

DISCIPLING PEOPLE FOR JESUS

Christo Nel

Introduction

The challenge was to disciple new believers effectively without having them buying expensive material or needing a lot of material, but still do it in such a way that the new followers of Christ can start discipling other new believers effectively.

The following five part series can be duplicated to use to disciple new believers.

PART 1: BEING A REAL CHRISTIAN

Let's find God without being religious again

To tell you the truth:

I hate religion, but am sold out on real Christianity

SO, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Christianity is a religion, but you can be religious without being a Christian

1. GOD'S PURPOSE

God isn't into religion or external morality

He is into relationships and reality

He wants to have a right relationship with us

And wants us to have right relationships with each other and with ourselves

He wants us to be real – to see and to admit who we truly are, so that He can help us

He wants to make us whole ... starting from the inside

That is why Christianity is not a set of rules

It is experiencing grace, divine love, divine acceptance and divine forgiveness

It is experiencing abundant life

John 3:16; John 10:10b

2. MAN'S PROBLEM

We may look good on the outside, but on the inside everyone has a major issue:

Sin

Romans 3:10

Sin is not only doing harmful acts

It is falling short of the standard of perfection God envisioned for us

It is nursing grudges and other negative emotions, pride and jealousy

But also not doing what we know we should and could do

Sin breaks us and causes so much pain, suffering, sorrow, sickness and spiritual death

Romans 6:23

So much so that we need God fixing us first, before we can respond to His love

3. CHRIST'S ANSWER

Because of sin, we have a spiritual emptiness within

Only God can really give us rest

To save us from our predicament, God sent his own sinless Son, Jesus Christ
He died on a cross in our place to pay the consequence of and ransom price for our sins: death

He is the only way back to God

And the only way into eternal life

Acts 4:12; John 10:9,10

Only He is the Mediator between God and man

1 Timothy 2:3-6

Because He was without sin, He was qualified to die for our sins

4. YOUR INVITATION

Are you willing to accept God's free, unconditional pardon?

How?

By confessing your sins – He will forgive you

1 John 1:9

By repenting – turn from sinful and selfish ways to follow God and His ways

Mark 1:15

By believing – Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved

Acts 16:31

By receiving – Receive His promise by believing you are adopted as a child of God into His family with a right to inheritance

John 1:12

5. HERE'S GREAT ASSURANCE

If you believe and confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord ...

Romans 10:9

You can know

- You are a true Christian
- You have the gift of new spiritual life and eternal life

1 John 5:11-13

- You are a child of God and a member of His family

John 1:12

This is what God promises

Take it by faith and not by feelings

Feelings can change, but God's Word never does

PART 2: THE CHOICE WE ALL FACE

The message of the Bible about God and his Son, Jesus

Is about a choice between life and death

And it starts with ...

1. GOD, THE LOVING RULER AND CREATOR

God is in charge of the world as a loving Ruler

He made the world

He created people and put them in charge under His authority

Revelations 4:11

2. HUMANITY IN REBELLION

We reject the Ruler and try to run life our own way

This is what the Bible calls “sin”

But all the misery, suffering, sickness and death is telling us we’ve failed!

Mark 7:20-22; Romans 3:3-12

3. GOD GIVES REBELS WHAT THEY ASK FOR

He takes our rebellion seriously and calls us to account for our actions

And His judgement is to withdraw from rebels

But this means an everlasting, God-less death!

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9;
Ephesians 2:1-3; Hebrews 9:27**

4. JESUS – THE MAN WHO DIED FOR REBELS

Because of His love, God did not leave us to suffer the consequences of our rebellion

He sent His divine Son to become a man, Jesus of Nazareth

He always lived under God's rule

The Good News of the Bible is that Jesus died as a substitute for rebels like us

So that forgiveness, pardon and grace might be available to us

1 Peter 3:18; 2:24

5..JESUS – THE RISEN RULER

God raised Jesus to life again as the Ruler of the world

And He is offering us new life, both now and eternally

We can make a new start with God, no longer as rebels but as friends and children

With His Spirit living in us

By accepting this free gift by faith, we receive full pardon

Romans 3:22-26

6. TWO WAYS TO LIFE

We have two choices:

To do it our way: Reject God's rule and try to run our lives our own way, and die!

Or do it God's new way: Submit to Jesus as Ruler, and experience abundant life through His Spirit in us

John 3:36; 3:16

The choice is yours!

Investigate the claims we make here – read Mark's Gospel for a start

Talk to God in prayer
Admit that you've rebelled
Ask mercy on the basis of Jesus' death
Ask God to change you
Submit to Jesus and follow Him with other Christians
Keep trusting Him from day to day

PART 3: BEING A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MEANS ...

1. JESUS IS MY SAVIOUR

I have been saved from a life of being a slave of sin

And inherited a new abundant and eternal life in Jesus

Rom 3:21-23; John 10:10b

2. I HAVE TAKEN A STAND AGAINST SIN

From before birth sin has flown in my veins

Psalms 51:5; Ephesians 2:4-7

But God gave me a new life when I accepted Jesus by faith as my Saviour and Lord. And His Spirit in me has changed me inside out.

Knowing my sins cost Jesus his life and blood, I am taking a stand against sin

Heb 9:22; Heb 12:1-4

Therefore I've chosen to confess my sins, repent and turn from them

And let the Spirit of God lead me

Gal 5:16-26

3. MY BAPTISM WITNESS TO THIS

My baptism proclaims me being dead to a previous way of life

And proclaims I am a follower of Jesus now, as well as a new person

Rom 6:3-13

4. I BECAME A CHILD OF GOD

I have been adopted in Jesus as a child of God

John 1:12

Having the living God as my Father

And the privilege of sitting at His table

With His Spirit living in my body as my permanent Counsellor and Life-guide

Rom 8:14

5. I'VE BEEN ADOPTED INTO A NEW FAMILY

Other followers of Jesus become my brothers and sisters

We are committed to love one another as Jesus loved us

In my new life I need a group of close faith-family around me, like a cell-group

Acts 2:42-47; Rom 16:5

But also a network of other faith-families around me to be equipped as a believer for my ministry

Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 14:26

6. I AM GROWING AND CHANGING AS A PERSON

God is changing and teaching me a new lifestyle through His Spirit, Word and Body of believers

Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 1

In this process my way of thinking is being changed

Rom 12:2

Living a life of faith means obeying and doing what God tells you too

Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22

7. YOU CAN ALWAYS COMMUNICATE WITH GOD

Praying means talking with God and being quiet enough to hear Him speaking to you

John 16:24; Ps 27:4,5

God wants to lead you with His voice

John 10:3,4,27

8. I AM FORGIVEN

My past no longer needs to be a problem

God even wants to forgive the sins of today

1 John 1:9

But I need to choose to forgive others

Matthew 6:14-15; Col 3:13

9. ENJOY THE LORD'S SUPPER

At the Lord's table we are together as a loving faith-community

To eat the bread and drink from the cup

To remember and be strengthened in our faith

1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Luke 22:19-20

10. JESUS IS MY LORD

Being a follower of Jesus means choosing to believe in Him as Saviour

But also obeying Him as Lord

Philippians 2:9-11

Obeying and serving Him above all

1 Corinthians 6:20

Serving His grace and love to people

2 Corinthians 5:15; Mark 10:42-45

PART 4: LIVE YOUR NEW LIFE

2 Corinthians 5:17 says a Christian is a new creation

John 3:3 to 16 describes you as being reborn

What it simply means is ...

YOU WERE DEAD BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

Physically you were alive, but spiritually you were dead – Ephesians 2:1-3

You were blind and dead to the reality of God and His Word

You were in rebellion against His plans for your life

Living your life as you've seen fit

GOD GAVE YOU A NEW LIFE BY GRACE

Exchanging your old life for the life of Christ – Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 2:4

With His Spirit living in your body to be your Teacher and Counsellor – 1

Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9-16

Changing you more and more into the image of Jesus Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29-30; Philipians 1:6

YOU WILL BE CHANGED FROM DAY TO DAY

Man is spirit, living in a body, with a soul – 1 Thessalonians 5:23

God renewed your spirit completely by His gift of new life in Christ

Through the work of His Spirit in you He wants to change your soul and body-orientation

God needs to renew your mind and way of thinking – Romans 12:2

You need healing and restoration from emotional pains and hurts from the past

You need help making new choices to fit your new life as a King's kid

And your body needs disciplining to stop obeying old habits and sinful desires – Colossians 3:1-17

WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION

Philippians 2:12 and 13

Make time to develop an intimate relationship with God

Be quiet and relaxed in His presence
Listen to His Word and His Spirit leading and teaching you
Communicate with Him in prayer
Worship and love Him
Make time to be present in the meetings of believers
Develop strong, loving relationships with fellow believers in your faith family
Don't neglect the celebration of the Body of Christ in your area – Hebrews
10:25
God wants to minister to you there through the gifts of the Spirit
Choose to live a life of faith and daily obedience – Hebrews 11 and 12; James
1:19-2:26

THERE'S A SPECIFIC CALLING ON YOUR LIFE

When God created you, He had a definite plan for your life – Psalms 139;
Jeremiah 1:5
Don't lean on your own understanding, seek God's face and will for your life –
Proverbs 3:5-10
God saved you from death with something very specific in mind – Ephesians
2:10; John 14:12
Start walking step by step in faith, trusting God to lead you through His Spirit
where you should go
Be sensitive for the voice of God – He will lead you through His voice – John
10:3,4,27
Do each day what you believe Jesus would do

PART 5: A DUNAMIS EXPERIENCE

The Greek word “dunamis” - in passages like **Acts 1:8** - speaks about the “power” with which the Holy Spirit wants to equip true followers of Jesus Christ

1. A NEW GENERATION OF MINISTERS

All over the world followers of Jesus are experiencing a calling: That God wants to use ordinary people to witness and minister in the supernatural power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

So that the whole world can experience the love and grace of God as He minister to their practical needs. But also His glory, power and reality

2. OUR EXAMPLE: JESUS’ OWN LIFE AND MINISTRY

At His own water baptism Jesus was equipped for His ministry with the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:21,22; 4:18-19

People experienced that power when He ministered to them in His preaching and teaching, but also when He ministered to their needs in healing and freeing them from all kinds of illnesses and demonic influences

3. HIS PROMISE TO US AS HIS FOLLOWERS

His Spirit will come and live within us

John 14:16-18; 16:7-16

From the day of Pentecost every believer in Jesus can know that the Holy Spirit lives within our bodies

Romans 8:9-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

The Holy Spirit wants to heal you, cleanse you, renew you, teach and lead you

John 16:13-15; Romans 8:9-16; 12:2

He works the characteristics of Jesus Christ in us

Galatians 5:16-26

His Spirit will come on us to baptise or anoint us with supernatural power and gifts to be a witness and a minister of the Kingdom of God to people

We see this happening in the lives of the apostles and the thousands of believers after Pentecost as was promised in **Joel 2:28-29; Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 24:48-49; Acts 1:8**

And it is available for every believer in every generation in **Acts 2:37,38**

4. A DUNAMIS EXPERIENCE IN YOUR LIFE

Do you experience this power- and gift- dimension in your witness and life as a follower of Jesus Christ?

The Bible tells us that this is also available to you

Come to Jesus, pray and ask Him for it (**John 7:38-39; Luke 11:9-13**)

Let other believers - whose lives demonstrate this power-dimension - pray and lay hands on you (**Acts 8:15-17; 9:15-22; 19:1-7**)

5. BELIEVE GOD FOR IT

The anointing or equipping with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit is a gift of God to us as followers of Jesus (**Acts 2:38-39**)

Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, is also the Anointer with the Spirit (**Luke 3:16; Acts 2:33**)

You need to receive this gift by asking and by believing (**Galatians 3:2-5**)

Then you need to stand up and be available for God to use you to witness and minister to others in this power (**Isaiah 62:1; Romans 6:12-14**)

6. EXPECT TO SEE THE GIFTS FLOW FROM YOUR LIFE

Gifts such as prophecy, healing, tongues, leadership, service, discernment of spirits, teaching, and working miracles (**Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10,28**)

Be sensitive to the voice of Jesus Christ (**John 10:3,26,27**) to hear how He wants to use you as a channel for the blessings of God to flow