

DICIPLES SPEND  
QUALITY

TIME WITH GOD



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Wednesday, May 10, 2023

New Mercies Christian Church | Jesse Curney III, Senior Pastor

**thrive**

# DISCIPLE

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**Disciple** – a personal follower of Jesus

## Characteristics of a Disciple:

- ▶ A disciple **follows** Jesus.
- ▶ A disciple is **being changed** by Jesus.
- ▶ A disciple is **committed to the mission** of Jesus.

**Every believer is not a disciple,  
but every believer can and should be a disciple.**

## John 8:31 – 32 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

# TRUE DISCIPLES

3

## John 8:31 – 32 (AMP)

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word [continually obeying My teachings and living in accordance with them, then] you are truly My disciples. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth [regarding salvation], and the truth will set you free [from the penalty of sin].”

## John 8:31 -32 (MSG)

<sup>31-32</sup> Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.”





# 14 REASONS WHY WE SHOULD READ THE BIBLE

1

# God reveals His character and nature in the Bible.

## Exodus 34:6 – 7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”

## 2

# The Bible gives instructions for daily life.

## 2 Timothy 3:16 (AMP)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];

## Psalms 119:11 (NKJV)

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

## 2

# The Bible gives instructions for daily life.

## Proverbs 4:20 – 22 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.<sup>21</sup> Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; <sup>22</sup> For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.



# 3 The Bible teaches us how to pray.

## The Model Prayer | Luke 11:1 – 4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup> So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. <sup>3</sup> Give us day by day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.”



## 4

# The Bible explains the gospel.

## John 3:16 (NKJV)

**16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

## Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

**23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the [a]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# 5 The Bible explains how to share the gospel.

## Matthew 28:19 – 20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

## Matthew 28:19 – 20 (MSG)

<sup>18-20</sup> Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

# 6 The Bible teaches us how to trust God.

## Proverbs 3:5 – 6 (AMP)

<sup>5</sup>Trust in *and* rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart  
And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways know *and* acknowledge *and* recognize Him,  
And He will make your paths straight *and* smooth [removing  
obstacles that block your way].



## 7

# The Bible shows what God's will is for us.

## **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## 8

# God reveals His character and nature in the Bible.

## Deuteronomy 31:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

# 9 The Bible is historically accurate.

## Luke 2:1 – 4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,



# 10 The Bible teaches us how to forgive.

## Ephesians 4:31 – 32 (NKJV)

<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

## 11

# The Bible is full of truth.

## John 17:17 (AMP)

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth.

## John 8:31 – 32 (NASB)

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly My disciples; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

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# The Bible asks and answers big questions.

## Psalm 10:1 (NKJV)

Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?  
Why do You hide in times of trouble?



# 13 The Bible is culturally relevant.

## **Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NKJV)**

That which has been *is* what will be, That which *is* done is what will be done, And *there is* nothing new under the sun.

14

# The Bible reveals how much God loves us.

**1 John 4:7 – 8 (NKJV)**

## **Knowing God Through Love**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

# DEVOTION VS. STUDYING

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## Devotion:

- ▶ Typically involves reading a shorter Bible passage and doing less in-depth study
- ▶ More focused on immediate application of the passage into your life

## Studying:

- ▶ Intentionally digging into a passage using various interpretive techniques to understand

## We should do both!

- ▶ Set aside the time
- ▶ Read aloud and/or multiple times
- ▶ Put it on our calendar, and think of it as an appointment with God.

## **Where do I begin, and what do I study?**

- ▶ You don't have to start at the beginning. There is no wrong place to start.
- ▶ Choose a topic relevant to you. You can choose an area where you need to grow (i.e., love, patience, forgiveness, anger, self-control, submission, tithing, service, etc.)
- ▶ Get to know a character

## **How do I PREPARE to spend time with God.**

- ▶ Think of this as your time to spend with God!
- ▶ Purposely set aside time.
- ▶ Make preparation for your time with God.
- ▶ Stop making excuses.
- ▶ Find a comfortable place where you like to be and want to be alone with Him.



## **Have all of the MATERIALS you need with you.**

- ▶ Choose the right Bible (i.e., print that you can read; Red Letter Edition)
- ▶ Bible dictionary
- ▶ Strong's Concordance (Helps define Old Testament words in the Hebrew language and New Testament words in the Greek language)
- ▶ Pen and paper (i.e., a notebook, journal, etc.)
- ▶ A book on Biblical culture

## **Begin your time with God in PRAYER.**

- ▶ Prepare your heart.
- ▶ Invite God to speak to you.
- ▶ The first step in understanding the Bible is asking God to help you.
- ▶ Don't read the Bible looking for your idea; Search for His.



- To write down what you learn.
- To look up what you don't understand.
- To pause, quiet your mind, listen to the Holy Spirit, and meditate on what you've learned.
- You don't have to read large chunks.
- If there's opportunity, read or share what you learned or studied with someone else.
- Don't become discouraged. Every time you study the Bible and pay attention to what you're reading, you're learning something.
- God honors that you are putting forth effort to spend time with Him.



# HOW TO GET THE MOST OF YOUR TIME WITH GOD

# STEP 1: OBSERVATION

**Look carefully at what the passage says and how it's said.**



- ▶ Look for terms, not words.
- ▶ Pay attention to the structure, key words, the genre, and what's happening in the background.
- ▶ Where are the indentions and paragraphs? Consider the paragraphs and headings as a complete unit of thought. Seek to understand the paragraph unit before trying to understand the verses individually.
- ▶ How much emphasis is given to the topic reveals its importance.
- ▶ Repetition also determines how important a topic is.

# PAY ATTENTION TO THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IDEAS

**Is there a cause and effect?**

**Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**Is it a conditional promise that includes “if” and “then”?**

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

## Is there a question and an answer?

### Psalms 24:8 (NKJV)

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty,  
The LORD mighty in battle.

## Is there a comparison and contrast?

### Matthew 5:21 – 22 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

# WHAT IS THE LITERARY FORM?

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- ▶ **Discourse** – formal and orderly and usually extended expression of thought on a subject; (i.e., the Epistles or letters) written by Paul
- ▶ **Prose** – straightforward writing that resembles everyday spoken word (i.e., Old Testament history)
- ▶ **Poetry** – a literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; (i.e., Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon)



# STEP 2: INTERPRETATION

## Discovering the meaning of a passage and the author's main thought or idea

### THE 5 C'S:

**Context** – Involves looking at the verses immediately before and after as well as the far context which is the chapter that precedes and follows your passage

**Cross-Reference** – Allow scripture to interpret scripture. Let other passages in the Bible shed light on the passage you are studying, but be careful not to assume that the same word or phrase in two different passages mean the same thing.

**Culture** – Understand the cultural context of the writer.

# STEP 2: INTERPRETATION

## Discovering the meaning of a passage and the author's main thought or idea

### THE 5 C'S:

**Conclusion** – Having answered your questions for understanding using context, cross-reference, and culture, you can make a preliminary statement of the passage's meaning. Remember that if your passage consists of more than one paragraph, the author may present more than one thought or idea.

**Consultation** – Reading commentaries written by scholars can help you interpret scripture. Commentaries are secondary sources after you've done the work. Don't become dependent on them. Using commentaries should be the last thing that you do. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you to study and receive revelation from the Lord.

# STEP 3: CONNECTION

## Draw conclusions about what the text is saying that is always true

- What is the text saying that is true in the original and present settings?
- What is it saying about God's character and actions?
- What is it saying about people and human nature?
- What is it saying about God's redemptive plan?
- What does this passage teach about God's will for His children?

## STEP 4: APPLICATION

We study for application. Ultimately, we want our life to change, become more obedient to God and grow to be more like Jesus.

- Ask the following questions about what you read?
- How does the truth revealed affect my relationship with God?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with others?
- How does this truth affect me?
- How does this truth affect my response to others?
- What changes or adjustments do I need to make?

**THEN, put into practice what God has taught you in your time with Him!**



# OTHER WAYS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH GOD

- Praise and worship Him as you drive, walk, exercise, and complete chores.
- Pray in the Spirit as you complete chores.
- Listen to the Bible being read to you.
- Talk to Him as you go about your day.

# OTHER WAYS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH GOD

## **Be intentional to make it a lifestyle to pray at certain times:**

- When you are angry, sad or experiencing strong emotions
- When you have sinned or someone sins against you
- When you see an ambulance or accident
- When you see someone pulled over by the police
- When you watch the news
- When you hear of someone's loved one has passed
- When the pastor approaches the podium to begin preaching or teaching

# OTHER WAYS TO SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH GOD

## **Be intentional to make it a lifestyle to pray at certain times:**

- When you hear sad news about someone you know
- When someone shares A secret or personal information with you
- During an altar call at church
- During the call to salvation and church membership at church
- With your children before they leave for school, college, or work
- When someone is in the hospital
- When A person has experienced loss of A loved one
- With your spouse before they leave for work