

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving



GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!

Bible Studies

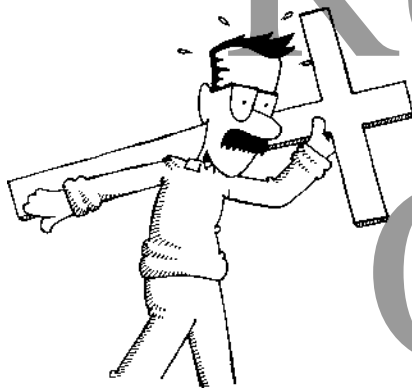
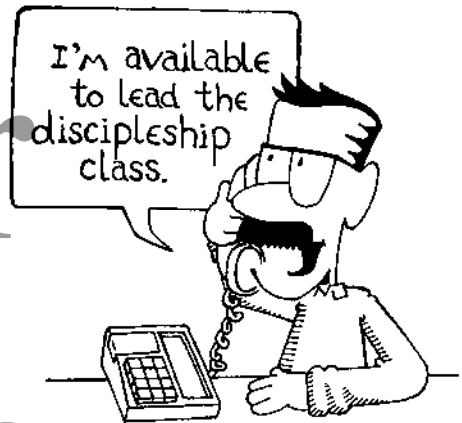
Session 2

“Go and Make Disciples”

Prayer: Lord, place in us hearts that seek the lost. We pray for guidance, wisdom, and courage as we share your love with others. We thank you for the privilege of being your instruments to tell others about the life-saving Gospel. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

In speaking to his disciples, Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*” (Matthew 28:18). With that authority, Jesus tells us, “*Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*” (verses 19-20). In these two verses, Jesus gives his mission to the church. On his authority, we are to “*go and make disciples.*” Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we carry out this responsibility. In order for the Holy Spirit to work through us, we need to cooperate. In this very important work, we must **give it all we’ve got.**

A disciple is a follower of Jesus. When Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, “*Come, follow me,*” they did. Scripture tells us, “*At once they left their nets and followed him*” (Matthew 4:19-20). Jesus chose them as he chooses us to be his disciples. Through God’s grace, Peter and Andrew were able to leave everything behind and follow Jesus. As disciples, their lives were changed forever. Jesus became the most important person in their lives. The same grace that changed the lives of the first twelve disciples changes ours today.



In order to be his disciple, we must follow Jesus. In addition to following him, Jesus informed his disciples that there are other requirements to being a disciple. In Mark 8:34 we read, “*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’*” If we don’t turn away from Jesus’ call to be his disciples, we understand what John the Baptist said, “*He must become greater; I must become less*” (John 3:30). The disciple who denies himself is unaware of himself and knows Christ only. By teaching us that we must deny ourselves, Jesus has prepared us to carry our crosses. Knowing only him, we are unaware of the burdens of our crosses; we view our lives as disciples with joy. Disciples keep their eyes on Christ, without thinking of themselves, and “*consider it pure joy . . .*” (James 1:2) to face trials and testing of their faith.

3. According to Kenneth C. Haugk in his book, *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life*, the spiritual gift of prophecy (preaching) is the only gift mentioned in all four of the scriptural references. He identifies 20 different spiritual gifts. Identify each of the gifts found in the following verses:
4. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses how the body is made up of many parts. In order for the body to function, all the parts have to contribute and function. How is this analogy applicable to the church?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-6.
 - a. Why does Paul say that he brought up the subject of spiritual gifts?
 - b. What does the Holy Spirit do for you?
 - c. What do these verses say about spiritual gifts?
6. What does Paul say regarding the weaker parts of the body (1 Corinthians 12:21-24)? Are all parts important in the Body of Christ? Why?
7. What is the difference between spiritual gifts and talents?
8. In Galatians 5: 22-23, Paul lists the fruit of the spirit. What is it? How are gifts of the Spirit different from the fruit of the Spirit?
9. What is your spiritual gift? Would you be interested in a class that would lead you to discover what your gift(s) is (are)?



Prayer: Lord, forgive me when I do things my way. Help me to rely on you. Thank you for the spiritual gifts that you give to each of us. We pray that we will be faithful in using them to honor and glorify you. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

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