

# DISCIPLE

*JOURNEY WITH JESUS.  
CHANGE YOUR WORLD.*



*ERIK FISH*

## “COME, BE MY DISCIPLE...” - JESUS

A disciple is someone who loves and follows Jesus. Through Jesus, you can experience the kind of life God wants to give you—a life full of purpose, significance, and love. Following Jesus is the most significant and adventurous journey you can ever take—and its eventual destination is beyond compare. Like Jesus, you can know God as a good Father who loves you, leads you, teaches you, and empowers you to change the world around you.

“*DISCIPLE* by Erik Fish is one of the most practical tools for raising up Christ-centered followers of Jesus I have ever seen. This user-friendly guide facilitates the growth of real discipling relationships that make it natural for people to grow as disciples and become disciple makers. I personally use this resource, have given it to those closest to me, and am honored to recommend it to you now.” — *Brad McKoy, Founder and Team Leader, Antioch Overflow Experiment*



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***DISCIPLE: Journey with Jesus. Change Your World.***

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# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT “DISCIPLE”

“Few men carry with them the marks of a true disciple that reproduce true Jesus Followers. Erik is one such man! Through his passion, study and experience along with a mandate from God, he has labored to produce a “power tool” for the church. *DISCIPLE* is the clarion call of Christ to His church and Erik has answered that call and facilitated an actionable answer. I’m honored and humbled to recommend the man and his message. Use it and be fruitful for the glory of God.” - *David Frech, Lead Pastor, Church of the Harvest, Olathe, KS*

“*DISCIPLE* by Erik Fish is one of the most practical tools for raising up Christ-centered followers of Jesus I have ever seen. This user-friendly guide facilitates the growth of real discipling relationships that make it natural for people to grow as disciples and become disciple makers. I personally use this resource, have given it to those closest to me, and am honored to recommend it to you now.” - *Brad McKoy, Founder and Team Leader, Antioch Overflow Experiment*

“Jesus has a dream to see every person on the planet come home to the Father’s love. Erik has articulated this dream and made it accessible for believers everywhere through this inspirational and practical guide for making disciples. No matter where you are on your journey with God, it will empower you to participate in the Great Commission.”  
- *Adam Cox, 24-7 Prayer; Team Leader, Kansas City Boiler Room*

“Erik has modeled being a disciple and passionately made disciples of Jesus Christ for over 16 years. The fruit of his life is birthed from abiding in Jesus and taking action toward the Great Commission. The foundational and missional teachings in *DISCIPLE* will usher a generation into spiritual growth and multiplication in the purposes of God.”  
- *Wayne Simien, former KU and NBA Basketball Player, Founder, Called To Greatness*

“*DISCIPLE* is a powerful tool for anyone who wants to make disciples who make disciples. It is an amazing resource for creating Great Commission minded followers of Jesus.”  
- *Dr. Pam Arlund, Director of Training, All Nations Family*



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# THE CALL OF JESUS . . .

“Come, be my disciple and I’ll make you become fishers of men...” - Jesus

When Jesus spoke these words, a miraculous transformation began in His first followers. Today, Jesus still speaks to those who will listen: “Come, be my disciple...” A disciple is someone who loves and follows Jesus. Through Jesus, you can experience the kind of life God wants to give you—a life full of purpose, significance, and love. This kind of life begins now and has repercussions for all eternity.

Following Jesus is the most significant and adventurous journey you can ever take—and its eventual destination is beyond compare. Like Jesus, you can know God as a good Father who loves you, leads you, teaches you, and empowers you to change the world around you. It begins with entering through the doorway Jesus opens for you and me to experience God the Father in ways deeply personal to each of us.

The Scriptures (the Bible) were written by people who were inspired by God. This book will guide you through some of these scriptures to help you experience God and begin to build a foundation for your relationship with Him you can build on for the rest of your life... and for all eternity.

So as you turn the next page, I invite you on a journey... to follow Jesus and experience the “God-kind” of life He alone makes possible for you. May you feel God’s passionate love and experience all He has for you as you respond to Jesus’ invitation—  
“Come, be My disciple!”



## How to use this book

When Jesus walked the earth, He didn't give us just a set of teachings—He gave Himself. He gave His time, love, and attention primarily to a small group of disciples He prepared for leadership. After Jesus ascended to heaven, they would be the ones to make new disciples, who would then make other disciples—and so on—until Jesus' mission of discipling every nation would be complete.

Today, He calls us to do the same thing—to be His disciple and become disciple makers. I designed this guide for you to work through in the context of a relationship. If you are going through the book, I encourage you to meet at least weekly with another Jesus follower to pray through your answers and make space for the Holy Spirit to minister to you together. If you are taking someone through this book, I encourage you to pray for them and make space to meet together over a meal or coffee regularly. Let the Holy Spirit guide your times together. He may lead you to pray through things specifically unique to the person's life. Try to do at least one chapter a week. Go make disciples!





# IN THE BEGINNING (1)

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” - Genesis 1:1

Before we can appreciate the message and significance of Jesus, we need to understand where people’s relationship with God broke down in the first place.

Who made everything? *Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1*

In the beginning, what was God’s creation like? *Genesis 1:26-31*

Who else eventually came from the first people God created? *Acts 17:26-27*

God created the world and everything in it. He made Adam and Eve, the first people, and gave them a beautiful world to enjoy and take care of. Adam and Eve had an open, unhindered relationship with God.

What did God bless these first people to do on earth? *Genesis 1:28*

Where did God place Adam? *Genesis 2:8-9*

What one restriction did God give Adam? *Genesis 2:16-17*

Why do you think God gave people the ability to choose whether they listen to Him?

God could have made us like robots, able to do only exactly what He wanted us to. But real relationships don’t work like that. God’s desire for a loving relationship with people required that he create us with the ability to choose—either to love and listen to Him, or to move away from God.

*Read Genesis 3:1-13*

How did Adam and Eve respond to God's Command?

Who tempted Eve?

Early on, we see that God and people have a mutual enemy. God wanted us to resist this enemy and trust God's voice over this adversary. Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree. They rejected God and chose to obey a different "god" by giving in to the temptation of the serpent.

How did they feel and react after their decision?

v. 7

v. 8

v. 10

Did anything good come from listening to the serpent and eating the fruit they were forbidden to eat?

How did God respond when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him?

v. 8-9

Notice the different responses in the story. What do you see?

It is the nature of people to \_\_\_\_\_.

It is the character of God to \_\_\_\_\_.

Things have not changed much since the beginning. After thousands of years and countless evils, man still hides and God still seeks. This is the starting point of understanding our need to let God transform our lives.

What did Adam and Eve do to try to cover their nakedness and fix their shame? *Genesis 3:7*

What are some ways you can think of that people do today to try and “cover up” their evil and make themselves “presentable” to God and others?



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?

### RESULTS OF SIN

God made man with a free will. Out of this entire paradise God provided, He told them to stay away from one thing that would harm them: They could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve enjoyed a healthy, life-giving relationship with God and with each other.

The devil (in the form of a serpent) sowed doubt in their minds about God’s goodness and what He had told them: “Did God really say to you...?” The serpent told them they could be like God Himself if they ate the fruit. Adam and Eve listened to the serpent. When they did this, they rejected God and essentially chose a different “god.” Agreeing with this deception proved disastrous. Adam and Eve, the first human beings, gave into the lie. Their fellowship with God was broken.

As their offspring, all subsequent people born on the earth would share in the consequences—a life tainted by sin and under the influence of our enemy. However, God didn’t give up on the creation He made. He would enact His predetermined plan to restore it all and one day lead us to defeat this enemy called satan.

What gets in the way of our relationship with God? *Isaiah 59:1-2*

Do all people sin? *Romans 3:23*

What are the consequences of sin? *Romans 6:23*

Are there consequences for sin during this life? *Galatians 6:7-8*

What happens when our life on earth is over? *Hebrews 9:27*

How does the Bible describe eternal judgment?

*Matthew 25:41*

*Revelation 20:11-15*

*Revelation 21:8*

*Read Psalm 1*

What observations can you make about the godly and the wicked?

## REMEDY

When Adam and Eve rejected God, our relationship with God changed. God remained holy; we did not, God remained good; we did not. God remained just; we did not. We all have sinned, we all naturally want our own way (control), and we all share the same condition. No matter what our socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, or religious background, we are all born with the same problem. We are separated from a life-giving relationship with God for now and eternity. The good news is God has provided a remedy for us.

What did God say would happen if Adam ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

*Genesis 2:17*

Did they die right away?

We saw previously that Adam and Eve tried to make their own clothes to cover the results of their sin and make themselves presentable to God.

What did God do for them instead? *Genesis 3:21*

In the process of making clothing for them, God had to kill an animal. From that point forward, when someone wanted to be forgiven, they would sacrifice an animal to cover their sin. This bloody ritual foreshadowed God's plan to bring an ultimate sacrifice who would restore mankind's relationship to God once and for all. There, in the beginning, God shows His plan to provide a sacrifice to cover us and pay the penalty of death.

What is necessary for the forgiveness of sins? *Hebrews 9:22*

What does the blood of Jesus do for us?

*Romans 5:8-10*

*Ephesians 1:7*

*Ephesians 2:13*

*1 John 1:7*

*Revelations 1:5*

What did Jesus do for us on the cross?

*1 Peter 2:24*

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

*Galatians 3:13-14*

What was God's solution for man's sin? *Isaiah 53:6*

What happens when we believe and accept Jesus? *John 1:12-13*

What did Jesus say must happen before we see and enter the Kingdom of God? *John 3:3-8*

What do the following verses teach about being born again?

*John 1:13*

*1 John 3:9*

*1 John 4:7*

*1 John 5:4*

What does Paul (the author of Corinthians) say about those who are in Christ?

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

Write out *John 3:16-17* below:



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you?  
Who will you tell?



## NEW BEGINNINGS (2)

“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.” - Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

### RECEIVING

How is someone made right with God? *Romans 10:9-10*

Is it possible to be saved by our own good works? How are we saved? *Ephesians 2:8-9*

What will happen to our earthly bodies? *1 Corinthians 15:42-44*

How did death come into the world? *1 Corinthians 15:21*

How did resurrection from the dead begin? *1 Corinthians 15:21-22*

Who saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead? *1 Corinthians 15:5-8*

What will happen to those who receive Christ? *1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Corinthians 4:14*

The physical resurrection of Christ from the dead and the subsequent resurrection of all who believe in Him is a foundational truth of the message of Jesus. Although God has many plans for the earth, and for each of us during our lives on this planet, our lives do not end when our bodies physically die. God desires all people to experience relationship with Him now... and for eternity.

What is Christ's resurrection the first of? *1 Corinthians 15:19-20*

## FORGIVENESS

What should we do when we realize we've sinned against God? *Psalm 32:5*

How does God respond when we confess our sin? *Psalm 32:5, 1 John 1:9*

How does God deal with our sin? *Psalm 103:12*

*Read Luke 7:36-50*

What was Jesus' attitude towards a woman who was a sinner?

According to this story, what do you think motivates us to love God?

Because God has forgiven us so much, how should we respond to those who have wronged or hurt us? *Luke 11:4*

## JESUS THE LEADER

When Jesus rose from the dead, God proved to the world who He is.

What does this scripture say about Jesus? *Philippians 2:9*

What does God command everyone, everywhere to do? *Acts 17:30-31*

What will every person ultimately do? *2 Corinthians 5:10*

Letting Jesus become our Lord—or Leader—is not about following a set of religious rules and traditions. Rather, letting Jesus become our Leader is a matter of the heart. This begins as a personal decision to give our heart to Him—our allegiance, our will, and our affection. Like Adam and Eve in the beginning, we must respond to God’s invitation to come out of hiding. Similar to the clothes God made for Adam and Eve through that first sacrifice, Jesus became God’s eternal sacrifice for all mankind to “clothe” us in righteousness, remove our sin and shame, and restore us to relationship with God.

How should we respond to Christ? *1 Peter 3:15*

According to Jesus, who will enter the kingdom of heaven? *Matthew 7:21-23*

*Read Luke 6:46-49* — How does Jesus describe the person who obeys what He says?

How does Jesus describe the person who does not obey what He says?

## REPENTANCE

Repentance does not mean “penance” or just being sorry about your past. Repentance comes from a word in Greek (metanoia) that literally means, “to change the way you think.” It is a mindset and heart change that allows you to return to God’s view of you. This “repentance” starts you on a journey of total transformation!

When Jesus came to earth, what was His message? *Matthew 4:17*

What happens when we repent? *Acts 3:19*

What leads us to repentance? *Romans 2:4*

What did Peter want everyone to know? *Acts 2:36*

What did Peter say they should do? *Acts 2:38*

Who was this promise for? *Acts 2:39*

## RELATIONSHIP

How did Jesus describe Himself? *John 14:6*

What is the only way a person can be restored to relationship with God the Father? *John 14:6*

We are made right with God by believing what Jesus Christ did for us through His death and resurrection. Jesus' sacrifice restored us to a personal, life-giving relationship with God Himself! We must choose to enter into this relationship by believing in Christ and giving Him the place of leadership in our lives. A relationship with Jesus is not just a commitment to "try to be a better person." This is a realization that we need a Savior—and we place our faith in Jesus as our Savior and Leader. When we do, we can begin to enjoy a lifelong relationship with our Creator and begin to live the life He intended for us. Through Jesus, our new life starts now... and will continue for all eternity.



### Make it Personal

Have you believed in Jesus' death and resurrection as God's one and only way to take away your sins and restore you to a close relationship with God?

Have you started the journey of following Jesus as the Leader of your life?

Do you know with confidence that your life has been restored to relationship with Father God through Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ not sure

Suppose God appeared to you and asked, "What did I (God) do to show you My ultimate and eternal love for you?" What would you say?

If you want to begin a relationship with God, let the following prayer be used as a guide to genuinely talk to God:

*Heavenly Father, I want the kind of relationship with You that only comes through Jesus. I acknowledge that the separation between us is because of sin. I thank you that You sent your Son, Jesus to become a sacrifice for my sin and restore my relationship with You. I believe He died on the cross for the sins of everyone in all the world. I believe that You raised Him from the dead. Today, I repent and believe upon Jesus. I ask you to forgive me, cleanse me, and restore my relationship with You. I receive Jesus as my Lord, Leader and Savior. I choose to love, follow and listen to You for the rest of my life. Thank You for forgiving me and transforming me through Your Holy Spirit. I am thankful that You will never leave me from this day forward. Lead me into the kind of life you have for me. In Jesus' name... Amen!*

## **A NEW BEGINNING ... A NEW LIFE!**

If you have received by faith what Jesus has done for you, the Bible promises that your old life has gone and your new life has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17) You are totally, 100-percent, completely forgiven. God sees you just like a proud dad on the day of his child's birth. You are ready to grow as his son or daughter!

Throughout the rest of this book (and the rest of your life!) you'll learn more about what life is like as God's child. Good dads spend time with their kids. Kids love spending time with their dads, too—learning from them, receiving and giving love, and growing as a child in their unique abilities. This is the kind of relationship you've started with God.

Congratulations!

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



# BAPTISM IN WATER & SPIRIT (3)

“Peter replied, ‘Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38 (NLT)

“I baptize with water those who turn from their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am. . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Matthew 3:11 (NLT)

## WATER BAPTISM

What happened to those who accepted Peter’s message? *Acts 2:41*

What did the men and women who believed Philip’s message do? *Acts 8:12*

Jesus told his disciples to go and make other disciples of all nations. What did he say to do with those disciples? *Matthew 28:19-20*

*Read Romans 6:1-7*

Paul compares baptism to the burial of an old, dead life that has passed away. When we’re baptized into Jesus, what power does God the Father now give us? *Romans 6:4*

What are we no longer “slaves” to? *Romans 6:6*

Paul also says baptism is like a circumcision, not done by human hands, but a spiritual circumcision done by Christ. What is “put off” during this spiritual circumcision?

*Colossians 2:11-12*

In baptism we publicly identify with what Christ did for us on the cross. God buries our old life and empowers us to begin a new life of following Jesus.

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.” - Acts 22:16



## Make it Personal

Have you been baptized in water since you received Jesus and began following Him? If not, would you like someone to baptize you in water?

### BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you become a follower of Christ, God wants to empower you through His Holy Spirit and give you spiritual gifts. These gifts are often given to a person when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

What did Peter say God would give to those who turn to Christ? *Acts 2:38*

What was the “promise of the Father” they were to receive? *Acts 1:4-5*

What did Jesus say His followers would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them? *Acts 1:8*

What does the prophet Ezekiel say about the Holy Spirit? *Ezekiel 36:26-27*

What should our faith not rest on? *1 Corinthians 2:5*

What should our faith rest on? *1 Corinthians 2:5*

What did Paul say about the Gospel that he preached? *1 Corinthians 2:4*

## GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us?

*John 14:26*

*John 16:13-14*

*Acts 1:8*

List some of the manifestations (gifts) of the Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

What does Paul say about the gift of prophecy? *1 Corinthians 14*

v. 3

v. 4

v. 32

v. 39

v. 40

What does Paul say about the gift of tongues? *1 Corinthians 14*

v. 2

v. 4

v. 14

v. 15

What attitude should we have regarding spiritual gifts? *1 Corinthians 14:1*

What should be the motivating force behind spiritual gifts? *1 Corinthians 13:1-2*

## FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What are the fruits the Holy Spirit will produce in our lives? *Galatians 5:22-23*

Which of these is the greatest? *1 Corinthians 13:13*

The Holy Spirit manifests God's character through us in both the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc) and the gifts of the Holy Spirit (healing, prophecy, tongues, etc). As His representatives on earth, we need to develop both.

## EXPERIENCING BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What did John the Baptist promise Jesus would do? *Matthew 3:11*

What did Jesus instruct his disciples to do after he ascended to heaven?  
*Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5*

Let's look at a few accounts in the book of Acts where people experienced the Holy Spirit. How did these people receive the Holy Spirit and what manifestations of the Spirit (if mentioned) occurred?

*Acts 2:1-6*

*Acts 8:14-19*

*Acts 9:17-19*

*Acts 10:44-46*

*Acts 19:1-6*

Who does the Father give the Holy Spirit to? *Luke 11:13*



## Make it Personal

What fruits of the Holy Spirit do you see God developing in your life at this time?

Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, would you like to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Have you experienced any gifts of the Holy Spirit? Which ones?

People often receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they simply ask for it. People also receive the Holy Spirit when another disciple of Jesus prays for them by placing their hands on them. You can pray right now, wherever you are: *“Father, you promise to give the Holy Spirit to all those who ask you. I want the power of your Holy Spirit in my life. I believe you want to give me gifts of the Holy Spirit and produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit in me. I eagerly desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I ask you right now, please baptize me in the Holy Spirit.”*

Wait on the Lord for a few moments. Focus on Jesus and God the Father’s love for you. If you feel something stirring inside you, just pray whatever comes out. It may be a song, a prophecy, tongues, or overwhelming praise and gratitude to God. You may feel something, or you may not. Sometimes, people will pray, then experience more tangible manifestations of the Holy Spirit later. Don’t be afraid—God will only give good gifts to His kids!



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



## GOD THE GOOD DAD (4)

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” - John 1:12 (NLT)

Imagine: A group of small children living in another country experience the tragedy of war and are separated from their parents. They grow up in an orphanage always wondering, “Who are my parents? Did they leave me on purpose? Are they still alive? Do they still want me?” The longing of every orphan’s heart is to be reunited with their parents and be welcomed into a loving family. Deep inside, each of us is like an orphan, longing to know the One who gave us life and be adopted into a spiritual family where there is safety, love, and a deep sense of belonging.

How does God see you? *Romans 8:16*

How does God want us to live? *Romans 8:15*

What does God want us to call Him? *Romans 8:15*

*Read Luke 15:11-32*

In what ways did each of the sons separate themselves from their father?

Which one of these sons do you relate to the most? Why?

What insights do you see about how people relate to God in this story?

Why did people want to kill Jesus? *John 5:16-18*

Who was Jesus’ model for His life and actions? *John 5:19-23*

What did God the Father say to Jesus before He did any earthly miracles that we know about?  
*Matthew 3:16-17*

Who was Jesus the first of? *Romans 8:29*

What happens to those who believe and accept Jesus? *John 1:10-13*

Before Jesus came to the earth, what were people enslaved to? *Galatians 4:3*

After someone receives Jesus, describe how their relationship with God changes.  
*Galatians 4:3-7*

## EARTHLY PARENTS

Knowing God as your Father is one of the most significant aspects of experiencing the kind of life God has for you. Our relationship with our earthly parents often affects our ability to relate to God as our Father. Let's look at some ways the Bible talks about parents and their children.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” - Proverbs 22:6

“Honor your father and mother.’ This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, ‘you will live a long life, full of blessing.’” - Ephesians 6:2-3 (NLT)

What aspects of your earthly father and mother (your biological or adopted parents) were honorable? List them here:

What blessing did God say would come as a result of honoring our parents? *Ephesians 6:3*

Even if you never knew your parents, or if they were not a godly reflection of parenting, you can still honor them because God used them to bring you into the world. There is a blessing that comes from honoring them in your heart.

Take a minute and pray right now:

*“God, thank you for giving me life through my parents. I honor them for..... (mention ways you can thank God for and honor your parents.)”*

Honoring our parents doesn't mean we overlook or ignore ways they may have fallen short—or ways they may have caused us pain and heartache.

How should parents treat their children? *Ephesians 6:4*

In what ways do you feel your parents may not have been a godly reflection of parenting?

In what ways have these affected you?

Our relationship with our parents is usually the first imprinted “picture” for how we relate to God. If our parents were distant, we tend to see God that way. If they tended to be overbearing, we tend to think God will treat us that way.

*Read Romans 8:28*

What does this verse say about how God will use the events of our life?

God is a good Father. He will use even the tragedies of our life to work together for good. He doesn't cause evil, but He WILL cause all things to work together for good for us.

We'll cover more about forgiveness in the following chapter. For now, talk to God as your Father. Release forgiveness to your parents for ways they may have fallen short. Pray the following prayer, and add your own words from your heart—whatever you want to talk to God about right now:

*“God, thank you for revealing to me that you are a good Father. I want to relate to you as my Father in heaven. I pray for my earthly parents. I honor them as my parents. I forgive them for ways they hurt me, fell short, or at times didn't model for me the way you want parents to love their children. I thank you for the ways they did model godliness for me. I pray that you bless them. Thank you for sending Jesus so I can be adopted as your child. I ask you to heal any wounds in my heart and help me relate to you and know you as my loving Father in heaven.”*



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



## BEING A DISCIPLE (5)

Christians go to heaven. Disciples bring heaven to earth.

Jesus came to earth. He healed the sick and set people free from demonic influences. He taught people how to love each other. He trained a group of disciples to continue His mission on the earth. He went to the cross. He rose again. Right before He ascends up to heaven, He leaves His disciples with some final words. These are known as “The Great Commission.”

Write out the Great Commission. *Matthew 28:18-20*

You are working through this book right now because Jesus’ disciples made other disciples who continued on to the present day in obedience to Jesus’ words. As reigning King, these are Jesus’ “standing orders” to all of us.

Where does Jesus have complete authority? *Matthew 28:18*

What did Jesus promise His disciples? *Matthew 28:20*

Being a disciple of Jesus and being a Christian should mean the same thing. Unfortunately, these words have sometimes evolved to mean very different things in people’s minds. This is particularly common in nations that have a history of Christian activity, but may need to rediscover the authenticity and power of Jesus. When someone refers to himself or herself as Christian only because of religious tradition, but has yet to experience a personal, life-giving relationship with Jesus, I sometimes call this a “Cultural Christian.”

In your own words, explore some possible differences between common cultural ideas of “being Christian” and being a disciple of Jesus. What might be some habits/stereotypes of Christians and habits/characteristics of disciples of Jesus?

Cultural Christian:

Disciple:

What did Jesus say was near? *Mark 1:15*

After becoming His disciple, what does Jesus promise He'll teach us to do? *Mark 1:17*

What must you do to become Jesus' disciple? *Matthew 16:24*

After becoming Jesus' disciple, what does He want us to do? *Matthew 28:19*

In your own words, write one-sentence defining what a disciple of Jesus is.

## A STARTING PLACE

When you have believed on Jesus and trusted Him as your Leader, it helps to have a basic starting place for how to “be a disciple.” Here are a few practices I’ve seen in the lives of every single person I’ve ever known who has a deep, fruitful, and lasting walk with God. There are other good habits you can adopt, but these are a good starting place!

## FIVE HABITS OF DISCIPLES:

- Spend time with God daily .....Chapter 6
- Love People .....Chapter 7
- Live Sexually Pure .....Chapter 8
- Gather with other Disciples (Church) .....Chapter 9
- Make Other Disciples .....Chapter 10

The good news is being a disciple is NOT dependent only on our self-effort. Here are four reasons:

1. The Holy Spirit helps us. He will give us power when we need it and help us change.
2. Relationship, not religion. Being a Disciple means growing in relationship with Jesus. It’s not about just following loads of new religious rules—it’s about following a person who we actually have a relationship with.
3. Forgiveness. When we stumble or make mistakes, Jesus promises He’s forgiven us. He stands in heaven, releasing forgiveness to us and grace to change.
4. We Have a Good Dad. God is a good Father who helps us get up when we fall. He’s the ultimate Dad.



## Make it Personal

Are you willing to develop these five habits as a disciple of Jesus (see page 27)?

Which of these five habits might be most challenging for you?

Pray about any areas that may be most challenging for you in being a disciple. Ask for God to help you adopt each of these habits. Remember, He is your Father in heaven and He will help you!

Write this prayer below:

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?

Over the next few chapters, we'll look deeper into the habits of disciples to help you develop them!



## HABIT #1

# SPENDING TIME WITH GOD (6)

“Spending time with God every day has been a foundation of my walk with Jesus since I started following Him during college. Whether I’m doing great, or whether I’m struggling, spending time daily with Jesus has transformed my life—and continues to do so to this day.” - Erik Fish

As we saw in the last chapter, the first habit of a disciple of Jesus is spending time with God daily. Let’s look at three ways to spend time with Him.

## 1. PRAYER

A life of prayer leads to a life of fruitfulness. Praying is one way of spending time with God.

When Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, He taught them some simple words people have used to connect with God through the centuries. These are known as “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Write “The Lord’s Prayer” below: *Matthew 6:8-13*

*Read Luke 11:5-10*

What lessons can you learn about prayer from this story?

*Read Luke 11:10-13*

What do these verses show you about God’s heart for us when we pray?

What did Jesus tell His disciples about prayer? *Luke 18:1*

What does the fervent prayer of a righteous person accomplish? *James 5:16*

What did Jesus tell His disciples prayer would help them do? *Matthew 26:40-41*

What habit did Jesus model when He prayed? *Mark 1:35*

When we pray, what mindset should we have? *Mark 11:22-24*

What did Jesus command us to do when we are praying? *Mark 11:25*

What did Jesus say we should pray for? *Luke 10:2*

When we don't know how or what to pray, what does the Holy Spirit do for us? *Romans 8:26*

## 2. WORD

A second way of spending time with God is by interacting with His Word—He reveals His Word to us through the Scriptures.

How did God first create light? *Genesis 1:3*

What does this tell you about God's Word?

From the beginning of the world, we see that God's Word has the power to create. When we honor and absorb God's Word within us, it has the same power to bring transformation to us.

What characteristics describe the Word of God? *Hebrews 4:12*

When Jesus was tempted by Satan, what did He use to resist Him? *Matthew 4:1-11*

What did God tell Joshua to do with His words? *Joshua 1:8*

Psalms 119 gives several examples of the power of God's word. We'll look at some of them.

What characteristic marks those who follow God's words? *Psalms 119:1-2*

How can a young person keep his way pure? *Psalms 119:9*

What helps us not to sin? *Psalms 119:11*

Where is happiness found? *Psalms 119:35*

How can we walk in freedom? *Psalms 119:45*

How should we value God's word to us? *Psalms 119:72*

Where can we place our hope? *Psalms 119:74*

What do God's commandments give us? *Psalms 119:93*

How does God's word help us with our enemies? *Psalms 119:98*

Write *Psalms 119:105* below:

What does the teaching of God's word bring? *Psalms 119:130*

When we discover God's word, what is it like? *Psalms 119:162*

### 3. WORSHIP

Worshipping God is another way to spend time with Him. Since sin first entered the world, opposing spiritual forces have vied for the attention and worship of men. All people were created with an innate need to worship. You will worship something. Some people worship idols, sex, knowledge, or even themselves. God calls us to worship only Him.

Worship is setting our mind's attention and heart's affection on God. The Bible is full of examples of men and women who experienced closeness with God during times of worship. Today, God is ready to meet with us anytime we come to Him in worship.

Early in human history, what did people start to do? *Genesis 4:26*

What else did early humans start to do? *Romans 1:21-23*

*Read Genesis 28:10-22*

How did Jacob worship God? *Genesis 28:20-22*

When God's people were enslaved in Egypt, God acted powerfully on their behalf to set them free. What did God want His people to be able to do? *Exodus 7:16*

What should we not worship?

*Deuteronomy 4:19*

*Deuteronomy 5:8-9*

What should we be careful to remember? *2 Kings 17:38-39*

What do the angels in heaven do? *Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:6*

We can worship God in almost countless ways. List a few examples of ways people worshiped God in the scriptures.

*Psalm 30:4*

*Psalm 33:2-3*

*Acts 13:2*

*I Timothy 2:8*

*I Corinthians 14:15*

*Colossians 3:16*

What will those who truly worship God experience? *Psalm 89:15*

What is another practical way to worship God in everyday life? *Romans 12:1-2*

How should we worship the Lord? *Psalm 100:2*

At the end of history, what will people all over the world do? *Isaiah 2:2*

When Jesus was born, what did the wise men come to do? *Matthew 2:2*

What did the disciples do when they realized who Jesus was? *Matthew 14:33*

What is God the Father looking for? *John 4:23-24*

How should we worship Jesus? *I Peter 3:15*

## **ACTION**

### **Things To Do When Spending Time with God: Prayer, Word, and Worship**

When you spend time with God, you want to do anything that helps connect you with God personally, getting inspiration and direction from Him. These are just a sample to help you get started—develop your own creative ways to spend time with God!

## **PRAYER**

Pray the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:8-13). Focus on each word and pray them meaningfully from your heart to God. Now spend a few minutes praying in the Spirit or just praying simple prayers to God. As you start to pray, what changes do you notice in your mind and emotions? Are you more aware of God's closeness? It's okay if you don't notice any changes right away—keep trying.

## **WORD**

Find some scriptures from the Bible that inspire you. If you don't know where to start, try reading John 15:1-5. Read the verses a couple times then write down any thoughts you have that give you insight for your life. This is a simple way of interacting with God's word anytime.

Write out the scripture you chose:

Write any thoughts you feel God speaking to YOU from that scripture:

## WORSHIP

Express affection for God. Focus on God's presence wherever you are. Sometimes singing a song is a good way to do this. If you don't know a song, try to make up your own words, telling God your love and affection for Him. Any tune will do—all heartfelt worship sounds wonderful to God! You can also try using these words as a guide:

*Father in heaven, I worship You... Jesus, my Savior, I love You... Holy Spirit, I need You...  
I welcome you here... I welcome you here.*

Remember: Worship doesn't just have to be singing or music. Worship is setting your affection on something so deeply that the object of your adoration fills your mind and emotions. Worship God!

What other ways of worship might you create to connect with God?

A great practice for spending meaningful time with God is to keep a journal. Write in it daily. Write your thoughts, your prayers, your dreams, pictures, or anything the Holy Spirit tells you or shows you through God's Word.



## Make it Personal

Will you set aside time daily to spend with God?

What time of your day will you plan to set aside to spend time with God?

What other things might you do to spend time with God?

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



## HABIT #2

# LOVE & FORGIVENESS (7)

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” - John 13:35 (NLT)

## RELATIONSHIPS

The second habit of a disciple is learning to walk in love for others. More than any earthly possession, our relationships are the most valuable asset we have. Rich relationships make life meaningful. It's no wonder Satan attacks our relationships so constantly. A simple overview of human history is testament to how hatred, selfishness, and violence have ravaged human relationships, causing millennia of suffering and tragedy. A walk with Jesus is a walk into the kind of relationships He wants to flourish in the earth—between individuals, families, and entire nations.

How should we talk to each other? *Ephesians 4:25*

When we feel anger, how should we respond? *Ephesians 4:26*

What does unresolved anger open a door for? *Ephesians 4:27*

How should we use our words to affect others? *Ephesians 4:29*

How should we treat each other?

*Ephesians 4:31-32*

*Matthew 7:12*

When someone we have a relationship with has hurt or offended us, how should we respond? List the three things Jesus said to do in order to work hard at preserving our relationships. *Matthew 18:15-17*

1.

2.

3.

How should we treat another follower of Jesus who has been overcome by some sin? *Galatians 6:1*

## LOVE

What was Jesus' command to His disciples? *John 15:12*

What is the greatest form of love we can show? *John 15:13*

How did God show His love to the world? *John 3:16; Romans 5:8*

What is our example of how we should love? *Ephesians 5:2*

Who is our example for how we should love others? *Ephesians 5:2*

How should we love God? *Deuteronomy 6:5*

What command did God give us about brothers and sisters in Christ? *I John 4:20-21*

How should we view our enemies? *Matthew 5:44*

What was Jesus' command to us about love? *John 13:34*

*Read I Corinthians 12:31-14:1*

What does this teach us about spiritual gifts and love?

I Corinthians 13 is sometimes called the "Love Chapter" of the Bible. Write a prayer to God below for aspects of love you want Him to help you develop in your life.

## FORGIVENESS

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

- Jesus, *Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)*

Jesus teaches some radical things. One of the more challenging teachings of Jesus is His command for us to forgive those who have wounded us. Jesus’ commands in this area are key for experiencing healing and transformation in our lives. Forgiveness is key for experiencing freedom to love like God loves us.

Have you ever heard the old saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me?” Nothing could be further from the truth. Sometimes emotional wounds can be just as damaging as physical injury. Whether people have harmed you physically, emotionally, or both—identifying places where you’ve been wounded and releasing forgiveness is key for experiencing healing, freedom, and life transformation.

“Forgiveness is to set a prisoner free, and to realize the prisoner was you.”

- Corrie Ten Boom, Christian survivor of a Nazi concentration camp

Releasing forgiveness can be challenging, but the Holy Spirit is here to help. He is our comforter and He cares about us. Stop right now and pray this prayer:

*“Father, I pray for comfort from the Holy Spirit as I identify places in my life where people have wounded me. Gently show me these places and give me courage to face these and release forgiveness.”*

Forgiveness is a major theme found throughout all of the scriptures. It’s a key reason God sent Jesus to earth—to bring forgiveness to us! We’ll see that experiencing God’s forgiveness brings with it a clear expectation that we extend the same kind of forgiveness to those around us.

*Read the prayer Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13*

How are we supposed to ask God to forgive us for our wrongs? *Matthew 6:12*

What did Jesus say would happen if we don’t forgive those who have sinned against us?

*Matthew 6:14-15*

How often are we supposed to forgive those who have wronged us? *Matthew 18:21-22*

Forgiveness is not glossing over the wrongs people do or denying that their actions were harmful. Forgiveness also does not require us to continually subject ourselves to abusive situations. Forgiveness is taking care of the bitterness, judgment, pain, and sin that resulted inside us from others' wrongful actions.

On what basis does God forgive us? *Isaiah 53:6*

*Read Matthew 18:23-35*

How did the king treat the servant who owed him many debts? *Matthew 18:27*

How did the servant treat another fellow servant who owed him money?

*Matthew 18:28-30*

How did the king respond when he heard about the servant's actions? *Matthew 18:31-35*

Forgiving people who have wronged you doesn't always mean you will be healed instantly of every emotional or mental wound they caused you. What forgiveness DOES do is allow you to begin healing, so that those injuries don't inhibit you from moving forward in love and wholeness. When we don't forgive, the hurt lingers like an infection after a wound. Forgiveness is like opening the wound and removing the infection so you can heal.

When Jesus was on the cross, people were mocking him and tormenting Him. What did He ask God to do? *Luke 23:34*

Another way to think about forgiveness is the analogy of a jail cell. Has someone ever said or done something that hurt you, then you thought about it for hours on end (or perhaps for years)? When this happens, their action continues to influence you in negative ways. When someone says or does something that hurts us, it's like we get trapped in a jail cell—under the power and control of their wrongful action.



In the picture, notice who is holding the keys—the person who was wronged. You have the power to set yourself free through the power of forgiveness. When you forgive someone, you choose to NO LONGER let that action have control over you. You become responsible for your own freedom.

God commands us to forgive for at least three reasons:

1. Because God forgave us through Christ, He wants us to show that forgiveness to others—even when they wrong us.
2. Because he wants to set US free from the bondage and pain of someone's hurtful actions. Unforgiveness only magnifies the torment of someone's' wrongful actions to us.
3. Because God values relationships. It is impossible to have healthy relationships without learning to forgive and working out conflicts.

Who do you need to forgive for wrongful words or actions that have hurt you?

List them below. *Use another sheet of paper if you need to.*

## 5 STEPS TO FORGIVENESS

Use this guide to help you pray through your list of people you need to forgive.

1. Identify the harmful actions/words they did/said.
2. Identify how their actions affected you.
3. Ask God's forgiveness for holding bitterness and unforgiveness against them.
4. Release forgiveness to them. Say out loud, "I forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."
5. Ask God to comfort you and help you move forward in freedom from their past actions.

## ASKING FORGIVENESS

It's not necessary for someone to realize they were wrong for YOU to forgive them. However, as followers of Christ, we do have a responsibility to help people heal by seeking out forgiveness whenever we realize it is US who has done something wrongful to another person.

*Read Matthew 5:23-24*

If you're about to worship God and remember you have wronged someone, what should you do?

Are there people you need to ask forgiveness from because of wrongful words or actions you did that harmed them? Don't think about reasons to justify your action (eg: "They hurt me first.") They may have done wrong also. The point is to focus on your own actions and take responsibility for how you contributed to causing someone harm or offense. It may help that person to heal if you ask them to forgive you for your wrong.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anyone you may need to ask for forgiveness. List them here.

What actions will you take to seek these people's forgiveness?



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



### HABIT #3

# SEXUAL REVOLUTION (8)

“Let [your bodies] be a living and holy sacrifice... This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” - Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

A third habit of disciples is allowing God to heal, restore, and lead us in our sexuality. Our sexuality is an important dimension of how God made us. Unfortunately, the area of our sexuality is a place where the enemy (satan) has worked to create a great deal of confusion, pain and suffering in the world. No matter what you’ve experienced in the past in the area of your sexuality, God has a good future ahead for you as you discover God’s healing, His love, and His plans for you.

Who was made in the image of God? *Genesis 1:26-27*

In the beginning, in what kind of relationship did God command and bless a sexual relationship? *Genesis 2:18-25*

How should we view marriage between a man and woman? *Hebrews 13:4*

Who did God create to have an intimate sexual relationship? *Ephesians 5:31*

What does the sexual and spiritual union between a husband and wife illustrate? *Ephesians 5:32*

How should a husband and wife treat each other?

*Ephesians 5:25-28*

*Ephesians 5:33*

In the union of a man and woman in marriage two distinct characteristics of God’s nature come together. This is just one reason why a sexual relationship solely in the expression of marriage is vital to God’s purposes for our lives and the world.

Sexual intimacy is not just a physical action; it also has deeply spiritual implications. Sex was designed for pleasure, for procreation, and to express a sacred aspect of God's nature. Sex within a lifelong, sacred commitment between a husband and wife is a beautiful, powerful reflection of God's character.

How should we treat the opposite sex? *1 Timothy 5:2*

What happens spiritually when two people have sex? *1 Corinthians 6:16-17*

When we are joined to the Lord, what happens in our spirit? *1 Corinthians 6:17*

“Sexual Immorality” is any sexual act outside of God's boundaries. How should we respond to the temptation of sexual immorality? *1 Corinthians 6:18*

Who should we share sexual intimacy with? *Proverbs 5:15-16*

Who were our bodies made for? *Romans 6:13*

What is our body a temple for? *1 Corinthians 6:19*

What kinds of lifestyles prevent people from inheriting the Kingdom of God? *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

How did Jesus define “adultery”? *Matthew 5:27-28*

What did Jesus say about divorce? *Matthew 5:31-32*

What happens to those who have been deeply entrenched in lifestyles of sin who believe upon and start following Jesus? *1 Corinthians 6:11*

*Read John 8:1-11*

What did the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees want to do to the woman?

How did Jesus treat the woman?

From the example of Jesus, how should we view people trapped in a lifestyle of sexual sin?

## HEALING AND DEALING WITH PAST SEXUAL SIN

Few people are unaffected by sexual sins. Whether you were a victim of harmful sexual actions from others (sexual abuse), sexual actions you participated in that hurt others, past consensual sexual relationships you've had (both heterosexual and homosexual), or just internalized fantasies—God can and will bring forgiveness and healing. Regardless of your sexual past, God wants to give you a beautiful future of healthy sexuality and pure, fulfilling, loving relationships.

What past sexual sins/relationships do you need to receive Jesus' forgiveness for?

*Write all you can think of here, or make a note about them and discuss them privately with the person going through this book with you.*

The definition of sexual abuse is: "Taking what you want sexually at the expense of someone else." What past sexual sins from others have hurt you? *Again, write them here or make a note to discuss them privately with the person going through this book with you later.*

If you haven't done so, refer back to page 40 for releasing forgiveness to these people. Your healing may be quick or it may be gradual—but forgiveness jump-starts the process.

Use this prayer as a guide. Pray it out loud right now:

*“God, I realize you made me a sexual being. I see how much the world has tainted this beautiful aspect of how you made our bodies. Please forgive me for my past sexual sins. Heal me from the damage these caused to me and to others. I thank you that your sacrifice on the cross completely provides for my forgiveness and wholeness. I also release forgiveness to those who have harmed me sexually. I pray you would restore my sexual purity and begin to bring me into healthy, loving relationships that are honoring to you.”*

Remember, the blood of Jesus and the love of God are the most powerful forces in the universe. No matter what your past is like, you are a new creation in Christ and He has good plans for your future.

What are some of the biggest challenges you're facing right now in following Jesus in the area of your sexuality?



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



## HABIT #4

# GATHER WITH OTHER DISCIPLES (9)

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals... and to prayer.” - Acts 2:42 (NLT)

## GATHERING TOGETHER

The fourth habit of a disciple is gathering with other disciples regularly. Every week, all across the world, disciples of Jesus gather together to worship God, love each other, and seek God’s will for their city. This is often called “church.”

The word, “church” that Jesus used in the Greek language was “Ekklesia.” It literally means, “Those called out to rule.” This gives new meaning to the word church. Together, we are called to demonstrate the authority of Jesus in the earth!

Throughout history, God has used many different expressions of the church in different cultures. Some meet in beautiful buildings, some meet in homes, some meet on the streets or in the public square of their village. Where they meet and the cultural style of their worship is not important. What matters most is that disciples are made who love each other and seek God’s will for their family, city, campus, or nation.

## THE CHURCH

At its most basic form, a church is a group of disciples who follow Jesus together, wherever they are. This chapter is a brief look at some of the basic characteristics of the church and what groups of disciples who gather together can look like.

*Read Matthew 16:13-19*

How does someone discover who Jesus really is? *Matthew 16:17*

Based on that “rock” of revelation, what does Jesus do?

Who builds the church? *Matthew 16:18*

What did the first disciples devote to as they gathered together? *Acts 2:42*

Briefly describe the early lifestyle of the disciples as they gathered together after Jesus' resurrection. *Acts 2:43-47*

Comment on the generosity of the early church. *Acts 4:32-37*

What does Paul call the people of God as they follow Jesus together? *1 Corinthians 12:27*

As disciples of Jesus, what should we not neglect? *Hebrews 10:25*

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

Disciples of Jesus are called to re-present Jesus to the world. Together, we are His body!

List some of the different parts of the Body of Christ. *1 Corinthians 12:28*

What does Paul say about the importance of each part of the Body of Christ?  
*1 Corinthians 12:14-20*

What does Paul say to those who think they do not need the rest of the Body?  
*1 Corinthians 12:21*

How should the parts of the Body treat each other? *1 Corinthians 12:25-26*

What did Jesus pray for His followers on the night before He was crucified? *John 17:20-21*

What are some leadership roles God gave as gifts to the church? *Ephesians 4:11*

What is the purpose of these particular leadership gifts? *Ephesians 4:12-13*

How is the Body of Christ joined and held together? *Ephesians 4:16*

How should we treat spiritual leaders who help us grow as disciples?

*Hebrews 13:7*

*Hebrews 13:17*

Comment on how leadership looks for followers of Jesus.

*Luke 22:24-27*

*John 13:1-17*

## WHERE CHURCHES GATHER TOGETHER

As we walk with Jesus, the church grows! Every disciple of Jesus should gather with other disciples regularly in order to help the body of Christ grow wherever you are. We are members of a local expression of Christ's body (our closest relationships with those we follow Jesus with) and we are members of the global body of Christ. We need each other! Let's look at some examples of how and where new churches grew in the Bible.

Where did the first disciples gather together as a church after Jesus' resurrection? *Acts 2:46*

Where did Peter go to bring the message of Jesus to Cornelius and his family and friends? *Acts 10:28-29*

What happened when he did? *Acts 10:44-48*

Where did Paul and Barnabas first tell people about Jesus? *Acts 13:5*

What happened when Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe? *Acts 14:21*

After they traveled to new towns making disciples, what did they do next? *Acts 14:21-23*

Where did Paul gather with other disciples in Troas? *Acts 20:7-12*

From these examples, what was the starting point for new churches?

From these examples, where is it appropriate for churches to start?

Based on these previous scriptures, write in your own words your understanding of “What is church?”

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GATHER

### Letting God Grow the Church Around You

Many new disciples of Jesus who are not already connected to a church discover God can start a new church among their friends or family. When churches are just starting, we sometimes call this a “simple church.”

### What Happens at a Simple Church?

Whether you are leading other friends to Jesus, or you’re already connected with a group of disciples who are following Jesus, here is a simple template for what you might do when you gather together as a simple church.

## WORD, WORSHIP, AND FELLOWSHIP (WWF)

### Word

Spend time reading and interacting together with God’s word. A good place to start is reading through stories of Jesus together, found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If people don’t have Bibles, print the story on paper for everyone to read. When you read one of the stories about Jesus (or other scripture), discuss together:

- What does this tell us about Jesus?
- What does this tell us about people?
- How can I apply this to my life?

### **Worship and Prayer**

Spend time worshipping God and praying together. Remember, worship is simply setting your mind's attention and heart's affection on God. You can do this by singing songs together. You can also play a worship CD, or simply take turns saying out loud something like, "Jesus, You are ....."

- Spend some time praying to God for each other.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit and be sensitive to His leading. Remember to pray specifically for others you know who don't yet follow Jesus. (See Luke 10:2) This helps keep the focus of the church not only inward, but also outward.

### **Fellowship & Communion**

Share a meal, coffee, etc. and talk about how God is working in your life, struggles you are having, and ways you are celebrating answered prayers. As you fellowship, take a few moments to remember Jesus through a simple ceremony He taught His disciples, sometimes called "communion."

Read Luke 22:14-20

Why did Jesus tell us to do this ceremony with food and drink together? *Luke 22:19*

What does the bread represent? *Luke 22:19*

What does the wine represent? *Luke 22:20*

### **ACTION**

Take communion this week, either alone or with some friends. I believe it's okay if they're not yet believers. Tell them the purpose of this ceremony and ask them if they want to remember Jesus with you.

- Find a piece of bread, a cracker, or other item to represent Jesus' body. Find some juice to represent His blood.
- Read Luke 22:19-20
- Take the bread and juice and spend a few moments talking with Jesus.

What did you find to celebrate and remember Jesus with?

Describe in your own words how you encountered Jesus during this time.



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



## HABIT #5

# MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES (10)

“Go into all the world and make disciples...”- Jesus, *Matthew 28*

The fifth habit of a disciple is making other disciples. No matter how far along you are in your walk with Jesus, as His disciple you can start to bring others to Jesus—you probably already have!

What did Jesus say He would cause His disciples to become as they followed Him?

*Matthew 4:18-20*

What should we always be ready to do? *2 Timothy 4:2*

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do? *Acts 10:42*

How did Jesus treat sinners? *Mark 2:13-17*

How did Jesus respond when His disciples wanted to show vengeance to people who didn't welcome Jesus? *Luke 9:51-56*

*Read Mark 5:1-20*

What did Jesus tell the demon-possessed man to do after he was set free?

What did Jesus say would result from disciples' lives? *John 15:8*

What is a secret for being very fruitful? *John 15:5*

*Read Matthew 25:14-30*

What insights from this story do you see?

What did Paul tell his disciple Timothy? *2 Timothy 2:2*

What were Jesus' final words to His disciples? *Matthew 28:19-20*

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples obeyed Jesus' words to start making disciples. The Book of Acts is the story of how the Holy Spirit worked powerfully through them as they did. I highly recommend you read through the entire book of Acts to get a feel for the life of the early disciples as they continued Jesus' mission. We'll look at just a few of those stories from Acts here.

Where did Jesus say His disciples would be His witness when they received power from the Holy Spirit? *Acts 1:8*

What three things did Peter tell the crowd they should do when they heard the Good News of Jesus? *Acts 2:36-38*

Who was this promise for? *Acts 2:39*

What else did Peter urge them to be saved from? *Acts 2:40*

What happened as a result of Peter telling these people the Good News of Jesus? *Acts 2:41*

What happened as these new disciples began to "do life" together? *Acts 2:42*

Notice the pattern for making disciples in the New Testament. Followers of Jesus tell others about Jesus. New believers are added to a group of disciples or form into new groups that love each other and learn to grow as disciples of Jesus. The pattern continues. This is the life of making disciples!

*Read Acts 8:26-40*

What did Philip use the Scriptures for with the Ethiopian? *Acts 8:35*

What did Philip do next? *Acts 8:36-38*

What did Philip do after he baptized the Ethiopian? *Acts 8:40*

When the disciples of Jesus in Antioch were praying together, what did the Holy Spirit tell them? *Acts 13:2*

What did they do next? *Acts 13:3*

When they were sent out to new cities, how did some of the people who had never heard about Jesus before respond? *Acts 13:48-49*

How did others respond? *Acts 16:16-23*

How did God use this persecution in the city of Philippi? *Acts 16:24-40*

What did the Lord often do as they traveled and made disciples in new places? *Acts 14:3*

Most of the stories in the Book of Acts were the result of sending out teams to make disciples in new cities, just as Jesus commanded. Many of the letters written in the rest of the New Testament were letters written back to these young churches of disciples that were growing in various cities. Could God write new stories like those in the book of Acts through your life? Absolutely!

The fact that you are taking the time to go through this Disciple guide shows that you are well on your way. The following are a few simple exercises to give you some practical steps to remember as you engage others with the Good News of Jesus.

## FISHING FOR PEOPLE

A great way to start “fishing for people” is pretty easy—talk with them!

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

### Remember S.A.L.T.

**(S) Start a Conversation.** Simply meet people or start conversations with your friends. For goodness sake, be normal. People are just people, no matter how lost or spiritually confused they are.

**(A) Ask Questions.** Get to know them. To turn the conversation toward God, ask a few simple questions. A great starter question is, “Have you ever had any experiences with Jesus?” or “Do you have any areas of your life where you need a miracle?”

**(L) Listen.** People don’t care what you know until they know you care. People are almost always more willing to listen to you when you’ve taken the time to listen to them.

**(T) Tell your Story.** Ask, “Can I tell you about my experience with God?” Tell your story in a few minutes in simple, non-religious language. DO NOT focus just on external behavior changes. Focus on Jesus and how a relationship with Him has changed your life. If they need a physical miracle, pray for them.

Always be ready to tell your personal story of how Jesus has influenced your life.

### Three Parts of Your Personal Story with Jesus:

1. Tell what your life was like before you began a relationship with Jesus.
2. Tell how you came to believe in and follow Jesus.
3. Tell what difference Jesus has made in your life.

Write your personal story with Jesus, using these three parts to your story as a guide.  
*Use another piece of paper if you need to.*

**ACTION**

Make a list of at least 10 people you know who aren't following Jesus yet. Start praying for these people to meet Jesus and become disciples.

List these people here:

Use the S.A.L.T. tool to start a conversation and share your personal story with Jesus with at least one person this week. Pray for them in person, if possible.

Describe how this encounter went:

What did you learn about how God is working in them? What are next steps you might take to continue loving them and invite them to follow Jesus with you?

When someone you're talking to wants to become a follower of Jesus, what would you tell them? *See Acts 2:38*

If five of your friends started following Jesus with you, what would be the first things you might do to help them grow as disciples? *Hint: Check back to page 27 on "Habits of a Disciple."*

**Make it Personal**

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



# HEALING, SIGNS, & WONDERS (11)

## LIVING A NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIFE

“These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

- Mark 16:17-18

Supernatural. What comes to mind when you hear this word? If anyone ever lived a supernatural life, it was Jesus. From birth, to death, to resurrection, Jesus was a living example of God’s power in the earth. For His followers, Jesus wants to teach us to live like He did. Here’s a key to a life of miracles: living a supernatural life is a process you can learn and grow into as you follow Jesus. As His followers, we learn to believe, even when circumstances say there’s no possible way. We contend for healing. We release people from demonic forces that keep them bound. We set people free to live a life of love, righteousness, peace and joy in His kingdom. We teach others to follow this great King Jesus who paved the way before us.

The world needs miracles. Jesus did a lot of them. He said we could do them, too, in His name. One cool thing about Jesus was He seemed just as comfortable in the Temple as He was at a party. This chapter will look at a few stories and principles about living a naturally supernatural life like Jesus did.

### HEALING THE SICK

What did Jesus do as He traveled to different places? *Matthew 4:23-24*

What motivated Jesus to heal the sick? *Mark 1:41*

What did Jesus do for the dad whose son was sick? *John 4:46-54*

*Read John 5:1-17*

What did Jesus ask the paralyzed man? *John 5:6*

What did Jesus tell him to do and what happened when he obeyed? *John 5:8-9*

What did Jesus do in the temple for the man with a deformed hand? *Mark 3:1-6*

What do you see about Jesus' willingness to heal? *Matthew 8:3*

What did Jesus tell His followers to do when He sent them to visit other towns?  
*Matthew 10:7-8*

*Read Hebrews 13:8.* From this verse, what do you conclude about how God feels about healing compared to when Jesus walked the earth?

Whether "saint" or "sinner," Jesus never said "No" to anyone who came to Him to be healed. He always said, "Yes!"

After Jesus was raised from the dead, what did Peter tell the man who couldn't walk?  
*Acts 3:1-10*

What did Peter do next? *Acts 3:7*

What did the previously lame man do? *Acts 3:8*

*Read Acts 8:4-8*

Why did the crowds in Samaria listen intently to Philip? *Acts 8:6*

What kinds of miracles occurred? *Acts 8:7*

What was present in that city because of what happened? *Acts 8:8*

After Saul became a follower of Jesus, what happened when Ananias prayed for him?  
*Acts 9:17-18*

(Note: Saul later was renamed Paul. The Holy Spirit used him to spread the gospel and start churches all over the known world in the first century. Many of the books of the New Testament were letters from Paul to young churches in various cities.)

What did Paul realize about the man who was crippled? What happened next? *Acts 14:8-10*

## CASTING OUT DEMONS

Why couldn't this particular man speak? *Matthew 9:32-33*

What did Jesus do to the demon and what happened next? *Matthew 9:33*

According to Jesus, what caused this particular boy to be unable to speak or hear? *Mark 9:25-27*

What did Jesus say was a sign that the Kingdom of God has come on the earth? *Matthew 12:28*

What happened to people afflicted by evil spirits and sick people in Ephesus? *Acts 19:11-12*

## WEATHER AND OTHER ODDITIES

*Read Matthew 8:23-27*

How did the disciples respond when bad weather threatened their safety? *Matthew 8:25*

What did Jesus say to them? *Matthew 8:26*

*Read Matthew 14:22-33*

How did Jesus get out to the boat? *Matthew 14:25*

How did Peter respond? *Matthew 14:27-30*

What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to learn from this experience? *Matthew 14:31*

## FAITH MATTERS

*Read Luke 8:43-48*

According to Jesus, what healed the woman?

What can you learn from her example?

What do you think was different about this woman's touch, compared to all the other people crowding around Jesus?

How did unbelief affect Jesus' ministry in Nazareth? *Mark 6:5-6*

How did the blind man respond when people criticized him for calling out to Jesus?  
*Mark 10:46-52*

What did Jesus say brought healing to the blind man? *Mark 10:52*

*Read Mark 9:14-27*

What did Jesus say was necessary for anything to become possible?

I've noticed the more I pray for people, the more things happen. I've prayed for many people who experienced immediate physical results. I've also prayed for many who didn't. I've cast out demons, and other times people did not get free right away. Regardless of the results, our responsibility is to walk in love for people and continue to believe God's words to us about bringing freedom to a world where people are afflicted by sickness and dark forces. We should never become critical of ourselves or others if we don't experience these kinds of miracles right away.

God is the Healer. He wants us to move in miracles. Walk in love, trust God, and keep trying!

From these verses so far, what are you learning about healing and miracles? About following Jesus—setting people free like He did?

What did Jesus say anyone who believes in Him would do? *John 14:12*

From this verse, what is a key to a life of fruitfulness with God? *John 15:5*

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do after He was raised from the dead? *Mark 16:15*

What did Jesus say people who believed in Him would do? *Mark 16:17*

## **ACTION**

Look for at least one person who is sick or injured this week, or perhaps going through a difficult time. Ask if you can pray for them. Pray for them right then to be healed in Jesus' name (or whatever they need). Remember, don't worry about failure. A lifestyle of living in Jesus' power is something that can grow with practice.



## Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



# GOD'S GLOBAL PLAN (12)

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” - Habakkuk 2:14

We've looked at God's plans for you as His child. But does God have a plan for the whole world? Through this chapter, you'll discover God does indeed have a plan for the entire planet—and He will accomplish it through us, His people. You need not wait until you're older to be involved— no matter your age or background, as Jesus' disciple, you can be part of this global plan right now, right where you live.

“The young people of our day should seek to evangelize the world because it is essential to their own best life. If all men need Christ, and if we owe a knowledge of Christ to all men, manifestly it is our duty to take that knowledge to them...The young people's movements of our day... need nothing so much as some mighty objective to call out the best energies of mind and heart. We find precisely such an objective in the sublime enterprise of filling the earth with a knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the deep.” - John R. Mott, 1901

## GOD'S GLOBAL PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING

Early in human history, what was God's plan for people? *Genesis 1:28*

What is God's plan for the nations? *Psalms 86:9*

What did God want all nations to know as a result of His actions toward ancient Israel?  
*Ezekiel 36:22-23*

What did God tell Noah after the flood? *Genesis 9:1*

Abraham was one of the early followers of God in human history, considered to be a forefather to Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. God promised He would one day bless all the families on earth through Abraham's lineage—fulfilled by the coming Messiah, Jesus.

What did God say He would do for all the families on earth through Abraham? *Genesis 12:1-3*

King David was a mighty king in the nation of Israel, whose life God referred to several times when speaking about the greatest King who would one day come to earth and rule all nations. (Note: “Gentiles” refers to all other people groups beyond Israel.)

*Read Romans 15:9-12*

From these verses, why did Jesus come? *v.9*

Who is the “heir to David’s throne”? *v. 12*

How will all nations eventually view this King? *v. 12*

In Daniel’s vision, when the “Son of Man’s” kingdom came, what did it do to all the other kingdoms? *Daniel 7:1-29*

The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah (Jesus) would not stop His advance until what happens? *Isaiah 42:4*

What does the scripture say about distant lands who had never heard of God’s instructions? *Isaiah 42:4*

What would Jesus become both to Israel and to all nations? *Isaiah 42:6*

What did the Lord ask in *Isaiah 6:8*?

How did Isaiah respond? *Isaiah 6:8*

What did Jesus say to do in *Mark 16:15-16*?

What is our responsibility and assignment from Jesus? *Matthew 28:18-20*

What did Jesus say would happen before the end would come? *Matthew 24:14*

What did the prophet in Habakkuk say would happen over the whole earth in the future?  
*Habakkuk 2:14*

What task has God given us? *2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

What did Jesus say about the "harvest"? *Matthew 9:36*

What is the "harvest"?

Who does God want to be saved? *1 Timothy 2:4*

The book of Revelation is a highly prophetic book that often speaks of what would happen as God's plan for human history is fulfilled on earth and in heaven.

What did loud voices shout in heaven after the seventh angel blew his trumpet? *Revelation 11:15*

What kinds of people were listed among the great crowd worshiping God in *Revelation 7:9*?

What did Jesus' sacrifice accomplish? *Revelation 5:9-10*

## THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD

Today on our planet, there are approximately 16,750 people groups. Of these, almost 7,000 are considered “unreached” (meaning they do not yet have an indigenous group of Jesus followers functioning among them). Other places where Christian influence once thrived are now in vital need for new movements of the gospel. Is God calling you to the nations? YES—He already has! Are there pockets of unreached people in your city or on your campus? Chances are, the world may be right at your doorstep.

Whether you one day travel to a people group who has never heard of Jesus, whether you help others go, or whether you start making disciples right where you are, we all share the call from Jesus to see disciples made of every nation on earth.



### Make it Personal

What insights for your life have you gained from this section?



Who else could benefit by hearing what God is showing you? Who will you tell?



Who do you know who would benefit from going through this book with you?  
Go make disciples!

*For more copies of DISCIPLE, email [info@scpx.org](mailto:info@scpx.org)  
or order directly at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)*

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erik is a husband, father, and a discipler to young leaders who dare to dream God's dream for planet earth. He has been following Jesus for sixteen years, since a dramatic encounter with the Lord while a university student. He carries a deep passion for equipping people with innovative, grassroots strategies for multiplying movements of the gospel.

In 2008, Erik co-founded SCPX (Student Church Planting eXperience) to mobilize student-led church planting movements to spread from campuses to the nations. To date, SCPX has equipped over 2,000 students on 400 campuses to make disciples and plant movements of simple churches. The vision of SCPX is to see at least one thriving simple church spreading on and beyond every university in the world.

Erik attended the University of Kansas and earned his MA in Global Leadership from Fuller Seminary. He currently resides in Lawrence, KS with his wife and four children. The Fishes love to be on adventure with God—as a family!

*Check out more of Erik's writings at [ErikFish.com](http://ErikFish.com) and [SCPX.org](http://SCPX.org)*





## WHAT IS SCPX?

SCPX is a family of students and ministries spreading the gospel through simple church planting and discipleship movements on campuses and beyond. Our vision is to see at least one thriving simple church spreading on and beyond every university in the world.

Connect with others who are making disciples and growing simple churches at [SCPX.org](http://SCPX.org)

### SCPX TENETS

#### **Jesus is alive and awesome.**

Jesus is Lord and worthy of worship among all people groups. All people everywhere need the message and power of Jesus to experience transformation in this life and eternal life in the next.

#### **The Scriptures are alive and awesome.**

God speaks to us and guides us through these inspired words His followers wrote throughout history, canonized in the books Genesis through Revelation. They are the authoritative, inspired words of God and are applicable in all generations and among all people and ethnicities everywhere.

#### **The Church is alive and awesome.**

We love the Church. We believe the Church is God's people in the earth who are called to love and bless and disciple the planet by demonstrating God's kingdom here. Church, in its simplest form, can start anywhere. We define local expressions of "church" as a group of people of any size who follow Jesus together. Church is not confined to just a meeting or a place – it is a group of people who experience Jesus together and influence the world around them in daily life.

#### **Permission Given.**

As part of the Church, all authentic followers of Christ have permission to obey all the commands of Christ, including baptizing, making disciples, facilitating communion, and starting churches among those who don't know Jesus yet.

#### **Prayer is vital for starting, leading, and growing churches.**

We don't make disciples by just following rules and principles. We hang out with Jesus by talking with Him regularly, both in groups and privately. When we hang out with God a lot (pray), spiritual momentum around us starts to happen.



**The Gifts and Power of the Holy Spirit are vital to our lives and purpose.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are as active and available today as they were in the first century Church. We love the Holy Spirit. We eagerly desire more of Him and His gifts. We let the scriptures challenge us to seek encounters with the Holy Spirit, rather than despise manifestations of the Holy Spirit we may not yet have experienced. The Holy Spirit will always be in complete unity and agreement with God's word.

**Character matters.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit function effectively when matched with a life of growing moral excellence and character. We are passionate about being sexually pure (sexual relationships expressed only between one man and one woman in marriage). We want to experience Jesus and develop fully in our potential in Him as we live passionate, wholehearted lives for Him.

**Generational Connection.**

We believe relationships with spiritual fathers and mothers are vital to the growth and health of new movements of the gospel. In this vein, we strive to honor elder leaders in the body of Christ and welcome input and guidance from those who have gone before us.

**All Nations are important.**

From the teeniest tribe that might stump a GPS, to the university centers of the industrialized nations of the world, we are passionate about all ethnicities everywhere experiencing Jesus. Jesus isn't white, nor is He an American. Jesus loves all nations. So do we.

# NOTES