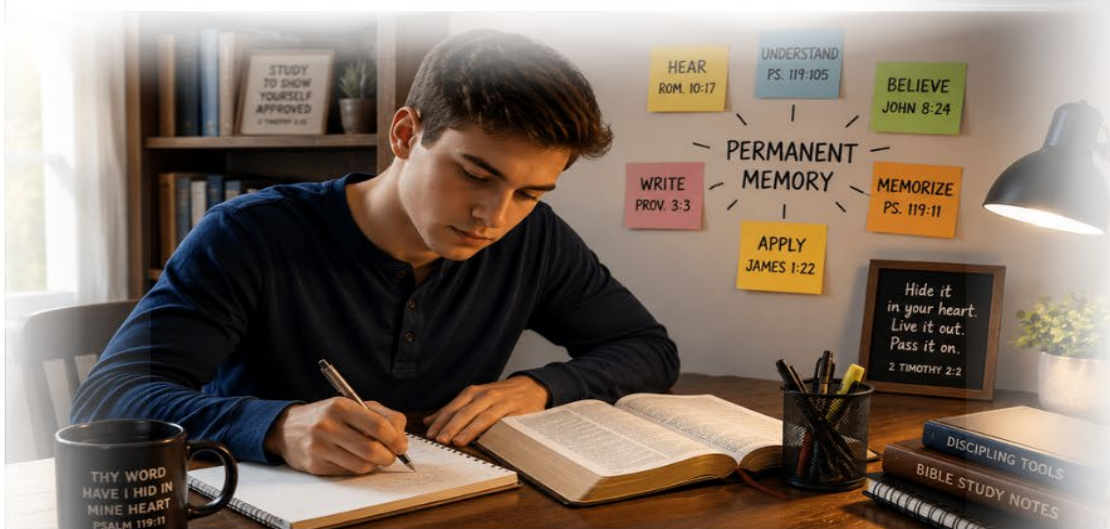


HOW TO BEGIN DISCIPLING WITH THREE ANSWERS TO THREE QUESTIONS



OBEY



LEARN



DISCIPLE

THE DISCIPLING BOOKLET

HOW TO BEGIN DISCIPLING

The command of our LORD Jesus Christ is clear. In Matthew 28:19–20, He told His disciples to go, teach, baptize, and then teach believers “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” The Great Commission does not end when a person receives Christ as Savior. That is the beginning of a new life in Christ, and that new believer needs someone who will help him learn the Word of God and become prepared to teach another person.

For many years we have followed a pattern in our churches. We come, sit, listen, and go home. Then we return and do it again. Good preaching and teaching are essential, but listening alone does not fulfill Christ's command to make disciples. Somewhere along the way, the listener must become a learner, and the learner must become a discipler.

You do not need a Bible college education to disciple someone. You do not need to be a pastor, missionary, evangelist, or Sunday school teacher. You do not have to know the answer to every Bible question. Any believer with a willing heart can begin.

The three pictures on the cover tell us how:

OBEY. LEARN. DISCIPLE.

OBEY

Everything begins with obedience.

Jesus said in John 14:15, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” We already know that Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples. The question is whether we are willing to obey Him personally.

This is where we must move from tradition to obedience.

Tradition may have taught us that our responsibility is fulfilled when we faithfully attend church and listen to the Word of God. But Jesus intended His disciples to reproduce themselves in the lives of others.

Do not begin by saying, “I don't know enough.”

Begin by saying, “LORD, I am willing.”

A willing heart can be taught. A willing heart can learn. And what has been learned can be passed on to someone else.

That is the beginning of discipling.

LEARN

The second word is LEARN.

Hearing something is not the same as learning it. We can hear an excellent sermon and within a few days remember very little of it. The information entered our immediate memory, but it did not necessarily reach our permanent memory.

Psalm 119:11 says, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

That is what we want to accomplish through discipling. We want the learner to understand biblical truth, repeat it, use it, and know it well enough that he can give it to somebody else.

One of the simplest ways to begin is with questions and answers. Ask the question. Give the answer. Open the Bible and show why the answer is true. Then repeat it until the learner can give the answer and use the Scriptures himself.

Eventually, turn the process around.

Let the learner become the teacher.

Have him ask you the question. Have him give the answer. Have him open the Bible and explain it to you.

When he can do that, the truth is reaching his permanent memory.

He is no longer merely listening.

He is learning.

THE ANSWER TO THREE QUESTIONS

We can begin discipling with three foundational questions. These questions establish who Jesus is and why we can trust the Bible that tells us about Him.

Do not hurry through them. The purpose is not to complete a lesson. The purpose is to establish truth in the heart and permanent memory.

QUESTION ONE: WHO IS THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE?

Answer: He is the Eternal Son of God.

John 1:1 says:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 1:14 identifies the Word:

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”

Jesus Christ did not begin at Bethlehem. The Eternal Son of God became flesh at Bethlehem.

Second Timothy 1:9 teaches that God's grace “was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

Hebrews 1:2 tells us that God made the worlds by His Son.

Hebrews 1:10 says concerning the Son:

“Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.”

Jesus was there in the beginning. He was there before the world began. The worlds were made by Him.

He is eternal.

Now ask again:

Who is the Jesus of the Bible?

He is the Eternal Son of God.

The learner should know that answer without hesitation and know the Scriptures that establish it.

QUESTION TWO: WHY DO WE BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD?

Answer: Because the Bible calls Him God.

This is one of the simplest and strongest answers a believer can learn.

We are not depending upon tradition. We are not depending upon a denomination. We are not depending upon someone's theological argument.

We believe Jesus is God because the Bible calls Him God.

Romans 9:5 speaks of Christ and says He is “over all, God blessed for ever.”

Isaiah 9:6 speaks prophetically of the coming Son and calls Him “The mighty God” and “The everlasting Father.”

Acts 20:28 speaks of “the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood.”

First Timothy 3:16 declares:

“God was manifest in the flesh.”

Hebrews 1:8 records the Father speaking to the Son:

“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever.”

John 1:1 says plainly:

“And the Word was God.”

The mystery of godliness is revealed in Jesus Christ. God was manifest in the flesh.

Ask the learner:

Why do we believe Jesus is God?

His answer should come immediately:

Because the Bible calls Him God.

Then ask him to show you where.

Now he is learning not merely what to believe, but how to establish what he believes from the Word of God.

QUESTION THREE: WHAT IS THE PROOF THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD?

If we are going to use the Bible to establish who Jesus is, we should also be prepared to answer why we believe the Bible is God's Word.

There are THREE PROOFS OF INSPIRATION.

I. THE SCRIPTURE ITSELF

Its Preservation

God has preserved His Word through the centuries. Generations have come and gone, kingdoms have risen and fallen, yet the Scriptures remain.

Its Preeminence in Literature

No other book has occupied the place in human history that the Bible has occupied. Its influence reaches across centuries, nations, languages, and cultures.

Its Scientific Accuracy

The Bible is not a science textbook, yet when Scripture speaks concerning matters that touch the natural world, its accuracy gives testimony to its divine Author.

Its Transforming Power

The Bible changes lives. Men and women have been brought from darkness to light as the Word of God has reached their hearts. Its transforming power continues from generation to generation.

Its Unity Throughout

The Bible was written over many centuries, yet from Genesis to Revelation there is a remarkable unity. Its message unfolds consistently and points us to God's plan of redemption.

These five witnesses belong under our first proof:

The Scripture Itself.

Teach the learner to remember them:

Preservation.

Preeminence in Literature.

Scientific Accuracy.

Transforming Power.

Unity Throughout.

II. THE EVIDENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The second proof is The Evidence of Archaeology.

There are over 5,000 places documented in the Bible.

The Bible speaks about real people living in real places in real history. Archaeology provides a remarkable witness to the historical setting of Scripture.

The learner does not have to become an archaeologist. He simply needs to understand what this evidence demonstrates. When the Bible identifies places, cities, nations, and geographical settings, we are dealing with a Book rooted in history.

Remember the second proof:

The Evidence of Archaeology — over 5,000 places documented in the Bible.

III. THE FULFILLED PROPHECIES — OVER 300

The third proof is especially powerful:

The Fulfilled Prophecies — Over 300.

Consider what the Old Testament said concerning Jesus Christ long before Calvary.

Psalm 22:16 says:

“They pierced my hands and my feet.”

Psalm 22:18 says:

“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

Then we come to the crucifixion of Jesus and see these prophetic words fulfilled.

John 19:37 says:

“And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”

Zechariah 12:10 had declared:

“They shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”

Prophecy was given before the event. Fulfillment came afterward.

Men do not possess the ability to see centuries into the future and describe events with such accuracy. God does.

That is why fulfilled prophecy is such powerful evidence that the Bible is God's Word.

Now ask:

What is the proof that the Bible is God's Word?

The learner should be able to answer with the three proofs:

The Scripture Itself.

The Evidence of Archaeology.

The Fulfilled Prophecies.

Then he should be able to explain what each one means.

DISCIPLE

Now we arrive at the final word on the cover:

DISCIPLE.

Learning is not the end.

Second Timothy 2:2 says:

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

There is the pattern.

Paul taught Timothy. Timothy was to teach faithful men. Those faithful men were to teach others also.

That is multiplication.

That is discipling.

Start with one person. Sit together with an open Bible. Ask the first question and teach the answer. Review it until it reaches the permanent memory. Then teach the second question. Then the third.

Afterward, ask your learner to teach all three questions back to you.

And then comes the exciting part.

Encourage that learner to find another person and do exactly what you did with him.

Now the listener has become a learner.

The learner has become a discipler.

And the discipler is producing another discipler.

YOU CAN BEGIN

You do not need a classroom.

You do not need a large group.

You do not need dozens of lessons.

You need one willing heart teaching another willing heart.

Begin with these three questions.

Learn the answers yourself. Learn the Scriptures. Put them into your permanent memory. Then ask the LORD to give you someone whom you can disciple.

Remember the cover.

OBEY.

Move from tradition to obedience and personally respond to Christ's command.

LEARN.

Take the truths of God's Word beyond immediate memory and establish them in permanent memory.

DISCIPLE.

Give what you have learned to another believer until that believer is able to teach someone else.

We do not want to remain listeners all our lives.

We want listeners to become learners.

We want learners to become disciplers.

And we want disciplers to make other disciplers.

That is not a new program.

It is obedience to the command of Jesus Christ.

OBEY. LEARN. DISCIPLE.

To God be all the glory. Thanks to Calvary

With love and prayers,

Dave Weeks

LearningCenterMinistries.org