how we view God

Training | guides believers in God's ways

How do you see the authority of the Bible reflected in your life?

What does "God-breathed" mean? Why is it significant that the Bible is "God-breathed"?

Inspiration - Paul writes to Timothy that "All Scripture is breathed out by God" meaning the Bible is God's Word. Thus, the biblical view of inspiration is that God is the source of Scripture and that His Word, the entire Bible, is the verbal revelation of the triune God written down by men who "were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

Whenever scholars examine the accuracy of an ancient text, they look for both internal and external evidence that support the claims and cohesion of the particular document. By the sovereign hand of God, we have been given incredible evidence in both categories that provide Christians with objective reasons to trust the validity of our Bible as the Word of God.

For this lesson, we will provide a few points below using the simple & memorable framework: **PUPPIES** but consider using resources such as www.josh.org & www.gotquestions.org for further study.

INTERNAL EVIDENCE | **PUPP**

Prophecy | The Bible contains hundreds of detailed & fulfilled prophecies about nations, cities, and humanity – over 300 in OT about Jesus.

Unity | The Bible consists of 66 books written on 3 continents in 3 languages over about 1500 years by over 40 authors – yet it contains a unified message of God's grace.

Power in People | This is more subjective, but individual lives are consistently and radically transformed by reading the Bible in both ancient and modern times.

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE | **IES**

Indestructible | Because of its claims, the Bible has been attacked and suppressed more than any other book in history, yet it has survived and even thrived as a result.

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE | IES

Indestructible | Because of its claims, the Bible has been attacked and suppressed more than any other book in history, yet it has survived and even thrived as a result.

Events | Detailed descriptions of historical events have been proven through other historical writings and centuries of archaeological research.

Sources | The chart below provides a reference for understanding the unprecedented amount textual evidence the Bible has compared to other texts.

The chart below provides other reasons why we can trust in the reliability of the Bible.

AUTHOR	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	EST. TIME FROM ORIGINAL TO COPY	NUMBER OF COPIES	ACCURACY OF COPIES
PLINY	AD 61-113	AD 850	750 YEARS	7	-
PLATO	427-347 BC	AD 900	1200 YEARS	7	-
HERODOTUS	480-425 BC	AD 950	1300 YEARS	8	-
THUCYDIDES	460-400 BC	AD 900	800 YEARS	8	-
EURIPIDES	480-406 BC	AD 1100	1300 YEARS	9	-
CAESAR	100-44 BC	AD 900	1000 YEARS	10	-
TACITUS	CIRCA AD 100	AD 1100	1000 YEARS	20	-
ARISTOTLE	384-322 AD	AD 1100	1400 YEARS	49	-
SOPHOCLES	496-406 BC	AD 1000	1400 YEARS	193	-
HOMER (ILIAD)	900 BC	400 BC	500 YEARS	643	95%
NEW TESTAMENT	1ST CENT. AD (AD 50-100)	2ND CENT. AD (CIRCA AD 130 F.)	LESS THAN 100 YEARS	5600	99.5%

PART 3: ENGAGE

What does your time in the Bible look like?

There are a number of ways to learn and grow through studying the Bible. Pick one area you can focus on and grow in this week as a group.

Hear (Romans 10:17)

Read (Revelation 1:3)

Study (Acts 17:11)

Memorize (Psalms 119:9-11)

Meditate (Psalms 1:2, 3)

TAKING ACTION

As a group, open up your schedules and plan when and how you will spend time in the Bible each day.

WEEK NO. 3

HOW DO I KNOW I AM SAVED?

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1	4	7
BE	2	5	8
DO	3 WALKING BY THE SPIRIT	6	9 SHARING YOUR FAITH

PART 1: CONNECT

Thinking back on this past week, what are you thankful for?

What is something new that you learned from the Bible?

How did you grow personally with God this week?

PART 2: GROW

At some point in their lives, many believers will question whether or not they have actually been saved. In this section, we are addressing salvation by looking at what it means to be justified. This is a legal expression used throughout the Bible that means being declared right with God once and for all. An example of this is found in Romans 5:1 when Paul writes, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Keeping that in mind...

Why do we need to be declared right with God?

When did you become a Christian? What makes you a Christian?

If you died tonight, how certain are you that you would go to heaven? Why?

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Read Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:23-28

Based on these passages, what does it take for someone to be declared right with God?

Does being a good person make you right with God? Why or why not?

ETERNAL SECURITY

Have you ever struggled with a fear that you have lost or could lose your salvation?

Read John 10:27-29; Romans 8:31-39

Once you have been declared right with God, can anything ever change that?

Though we were once all separated from God by our sin, Jesus died on the cross to restore our relationship with God and pay the penalty for our sins. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are granted forgiveness from those sins and are declared right with God. Since we did nothing to earn our salvation, there is nothing we can do to lose it. Once we have been declared right with God, we can have absolute certainty that we have eternal life.

PART 3: ENGAGE

PREPARING A TESTIMONY

A testimony is your personal story about how Jesus has transformed your life, taking you out of slavery to sin and bringing you into a relationship with God. This is a story worth sharing and celebrating, but sometimes it can be intimidating to try and put it all into words.

Knowing this, we should be strategic and ready to share our faith. Here is a simple outline that will help you communicate your testimony in a clear and concise way:

2 BY 2 TESTIMONY

This tool is an easy way to briefly share how God impacted your life.

Here's how it works: 2 words that describe your life before Christ + meeting Jesus + 2 words that describe your life after Christ.

Ex: "There was a time in my life where I was judgmental and materialistic. When those failed to give me meaning, I found myself hurting others to prove my worth. Then I met Jesus, who loves me regardless of the things I have or do not have. Knowing how Jesus loves me unconditionally, I am now more compassionate towards others and more generous with the things I am blessed with."

TAKING ACTION

Plan a time this week where you can grab a meal or coffee together to share your testimony with each other using the outline above. Practice it multiple times with each other so that you feel more confident in sharing it with others.

WEEK NO. 4

THE CHURCH

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1	4 PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH	7
BE	2	5 UNITY IN LOVE (COMM- UNITY)	8
DO	3	6 PARTICI- PATING IN THE CHURCH	9

PART 1 CONNECT

Thinking back on last week, what is something new you learned about God after listening to each others' testimonies? Who is someone you can share your story with this week?

What are you thankful for this week?

What has been your experience in attending and participating in a church?

PART 2: GROW

When you hear the word "church", what do you picture? A building? A group of people?

THE CHURCH

Read Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

The church has two aspects: the universal church ("the Church") and the local church ("the church"). The Church consists of all people, over all time, who trust in the person and work of Jesus. A church is a local group of Christ followers who regularly gather to grow in our faith in Jesus and go into the broken world to share the hope of eternal life in Christ.

The Purpose and Function of the Church

Read Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Based on these passages and others you may know, why did God create the church?

Read Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-16

How does the church function to fulfill this purpose?

Participation in the Church

Read Romans 12:6-8; Philippians 4:15-19; Mark 12:41-44

Why might it be important to participate in a local church? What danger exists in following Jesus without participating in a church community?

How are you using the gifts, resources, and abilities that God has given you to participate in the church?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Go to the following website and take the Spiritual Gifts Test: <http://apps.ctay.net/giftsurvey/>

Where can you use your gifts to serve the church?



TAKING ACTION

As a group, plan a way to participate in the church together. Here are some options, but feel free to think of something else as a group:

Talk to a ministry leader about opportunities to serve in your local church.

Instead of eating out for a meal or a few days, save money and give financially to a ministry.

Pray for the needs and the leaders of your church.

On a Sunday morning, find someone who is sitting alone and sit with them. Invite them to lunch after church.

HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH?

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1	4	7
BE	2	5	8
DO	3	6	9 SHARING YOUR FAITH

PART 1: CONNECT

Share your results from the spiritual gifts test.

Have you picked a date, time, and event to serve as a group in your church or local community?

PART 2: GROW

Why is it important to share your faith? What keeps you from sharing?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

What does Jesus command His disciples to do?

Other than knowing that this is the command given to every believer, what else should motivate you to share your faith?

Read 1 Peter 3:15.

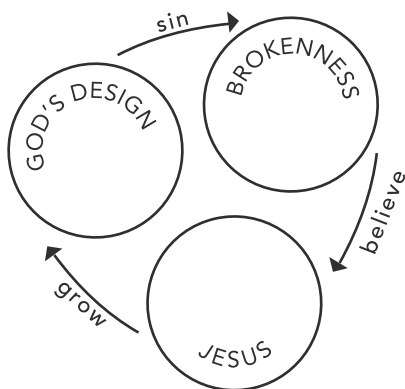
Do you feel prepared to give a defense of who Christ is and what He has done for you?

Is there a part of the Gospel that you do not feel confident sharing?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Take some time to think about coworkers, friends, or family members with whom you can open the door to a spiritual conversation using one of the following tools:

THE THREE CIRCLES GOSPEL PRESENTATION



Rewatch the Gospel presentation from the introduction.

Now take out a piece of paper and practice sharing it with each other.

<http://gracebcs.org/everyoneeverywhere>



Other Sharing Tools:

GodTools App

Perspectives App

Soularium App (Cru)

TAKING ACTION

Schedule a time and pick a tool together to share the Gospel this week.

HOW DO I MAKE MORE DISCIPLES?

	GOD	CHURCH	WORLD
KNOW	1	4	7
BE	2	5 UNITY IN LOVE (COMM-UNITY)	8
DO	3	6 PARTICIPATING IN THE CHURCH	9

PART 1: CONNECT

Let's get back to basics: why is discipleship important?

Looking back at the portrait in the introduction, take a minute to go around and praise God for the areas in which He has blessed you and the areas in which you have grown over the last few weeks. In what areas can you still continue to grow?

PART 2: GROW

Read Luke 6:13; Mark 3:14, and Romans 10:14-15.

What characteristics of discipleship can be gathered from these passages?

What elements should be a part of a discipleship relationship? (prayer, accountability, etc.)

Jesus and the Apostles all discipled multiple people who then went on to disciple more people.

We hope you can look back at the past couple weeks and see how each person has been given different gifts, skills, and strengths by the Lord to participate in discipleship. We see in Scripture how Paul, Timothy, and Barnabas all had different strengths yet all became multipliers. Discipleship is accomplished by multiple people over time.

Discipleship should contain 4 different aspects:

Teaching | Giving information to seek understanding
Coaching | Motivation and training in ministry skills
Modeling | Showing how to do something by example
Mentoring | Growing in maturity through wisdom

If you have made it this far in the guide, someone has been invested in your growth and development as a follower of Jesus Christ. Now it is your turn to invest in others! When selecting a group to disciple, we like to use the following acronym:

F | FAITHFUL

A disciple should be faithful to complete whatever assignment and preparation is needed for their growth and training.

A | AVAILABLE

A disciple should be consistent with attendance based on their discipler's expectations.

I | INITIATIVE

A disciple should have an internal drive towards growth.

T | TEACHABLE

A disciple should show willingness to grow and change as they study the Word.

H | HUMBLE

A disciple should be willing to ask for help and serve like Jesus.

This guide is not an end-all, be-all manual for discipleship. Discipleship is organic, and it is based on the needs of the people being discipled. If you have areas that you desire to be further developed, ask the person discipling you to continue this relationship moving forward.

PART 3: ENGAGE

TAKING ACTION

Ask your discipler if there are any additional areas that they think you should be focusing on in your journey as a disciple of Christ.

Spend some time thinking and praying about those God has placed in your life who you could ask into a discipleship relationship. List them out.

Now trust God and take action!

RESOURCES

Below are resources to further spiritual growth as you look at the portrait from the introduction.

TRUTH OF GOD

MATERIAL

Making Sense of God by Tim Keller

Use Dr. Constable's Notes on LUMINA.BIBLE.ORG

OPPORTUNITIES

Join a Bible Study

Participate in a Sunday service

CHRIST-LIKENESS IN CHARACTER

MATERIAL

The Hole in Our Holiness by Kevin DeYoung

Son of Man podcast series by Bible Project

OPPORTUNITY

Bee Community

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

MATERIAL

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

OPPORTUNITY

Confess sins

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

MATERIAL

RetroChurch Series by Blake Jennings

RetroChristianity by Michael Svigel

OPPORTUNITY

Become a member

UNITY IN LOVE

MATERIAL

A Tale of Three Kings by Gene Edwards

OPPORTUNITY

Join a Bible Study

PARTICIPATING IN THE CHURCH

OPPORTUNITY

Serve on Sunday mornings

CULTURE OF THE WORLD

MATERIAL

The Joshua Project

OPPORTUNITY

Awaken | AWAKENCOURSE.ORG

Perspectives | PERSPECTIVES.ORG

COMPASSION IN ACTION

MATERIAL

PRAYERCAST.COM

SHARING YOUR FAITH

MATERIAL

Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World by Bob McNabb

OPPORTUNITY

Go on a mission trip

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE 2

pg. **31**

WELCOME

pg. **33**

WEEK 1

EVANGELISM + DISCIPLESHIP

pg. **35**

WEEK 2

GO & SHARE YOUR FAITH

pg. **37**

WEEK 3

HEALTHY SPIRITUAL HABITS

pg. **40**

WEEK 4

REPENTANCE

pg. **43**

WEEK 5

PRAYER + FASTING

pg. **46**

WEEK 6

KNOWING THE CULTURE

pg. **49**

WEEK 7

SUFFERING & PERSEVERANCE

pg. **51**

CONCLUSION

WELCOME

We are so thrilled that you have decided to gather with other believers to help one another become better disciples of Christ! Our hope is that by the end of these next seven weeks, you will have learned more about what discipleship looks like by reading the book of Acts and applying it to your life.

At the end of these seven weeks, we want to challenge you to continue the discipleship process by going out and making disciples yourself just as Jesus commands us in Matthew 28:18-20. So, start thinking ahead even now: who are the believers in your life that could join you in this discipleship process moving forward? What friends can you invite to see what the Lord is doing in your life?

We know that making disciples of Jesus Christ requires diligent and intentional work, but we have experienced the abundant joy and fulfillment that comes with it. Our hope for you is that you would grow deeper and stronger in your faith and then turn around and help others do the same.

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:1-8

As you go through... a couple of sites

If you're struggling to find an answer to any of these questions, here are some resources for you to use!

BEFORE NEXT WEEK:

Begin thinking of people who you could invite alongside yourself in growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 1:1-2:41

WEEK NO. 1

EVANGELISM + DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 1:1-2:41

PART 1: CONNECT

What were some moments in your life that led you to give your life to Jesus?

What area do you hope to grow in through discipleship this semester?

Did you read Acts 1:1-2:41?

PART 2: GROW

What is the “Kingdom of God”? How did the disciples expect Israel to be restored?

What reason does Jesus give in verse 8 for sending the Spirit?

What would it look like to be Jesus’ witness?

What is significant about listing “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the Earth” in that specific order?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Where do you live, work/learn, and play?

Who are specific people that you can reach out to this week who are unconnected with Jesus?

Write down their names. As a discipleship group begin praying for these people and keep each other accountable to invite them to be a part of your lives and share the Gospel with them.

TAKING ACTION

Pick a time this week to pray together as a group. This provides accountability and structure in your prayer life and can offer a built in opportunity to pray for each other during the week!

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Download The Perspectives App and read through the cards.

Set a location to meet next week and pray that God gives you the confidence to share the Gospel.

GO + SHARE YOUR FAITH

PART 1: CONNECT

On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you about sharing your faith?

Pray together that God would give you confidence to share the Gospel.

PART 2: ENGAGE

If your discipleship group is larger than three total people, split into groups of two (or three if necessary). Approach someone and say, “Howdy! We’re with Grace Bible Church, and we’re surveying people. Do you have a minute to answer some questions about what you believe?” Use the Perspectives App to learn their thoughts about God, and then use the cards to share the Gospel with them. If they would like to meet again to talk more, get their phone number.

TAKING ACTION

If you received someone’s number, follow up with them. Invite them into something you are doing this week.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Read Acts 2:42-8:40

Contact anyone whose number you received.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:42-47

WEEK NO. 3

HEALTHY SPIRITUAL HABITS

Acts 2:42-8:40

PART 1: CONNECT

On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident are you about sharing your faith now that you have done it? Is there anyone you met who you would like to follow up with? Take time right now as a group to follow up and initiate with those you met during evangelism.

How have you seen the Holy Spirit move in your life since reading Acts?

Did you read Acts 2-8?

PART 2: GROW

What pronoun is used throughout this passage? Why is that significant?

What did the believers devote themselves to? If someone looked at your life weekly what would be the top three things you are devoted to? Be honest.

If you want to live a life where you are able to pour out to others and bring them to know Jesus, you need to be spiritually healthy yourself. Do you have a time set aside in your schedule where you pray and read God's word each day? If yes, what does that time typically look like and when does it happen? If not, share what is stopping you.

PART 3: ENGAGE

Looking at the four spiritual disciplines the apostles devoted themselves to:

Who can join you in this practice for encouragement and accountability? How are you connecting with other believers in fellowship? Who is someone in need that you could help?

TAKING ACTION

Find time to eat a meal together.

If you do not already have one, set a time in your daily schedule to devote to prayer and reading the Bible.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Read Acts 9-12

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." But Peter began and explained it to them in order: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 11:1-18

WEEK NO. 4

REPENTANCE

Acts 9-12

PART 1: CONNECT

Have you been able to follow up with the people that you met while doing evangelism or with any new friends you have made?

Were you, as a discipleship group, able to have a meal together? If not, do you have time set up to do so?

Did you read Acts 9-12?

PART 2: GROW

What has been the Holy Spirit's involvement in Acts so far?

Why was Peter's vision so significant? Why would the Jews be shocked that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles?

How is Peter a model of obedience in Acts 2?

How would you explain repentance to someone?

Repentance can be hard to understand for yourself and explain to someone else. An easy way to remember and explain repentance - Confess. Surrender. Rely. The Lord wants us to have the confidence to approach him and confess our sin. Have the courage to admit the wrongs you have done. He not only wants us to be honest with him about our sin but to surrender our sin and temptation. We will always struggle with sin and have temptations on this side of heaven. Our God is a God of grace, so walk in grace and rely on the convictions of the Holy Spirit to guide you forward.

PART 3: ENGAGE

What are ways you are obeying God? What is a way God has asked you to obey that you are not doing?

What does your reliance on the Holy Spirit look like?

TAKING ACTION

Check out this video on the Holy Spirit –



<http://gracebcs.org/spirit>

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Read Acts 13-16

“Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” But Peter began and explained it to them in order: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Acts 11:1-18

WEEK NO. 5

PRAYER & FASTING

Acts 13-16

PART 1: CONNECT

Have you had any spiritual conversations with your friends?

What is your prayer life like? How often do you pray and what do you usually pray for?

What has your experience been with fasting?

Did you read Acts 13-16?

PART 2: GROW

What is happening in Acts 13-16?

Why are these three verses at the beginning (13:1-3) so significant?

Why do they fast and pray? Where else does fasting occur in scripture?

Where do Paul and Barnabas go after they are sent out? Why?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Make a list of people that you know who do not know Jesus. Share your list and pray for them together. Pray that:

- 1) You would be able to love them well in your interactions with them
- 2) You would be able to have spiritual conversation with them this week
- 3) That their hearts would be softened and they would be receptive to the Gospel
- 4) That God would use YOU to share the Gospel with them
- 5) That God would do what you cannot and bring them to a saving faith in Jesus

TAKING ACTION

The leaders of the church of Antioch were fasting when they felt the Holy Spirit calling them to action. They fasted and prayed before sending Paul and Barnabas out to share the Gospel with the lost. How often are we committing ourselves to the same pursuit of intentionally listening to the Lord?

Make a plan with your discipleship group to fast and pray for your lists this week. Some options are:

- Fast for one day out of the next seven, praying for your people by name each time you feel a hunger pang.
- Skip lunch, using the time that you would eat to instead pray for 30+ minutes straight.
- On the days you fast, come together with your discipleship group to have a feast for dinner and talk about how the day went.

IMPORTANT:

If you need food for health or medical reasons, fast from something else—such as social media, TV, certain type of food—and create an appropriate plan with your group.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Read Acts 17-21.

Enact your plan to fast and pray.

“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though

he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.”

Acts 17:16-34

WEEK NO. 6

KNOWING THE CULTURE

Acts 17-21

PART 1: CONNECT

How was fasting and praying for your lost friends? What did God teach you through the experience?

Have you been able to share your faith recently? Share and celebrate what God is doing through you!

Did you read Acts 17-21?

PART 2: GROW

What is the context surrounding Paul's speech in 17:22-32?

Why is it significant that Paul knows the culture of the people with whom he is trying to share the Gospel? How would you describe your culture?

What does Paul use as a bridge into sharing the good news of Jesus' resurrection?
How might we apply this in our context?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Practice with each other using something prevalent in the culture as a lead in to sharing the Gospel in conversation.

TAKING ACTION

Use a cultural topic as a bridge to the Gospel with a family member or friend in a conversation that you have this week.

To help with cultural topics reading the news of what is happening in your city and around the world. Think how people you are talking to live similarly or differently than you.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Read Acts 22-28.

Share the Gospel in conversation with someone you know.

“Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”

Acts 22:22

“When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

“Go to this people, and say,
“You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”
For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed;
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’
Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation
of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

Acts 28:23-31

WEEK NO. 7

SUFFERING & PERSEVERANCE

Acts 22-28

PART 1: CONNECT

Were you able to share the Gospel using a cultural bridge like Paul? Share how you did it.

Take a moment to pray for those who you were able to share with, and that everyone would get the opportunity to share the Gospel as a part of conversation again this week.

What has reading the book of Acts this semester taught you about being a disciple of Jesus?

PART 2: GROW

In what ways does Paul face suffering in the book of Acts? How does Paul respond to suffering in the end?

How is suffering a normal part of the Christian life?

Describe Paul's passion for the Gospel. What were his actions and do you share these actions?

How will you change your life to look more like Christ and follow the example of the apostles moving forward?

PART 3: ENGAGE

Did you experience persecution or rejection this semester in sharing your faith with others?
If so, how did you handle it?

What are ways that you can continue to persevere in light of what you have faced?

TAKING ACTION

What is something you could do as a group this week that is sacrificial or out of your comfort zone?

Follow up with the people that you have had spiritual conversation with this semester.

CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You have now read through the book of Acts and applied what it teaches along the way. You have shared your faith with non-believers, maybe even several times now, and had follow up conversations. You have practiced other spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and the daily reading of scripture. You have learned more about your culture, and have acknowledged the reality that, as a believer trying to do the work of Christ, you will face persecution. You have learned what it means to be a disciple of Christ, but that does not mean that discipleship ends. Discipleship is a life-long endeavor characterized by dependence on Jesus, encouragement from a community of believers, and perseverance in the face of suffering. One of the foundational aspects of being a disciple is making disciples—who then go on to make more disciples themselves.

WHAT NEXT?

Continue to put into practice what you have learned: sharing the Gospel, spending time with the Lord, investing in community, fasting, praying, learning, and teaching others how to be more like Jesus.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to naturally share the Gospel in any conversation you engage in.

As a group you all have poured into one another. Now it is time to use what each of you have learned to form new discipleship groups!

