



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Living as a Disciple of Jesus

Following Jesus in Everyday Life

The Short Answer

A disciple belongs to Jesus, learns from Jesus, follows Jesus, and increasingly becomes like Jesus. Discipleship does not earn salvation; it is the lifelong response of someone saved by grace.

Matthew 4:18-22 · Luke 9:23-25 · John 8:31-32 · John 13:34-35 · John 15:1-17

Opening Memory Anchor

A disciple follows Jesus by grace, grows in His Word, loves others, and depends on His Spirit.



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1. What Is a Disciple?

Jesus called ordinary people to follow Him. A disciple is more than a listener or admirer. A disciple belongs to Jesus and learns to order life around His teaching, character, mission, and authority.

Following Jesus begins with faith, not self-improvement. Salvation is God's gift through Christ; discipleship is the grateful, lifelong response of those He has saved.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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2. Jesus Calls People to Follow Him

Jesus' invitation, "Follow Me," meant leaving old allegiance behind and trusting Him as Lord. Not every Christian is asked to leave the same job or home, but every Christian is called to place Jesus above every competing loyalty.

Jesus also tells disciples to count the cost. Following Him is not a path to an easy life; it is the path of knowing Him, obeying Him, and trusting Him in every circumstance.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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3. Learn From Jesus' Word

Jesus says that true disciples continue in His word (John 8:31-32). Scripture is not merely religious information. It teaches the truth about God, exposes sin, forms wisdom, gives hope, and equips believers for faithful living.

A simple daily pattern is enough to begin: read a manageable passage in context, ask what it teaches about God and people, and respond in prayer and obedience.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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4. Abide in Christ

Jesus describes Himself as the vine and His people as branches. A branch does not produce life by straining; it receives life by remaining connected to the vine. “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Abiding includes trusting Christ, receiving His Word, praying, obeying, and returning to Him when we fail. It is dependent relationship, not spiritual passivity.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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5. Obey From Grace, Not for Acceptance

Jesus' grace never makes obedience unimportant. He calls His people to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. Yet obedience is not payment for salvation; it is the fruit of a heart being changed by grace.

When a believer sins, repentance means honestly turning from sin and returning to Christ. Failure is serious, but it is not the end for those who belong to Him.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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6. Love as Jesus Loved

Jesus says that His disciples are recognized by love for one another (John 13:34-35). Biblical love is more than warm feeling. It seeks another person's good with truth, patience, humility, service, and forgiveness.

Loving people does not mean approving all choices or overlooking harm. It means speaking truth faithfully, seeking peace where possible, and refusing bitterness and revenge.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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Want to Go Deeper? Grow With the Church

Discipleship is personal, but it is not private. Believers need the gathered church for worship, teaching, correction, encouragement, service, and care. Church attendance alone does not make someone a disciple, but isolation makes sustained discipleship harder.

God gives each believer opportunities to serve. Faithful service can be quiet, ordinary, and unseen; its purpose is to love others and build up Christ's people.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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8. Expect Growth Through Trials

Following Jesus does not guarantee comfort, wealth, health, or immediate resolution of every hardship. Jesus Himself promises trouble in this world, yet He also promises His presence and victory (John 16:33).

Trials can reveal what we trust, deepen endurance, and teach dependence. Christians may seek help, grieve honestly, and use wise means of care while continuing to hope in Christ.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28



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9. A Faithful Next Step

Choose one area of discipleship for this week: a consistent time in Scripture, a specific act of love, a needed confession, participation in church, or a conversation about Jesus. Do not attempt to earn God's favor; receive His grace and follow.

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling sinners to follow You. Teach me through Your Word, strengthen me by Your Spirit, and form Your love and obedience in my life. Amen.

Read in context: Matthew 4; Luke 9; John 8, 13, 15; Galatians 5; Matthew 28