

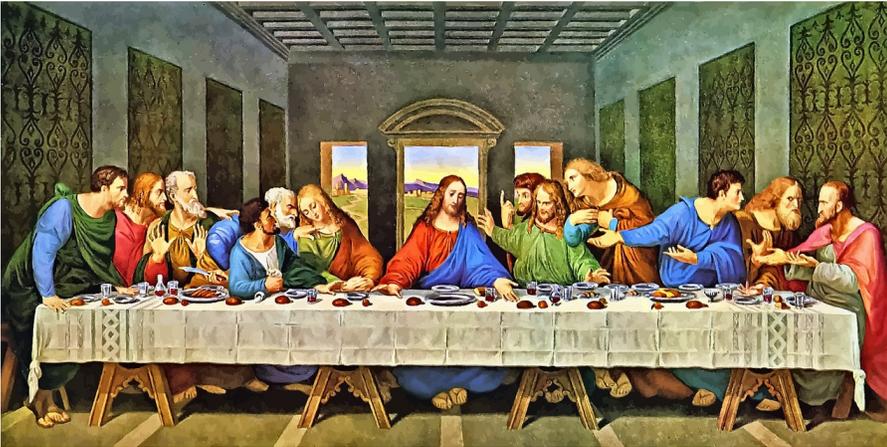
Discipleship

A study for all ages.



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What is a disciple?



During the first century, the time when Jesus lived, people who followed Jesus were called *disciples*. Disciples listened to what

Jesus had to say, followed his instructions, and traveled with him. They were with him when he started his ministry, preformed miracles, when he died and when he rose again it was the disciples he appeared to. They were Jesus' closest friends and they were the people who went on to found the church after Jesus had gone.

Disciples are still around today! Even though Jesus has gone to heaven to be with God, as have the original disciples, new disciples come about every single day! People you know everywhere can be and are disciples. *You* are a disciple!

In this study we're going to learn more about discipleship (being a disciple) and what it means to share the gospel.

Let's read about discipleship...

At the end of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus commissioned a group of people to be disciples and tells them how...



Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Then we learn from Timothy what disciples should do...

2 Timothy 2:2

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

Verbs teach us a lot!

Verbs are action words—words that give us instructions on what we can **DO**.

Go back to the previous page and circle all the verbs in both Scriptures. The words you circle might not be what you expected.

List here the verbs you think are *negative*.

List here the verbs you think are *positive*.

Which verbs do you find *easy*?

What is like to be a disciple...

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.

Luke 14:27

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

It sounds like being a disciple is hard? Actually being a disciple is just like being a gardener! It takes some patience, and a little bit of time, but following Jesus is as simple as planting seeds and watching them grow — just like a gardener. Let's list the steps we take when we plant a garden. Put the following steps in order from first to last.



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant seeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Wait patiently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pick veggies | <input type="checkbox"/> More weeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare soil | <input type="checkbox"/> Water again | <input type="checkbox"/> Choose seeds |

Growing in Faith

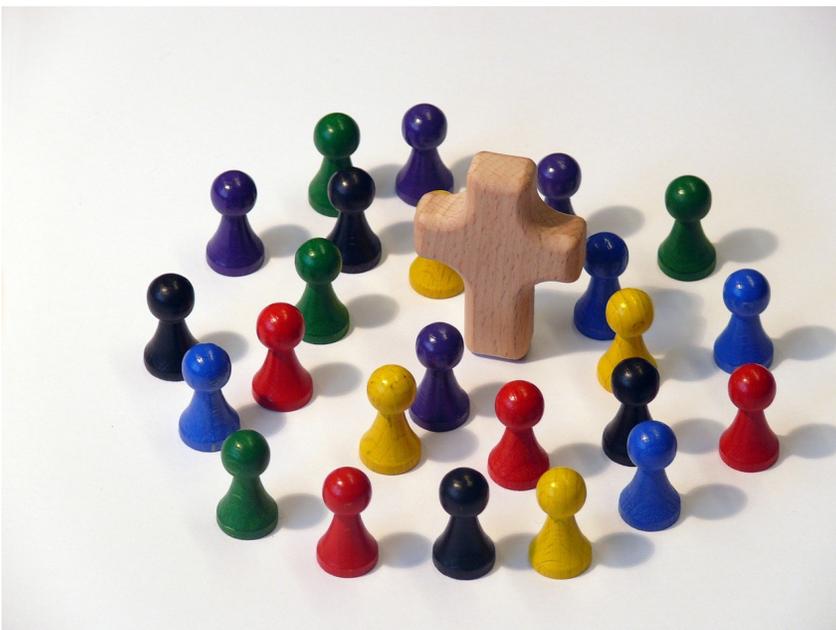
Being a disciple is just like being a gardener. The seeds are faith. The water and weeding are the work we do to strengthen our faith. The veggies we pick are the product of our discipleship — stronger faith, a community, and a close relationship with God.

Discipleship is all about knowing you are a child of God, knowing you are loved by God, sharing that love with others and watching your faith grow.

Say this prayer together: Dear God, thank you for loving me and teaching me how to love others. Inspire me and

show me ways that I can share this love with everyone I meet. Help me to love others as you have loved me.

In Jesus' name I pray,
Amen.



Spread the word; you are loved!

Here is a fun activity you can easily do at home to begin your new journey as a disciple. Remember: discipleship starts with sharing the message that God loves everyone!

Begin by watching

[THIS VIDEO](#)

Then gather your supplies. Cut out the messages below to put in your fortune cookies OR write your own! Give out your cookies or leave them for people to find. Leave one for your mailperson, the Amazon delivery person, or someone you think might like a message!

God LOVES you!

You have the light of God in you!

You are a child of God!

You are wonderful, just the way you are!

Love your neighbor as much as God loves YOU!

Smile, it's a great day and God loves you!
