

SMALL GROUP STUDY: TAKE THE NEXT STEP — Discipleship

Primary Texts: 2 Peter 3:17–18; Luke 9:23; John 13:34–35; Matthew 28:18–20

Big Idea: Discipleship is following Jesus daily—growing in grace, surrendering our lives, loving like Christ, and helping others follow Him.

1. CONNECT (Icebreaker)

- Growing up, did you ever try to copy someone you admired—how they talked, walked, worked, or lived?
 - What made that person worth following?
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2. WATCH / READ (Teaching Focus)

Discipleship Defined

“Discipleship is placing our faith in Jesus for salvation and then walking with Him for a lifetime—being shaped by His Word, empowered by His Spirit, living in Christian community, and helping others do the same.”

A simple way to say it: *Discipleship is following Jesus and leading others to follow Him as well.*

Jesus’ call has always been clear: **“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**
(Matthew 4:19)

3. DISCUSS

A. We Are Called to Have Growing Faith

Read: 2 Peter 3:17–18

1. What dangers does Peter warn believers about in this passage?
2. What does it mean to “grow in the grace and knowledge” of Jesus—not just know about Him?
3. Why doesn’t spiritual growth happen accidentally?

Key Truth: Grace saves us, but grace also shapes us. Growth requires intentional dependence on Christ.

B. We Are Called to Costly Discipleship

Read: Luke 9:23

1. What does Jesus mean by denying ourselves?
2. Why is “taking up your cross daily” more than a metaphor?
3. How does surrendering control actually lead to joy?

Reflection Quote: “Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything.” — Billy Graham

Key Truth: Following Jesus means dying to self so Christ can live through us (Galatians 2:20).

C. We Are Called to Love Like Jesus

Read: John 13:34–35

1. According to Jesus, how will the world recognize His disciples?
2. Why can't discipleship be lived out in isolation?
3. Which description of love from 1 Corinthians 13 do you find most challenging?

Key Truth: Love for one another is not optional—it is the visible mark of true discipleship.

D. We Are Called to Reproduce (Make Disciples)

Read: Matthew 28:18–20

1. What authority does Jesus claim before giving this command?
2. Why is “make disciples” a mandate and not a suggestion?
3. How does teaching others fit into following Jesus ourselves?

Key Truth: Healthy disciples make disciples. This is how the church grows and fulfills its mission.

4. RESPOND (Going Deeper)

- In what area of discipleship do you feel strongest right now—growth, surrender, love, or multiplication?
 - In what area do you sense God calling you to take a next step?
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5. APPLY (Next Steps)

Consider Your Next Step in Discipleship:

- Commit to intentionally growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus
- Join or re-engage with a small group
- Begin meeting one-on-one (or 2–3 people) for discipleship
- Step into leadership as a host or group leader
- Look for someone you can help follow Jesus more closely

Closing Prayer: Ask God for the grace to follow Jesus fully, love His people deeply, and help others walk in His footsteps.