



WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

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FACILITATOR GUIDE

FOLLOWING IN ANOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

When you were in school, who was your favorite teacher?

What set them apart from the rest for you?

Who was your least favorite teacher and what did you not like about them?

Do you think you would have done better in school if you could have chosen your own teachers?

What was your favorite subject?

Did you pursue higher learning in that subject? [College/ specialty classes/ etc.]

How did you learn to do your job? [Special training/ learn by doing/ learn by watching others]

Is there a topic you desire to learn and seek more information about? [Carpentry, better housekeeping, living healthier, art, music, finances, etc.]

Where do you get your knowledge about God?

Do you intentionally spend time learning about what it means to be a follower of Christ?

In Jesus' day, both boys and girls attended school at the synagogue, learning to read and write. The Scriptures were the main textbook from which they learned to read. Like today, kids were sent off to school when they were 5-6 years old. After their basic schooling, young boys could choose to further their studies in the Scripture by following a rabbi (teacher). It was up to the student to choose who they would follow.

Where did the desire for further study originate from? [From the student's heart. The student first had to make the commitment.]

What is the difference between being told you have to go to school to learn something and choosing to go to school for a particular subject matter? [This is like the difference between having to go to school to learn the basics until you are 18 and choosing to go to college for a more specific, but more in-depth study of a particular subject.]

If you were looking for a teacher in a subject, what are some of the characteristics you would look for? [Knowledgable of the subject, a relatable teacher, patient, committed to you, someone who loved the subject as well, etc.]

Based on these characteristics, do you think Jesus would have been a good teacher to follow? Why?

When a Jewish student decided to advance his education in the Scriptures, it was his responsibility to find the teacher he wanted to learn from. Then he had to convince the rabbi that his heart from sincere in his desire to learn. Once the rabbi was convinced, he would say, "Come follow me."

What are some signs people display when they aren't really interested in something? [Only show up part of the time. Don't do assignments. Don't think about the subject outside of the classroom. Etc.]

What does a person who is dedicated to a subject look like? [Spends their free time reading/practicing/ talking about the topic. This is where they spend their money. Etc.]

Is there something you have been committed to? [Sports, a hobby, a favorite pastime, etc.]

The **DESIRE** to commit oneself to follow Christ begins in the **HEART**.

ROOT OF THE DISCIPLE

The Hebrew word for "disciple" is **TALMID**. [Pronounced— tawl-mid]

A Talmid wasn't just a student. It was not enough to know what the teacher **KNEW** (passing of knowledge), but it is the goal of the student to become the **VERY IMAGE** of the teacher.

The root word of talmid is **TAMID**. [Pronounced— tam-id]

The Old Testament tells us that Tamid is a special offering made daily by priests. Two lambs were sacrificed every day—the first at the **THIRD** hour [9:00 am—this is when Jesus' crucifixion began] and the second at the **NINTH** hour, [3:00 pm—this is the hour when Jesus died]

These two lambs marked the start and finish of the sacrifices. Representing that Jesus' blood covered all our sins, from beginning to end!

The Tamid offering was to be...

1. **DAILY SACRIFICED** [These two lambs were sacrificed daily.]
2. **WHOLLY OFFERED** [The entire lamb was to be placed on the altar.]
3. **FULLY CONSUMED** [While some offerings were partially given and some of the meat could be enjoyed by the priest or the family, this offering was to be fully consumed by the fire.]

How do these traits describe a follower of Christ?

Luke 9:23—

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:62—

But Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Hebrews 12:28-29—

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

What is the difference between the words TAMID and TALMID? [The letter L.]

The letter with the L sound in Hebrew is the LAMID, which means “**TO JOIN; AFIX; TRAIN/STUDY; AND TO PRACTICE.**” [Remember, we said that the disciple was one who attached himself to his teacher.]

Another characteristic of the LAMID is that it is the tallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Because of this, it is considered to point to the “**KING OF KINGS.**”

Without the L, you will have the **ACTIONS** of sacrifice, but not the **PRESENCE** of the “King of Kings.” It’s not enough to just know the right things to do. **KNOWLEDGE** without **RELATIONSHIP** won’t endure.

Likewise, simply knowing who Jesus is without dedicating your life to serve Him is not enough to call yourself a disciple either.

NOT WORTHY

Can you name some of Jesus’ disciples? [These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.]

Of these 12 men, five of them came from a fishing background in Galilee—Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Phillip. Most of these men had already disqualified themselves from rabbi school. They had joined their father's trade, but when Jesus saw them, He said, "Come follow Me."

Why would Jesus call 12 very ordinary men to be His followers? [To show that anyone is welcome to follow Him. Jesus saw something in them they didn't see in themselves.]

In what ways do we disqualify ourselves from making a lasting commitment to Jesus? [Too many people don't think they are worthy to be rescued from sin. Many don't believe they can live up to the challenge. Others just don't think they can live a dedicated life.]

What are some of the lies the devil tells them about themselves? [You aren't good enough. You are too far gone for salvation. You will have to give up too much. You aren't smart enough for that crowd.]

You can say you **WON'T** be a sold-out follower, but you can never say you **CAN'T**.

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do you have the passion (daily, consuming fire) inside you to devote yourself to be like Jesus?
2. Do you know He believes in you? Jesus has chosen you, and extended to you the invitation "Come follow Me."
3. Do you long to spend time with Him?

**ONLY TO THE DEGREE WE COMMIT TO FOLLOW HIS DISCIPLESHIP,
WE WILL ENJOY HIS FELLOWSHIP.**

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for the forgiveness of your sins which deems you worthy to follow Him.
- Surrender your life to Him. Think about the areas of your life that you may still be trying to handle on your own. Can you give those areas to Him?
- Ask God to help you with your commitment and dedication to Him. We all fail from time to time. None of us are perfect. But God calls the ordinary and helps us as we go.