

## **In His Footsteps: A Study of the Discipleship of Jesus**

In the next thirty days we are going to examine one of the most exciting Biblical studies, "The Discipleship of Jesus!" Often, it is hard to imagine that Jesus was a great disciple before He trained others how to be disciples. Jesus lived on this earth for approximately thirty years and during that time He was trained how to be a follower of God. His influences were God, the prophets who went before Him, His parents and family and contemporary prophets like John the Baptist.

Our discipleship must be constantly refined and perfected. The call to be a disciple is one that we must answer every day. The goal we should have, as we mature in the Lord, is to be more like Jesus. These Quiet-Times have been designed to help us achieve that goal. May God bless you in your continued desire to walk in His footsteps!

### **JESUS, THE PERFECT DISCIPLE!**

Day 1: Jesus, the Vision of God's Glory

Day 2: Jesus and his Purpose

Day 3: Jesus and Obedience

Day 4: Jesus, in Subjection to Leaders and Authorities

Day 5: Jesus and His Dependence on God

Day 6: Jesus, the Perfect Imitator

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Day 13: Jesus, the Perfect Discipled -- Part 1 The Basis for Jesus' Discipleship

Day 14: Jesus, the Perfect Discipled -- Part 2 Building a Relationship

Day 15: Jesus, the Perfect Discipled -- Part 3 The Training Begins

### **DISCIPLESHIP, IN HIS FOOTSTEPS!**

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Day 17: The Disciple's Purpose

Day 18: The Disciple and Obedience

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Day 1: Jesus, The Vision of God's Glory  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** John 17:4-5

**Assignment:** Make a list of the ways that you bring glory to God.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus' purpose in coming to the earth was to bring glory to God!

Why am I here? This question has been asked by countless people through the generations. God has created within man a need to know the reason for his existence. Jesus, as a man, had to come to terms with the purpose of His life. He realized at a very young age that His purpose was to accomplish His Father's work. At twelve years old, He would exclaim to His parents that He had to be in His Father's house doing His Father's business (Luke 2:49)! Jesus knew that He left the glory of Heaven to come to Earth to accomplish God's redemptive plan for man and thus bring glory to His Father. After all, men were created to bring "praise to God's glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:6). This was Jesus' purpose also.

1. John 17:4-5 – Jesus says plainly here that His purpose in coming to earth is to bring glory to God. This was accomplished by completing the work God sent him to do, Jesus life wasn't an aimless series of unrelated events. No! His every hour and day was part of a master plan that was designed by God to ultimately bring glory to His name. Jesus had a purpose which unfolded each and every day! Do your days bring glory to God? Do you daily fulfill the purpose which God has called you to, that is, to glorify His Name by your deeds?

2. John 12:27-28 – Jesus is faced with the cross, and it results in His heart being troubled. As He prays, we can see His heart's desire: glorifying God by doing that which He found very difficult. Jesus' life had moments of difficulty and challenge. But, no matter how difficult, He would not disobey and thus bring shame to His Father. Obedience was the only option. How many times do we disobey God because it is just too difficult to obey him? And, the result is that instead of bringing glory to God, we bring shame to His Name!

3. John 1:14 – Jesus was the exact representation of God and therefore He revealed the glory of God by His existence. To see Jesus was to see the Father (John 14:9). Jesus was light (God is light) to a dark world revealing the true character of His Father. How exact a representation of God are you to the world we live in? Do people see the glory of God by looking at your life?

Why did Jesus come to this earth? The simple answer would be to say that He was here to bring salvation to all men. The complete answer would be to say He came to bring glory to God and one of the ways that was accomplished was by bringing salvation to all men. Why are you here on earth? To bring glory to God by helping your fellow men to know who Jesus is and to help save them.

Day 2: Jesus, And His Purpose!

## In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Luke 19:10

**Assignment:** Write a paragraph about the purpose of your life!

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus was determined to fulfill the purpose of His life!

It seems we live in a generation void of any real purpose in life. There is no greater feeling of hopelessness than when we seem to be drifting aimlessly, without a firm reason for living. God understands this need man has for a purpose, and that is why He created us with an express need to feel fulfilled. He then gave us Jesus as the perfect example of a man who lived His life to fulfil His purpose. What we can learn from His life is that, no matter where we are in life, we must never forget our purpose for being here. No matter how busy we get with the urgencies of life, we must never lose sight of our inner need to accomplish what God has sent us here to do.

1. Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of man came to seek and save the lost”. Jesus says this after he saves another person from their sins, a person that the religious of those days did not feel was worthy to be saved. Jesus wasn’t concerned with social structure or political correctness. He was concerned with fulfilling His purpose in life: saving souls! What is your purpose in life? Is it really saving souls or could it be marriage, raising children, careers, or school? Be honest with yourself! Can people see the purpose of Jesus’ life in the way you live your life? Are you a true reflection of Jesus and His purpose on earth? Refer to 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 1 John 2:6 to help you understand this point.

2. Mark 1:35-39 – Jesus was so focused on His purpose in life that He would not let the urgent things of life deter Him from accomplishing His goal. His reputation had become known in the village to the point they wanted to keep Him there. But He would not be held back. He knew He had to go to other towns and villages to preach there also. Are there times in your life when you let the urgent thing keep you from accomplishing the important things? What are some of those times?

3. Luke 13:31-33 – Jesus would reach His goal! He would fulfill His purpose! No man would hinder Him, even if that man was a king. Do you allow people to hinder you from reaching God’s goal for your life? Do you allow important people like your family, friends, boss and teachers to keep you from doing what God wants? Do they hinder you from accomplishing your purpose? Make a list of areas in your life where you have allowed fear to keep you from accomplishing God’s purpose in your life. Ask God to forgive you. Repent today, and then go out and do something radical!

Is your purpose in life to evangelize the world, or is this the purpose of the leadership of the church only? Are you as focused on your purpose for life today as you were when you were first baptized? Have you shared your faith with anyone this week? Who are you building relationships with in order to win them for Christ? Have other things come into your life to take your focus away? Share these convictions with someone close to you.

Day 3: Jesus And Obedience

## In His Footsteps - A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** [John 6:38](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of five areas in your life where you are not obeying God!

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus, although He was the Son of God, was not exempt from obeying His Father.

It would seem that Jesus should have received special favour from His Father in regards to the obedience that was expected from him. After all, it was enough that Jesus emptied Himself of equality with God, but then he had to become a servant to all, as well ([Philippians 2:5-11](#)). But, not once do we read of Jesus asking for any special favours from God. As a matter of fact, the opposite seems to be the case. At the precise moment when Jesus needs God the most, when He is on the cross, the Father has to turn His back on Him. This was necessary if man was to be saved. Truly God's love runs deep!

1. [John 6:38](#) - Jesus declared that His purpose in coming to this world was to obey His Father. Could we say that it was our goal in life to obey our earthly fathers? Or, like most, were we waiting for the day when we would be old enough that we would no longer have to do what our fathers asked us? Even now as a disciple, is your purpose to obey God? Do we cherish the opportunity to be obedient? Do we glory in every command that God gives us, or are we trying to get by with the least amount of obedience needed?

2. [Hebrews 5:8](#) - Although He was the Son, He had to learn obedience through suffering. Jesus had to learn obedience! He was not born with the natural ability to obey. He was like us in that He had to be taught how to obey. And, His teacher was the suffering provided by God. Maybe that's why we aren't good at obeying. We don't view suffering as a teacher to help us be more perfect.

3. [Matthew 26:39](#) - Obeying wasn't easy for Jesus. He had to wrestle with His own desires as He faced the will of God for His life. In this instance, as He sees the cross, He struggles with the shame and pain He was about to face ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). But the good news was that He would not allow His emotions to be the final authority in His life. How often do you allow your feelings to dictate whether you will obey God or not? This should never be, if we are going to imitate Jesus in every way.

What is your view of obedience? Do you believe it is necessary? Do you see that by obeying you bring glory to God? Do you understand that through obedience God's will can be accomplished? Do you understand that suffering will perfect your ability to obey?

Day 4: Jesus, in Subjection to Leaders and Authorities  
**In His Footsteps - A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** Hebrews 5:7-9

**Assignment:** Make an extensive list of the people that have authority over you.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus was in subjection to the authorities God had placed in His life and so must we be.

It seems strange to think of Jesus, the creator of the Heavens and the Earth, ever having to be in subjection to anyone. Because of His Divine Nature and Eternal Power, one would think everyone would recognize Him for who He is. They would, therefore, willingly be in subjection to Him. One might even think that He was willing to give up equality with God. He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:7). In this lesson you will examine the areas of Jesus' life in which He was in subjection to his leaders and authorities.

1. Hebrews 5:7-9 - Jesus' prayers were empowered by His 'reverent submission'. A lifetime of fervent prayers only had meaning and purpose because Jesus learned obedience from the things that He suffered. He did not rebel against the authority in His life. He embraced it! Even the fact that He was the Son did not exempt Him from obedience. How much more should we be willing to submit to the authorities God has placed in our life? And from this 'reverent submission' in our life we will empower our prayers.
2. Luke 2:51 - Jesus was obedient to His parents. Even when His parents didn't understand Him or His purpose, He did not use this as an excuse to be disobedient or disrespectful (cf. John 2:1-11).
3. Matthew 3:13-7 - Jesus submitted to the will of God that was being preached by the prophet John, even though from a practical standpoint this was unnecessary. Jesus was the only man who had ever lived who was sinless and yet, because God's prophet was preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4) He submitted to this. He says it is to fulfill all righteousness. How often do we disobey God or God's authorities in our life because we think that obedience is unnecessary or that it doesn't apply to us? Do we have the attitude of Jesus that we want to fulfill all righteousness?
4. Matthew 23:1-4 - Jesus expects us to obey the authorities in our life even if those authorities do not live up to the standard they are laying out, We must do what they say, but not what they do. We must even be in subjection to hypocritical leadership!

If Jesus had to obey the authorities in His life, do we think that we can live our lives free from obedience! That would be a ridiculous way to think. List five reasons why you find it hard to be in subjection to people who have authority over you. Show this list to a close friend and ask to comment on it.

Day 5: Jesus And His Dependence On God!  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** [John 5:30](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of areas in your life where you find it hard to depend on God

**Lesson to Learn:** Depending on God is a sign of strength and not a weakness!

It would be hard to imagine that someone who had the power to make the Heavens and the Earth would find it impossible to do anything? And yet, Jesus, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, says that He can only do what He sees His Father doing. The relationship between Father and Son is one of absolute dependence. This is an example of perfect harmony and unity. That's why Jesus would be able to say with absolute certainty. "I and the Father are one" ([John 10:30](#)), Dependence seems to be a sign of weakness to many people, but in reality it is the ultimate sign of strength. It is easier to be independent. It takes incredible self-control to willingly depend on others, or on God. This is what Jesus' example shows us. A man who totally died to His own desires and then depended on His loving Father to show Him the way. In this lesson we will examine how Jesus revealed His dependence on God and how this resulted in His being more perfect!

1. [John 5:30](#) – "By myself I can do nothing". Is this uttered by a frustrated loser who has given up? Is it spoken by a man, life has beaten down and therefore now has lost all his confidence? No! This was spoken by the Son of God! By the God who is described as having no beginning and no end. By the God who needed no one to council Him when He laid the foundations of the earth! Is this a contradiction? Jesus drew His strength from His Father! He was able to accomplish as much as He did because He was leaning on God's strength and wisdom. If Jesus was this dependent on God what should that say about our relationship with the Father? Since we are not as strong or wise as Jesus, we must become more dependent on God to provide everything we need!

2. [John 8:27-28](#) – The extent of Jesus' dependence on God can be seen in this verse, as He says that He would not speak words unless they were words He heard His Father speak. And then the perfect example of this dependent relationship was when they saw him lifted up on the cross. How do people see that you are dependent on God? List three areas in your life where you are totally dependent on God. List three areas where you are not.

3. [Luke 22:43-44](#) – At this moment in Jesus' life, He does not have the strength to carry on. He tells His disciples that his soul is "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death" ([Matthew 26:38](#)). Jesus would not have been able to fulfil God's will for His life! But God sent an angel to strengthen Him. What an example of love on the part of the Father, and dependence on the part of the Son!

Jesus understood that in order to have a strong, vibrant relationship with God, He needed to be totally dependent on Him. So He looked to His Father for the strength He needed to fulfill the mission God gave Him. No one can argue with the results of Jesus' dependence on God, because it resulted in our salvation. The lesson we need to learn is that we must depend on God totally if we are to fulfill His will for our life. Independence only leads to sin!

Day 6: Jesus, the Perfect Imitator  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** [John 5:19-21](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of areas of your discipleship partner that you can imitate.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus grew rapidly in His faith because He imitated!

Everyone is an imitator. As children, we learn quickly because we imitate the way people talk, walk, eat, sit or play. When we go to school, we learn through a combination of knowledge and repetition. But we learn to use that new knowledge through imitation!

As adults we are always imitating sports figures, clothing styles and of course, Hollywood! To imitate someone is so natural, but why are people so afraid of this principle in religion? To imitate someone who is more spiritually mature than us goes against the worldly understanding of religion. Many people believe that religion is a private thing, which only involves the person and his God. This is wrong! No man can learn of God except that another man shows him (cf. [Romans 10:14-15](#)) Also, no man can grow spiritually unless another man helps him. Imitation is the key to rapid and permanent change. Jesus imitated! He looked to the example of His Father but also to the example of the prophets who went before Him. In this way, He was able to grow strong spiritually. In this lesson we will see what Jesus believed in, and practiced the principle of imitation.

1. [John 5:19-21](#) – Jesus was limited in what He could do. This was not based on His weakness or frailties but on the fact He could only do what He saw God do. If He couldn't imitate it, He couldn't do it. He believed in imitation. Everyone saw Jesus as such a radical. They heard His teaching and knew that He was different from their teachers. They saw His works and knew that He had come from God ([John 3:1-3](#)). Because He imitated He was successful and radically different from anyone that they had ever seen before. Imitation works! Are you imitating God? Do you see God's character and immediately try to incorporate that into your character? Are you imitating Jesus and His commitment to learn by following the example of His Father? We must be, if we are to be the representatives of Jesus on earth in our days and age!

2. [John 12:49](#) – Jesus' words were that which His Father gave Him. His Father had equipped Him to fulfill the task He had sent Him on. But Jesus did not only receive His words from God, but He was even taught how to say them by God. This is the principle of training and imitation, which we must follow if we are to be as successful as Jesus was.

3. [Matthew 16:13-16](#) – Jesus asks His disciples who people thought He was. The people thought of him as John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Jesus believed in imitating. He had the radical nature of John, the boldness of Elijah or the compassion of Jeremiah. Jesus had studied the scriptures and saw the character of the prophets of old and imitated them. If Jesus believed this strongly in the principle of imitation, should we not also? Remember imitation is the key to rapid and permanent change.

The world may not like the principle of imitating godly men as a key to growing spiritually, but it is obvious that Jesus believed and practiced this principle. To be like Jesus in every way is the goal we all have as Christians. Make a list of areas in your life that you want to change. After each area, write the name of the person you are imitating in order to make that change. Make a list of the areas in your discipleship partner that you are imitating. Ask that person how you are doing in imitating them.

Day 7 Jesus, the Servant of All  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** John 13:1-17

**Assignment:** Make a list of the ways you can serve others more than you have been.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus, even though He was the Son of God, saw His need to serve all!

To be called a “servant” almost sounds derogatory. It has negative connotation to it. Most people want to be served. If we had the choice to be the king or the slave, we would choose the king. Jesus came into this world as a slave to all. He should have been a king, born in a king’s palace. But He was born in a barn. His first bed was a cow’s trough with straw as a mattress. He grew up in a small town. His parents were in a low-income family. He never went to the best schools or made it to university. His father was a carpenter and Jesus learned this trade growing up. Jesus, the man, had the most humble of beginnings. No one could ever tell from His circumstances that He was in reality the Son of God, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth. And beyond all this, Jesus took the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:7). That was why He came! To serve all! God serving His Creation. What an example of humility and of love. In this lesson we will examine Jesus’ heart toward serving.

1. Matthew 20:28 – Jesus states plainly here that His goal in coming to Earth was to serve people and not to be served. He viewed His life as one that must involve serving His fellow man. Do we see our purpose as that of being a servant to all men? Is your purpose in life to find ways to serve, or do you wait for people to serve you? When there is a need that is made known, do you immediately want to meet that need? Or, do you wait for someone else to volunteer? What would Jesus do?

2. John 13:1-17 – Jesus demonstrates to His disciples what His purpose was in life: not to wait for them to wash His feet but for Him to wash their feet. Jesus was setting an example that they could follow. He didn’t just tell them to serve, He showed them how.

3. Luke 22:24-29 – His disciples are struggling with the sin of selfish ambition. They want to know who is the greatest. They want to know the pecking order. Who is supposed to serve whom? Jesus destroys their way of thinking by telling them that the greatest is really the servant of all. And He confirms this by reminding them that He was among them as one who serves! Have you ever struggled with selfish ambition? Wanting to know who was greater? Wondering if it was you? This is so contrary to the nature and purpose of Jesus.

What is your attitude when you are asked to serve in the Kid’s Kingdom? How about when you are asked to be an usher or registration counter or HOPE Coordinator? If we really have the heart of Jesus we will want jobs like these so we can fulfill our purpose, which is to be a servant of all! What Christian did you serve this week? What non-Christian did you serve this week? Let us all learn to rejoice in our role!

Day 8: Jesus and His Friends

## In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** [John 15:14-15](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of the Christians or non-Christians you are trying to befriend.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus, the Son of God needed close friends in His life.

Sometimes it would be easy to see Jesus as a man, so strong that He never needed to be close to anyone in his life. This would be a huge misunderstanding of the character of Jesus. He not only wanted close friendships, He needed them. Peter, James, John, Lazarus, Mary and Martha were all close friends who provided emotional support to the Son of God. Could you imagine being able to claim Jesus as a close, personal friend? To have Jesus call you up on the phone to just chat! To hang out with Him at a dinner party, or at a wedding or at a picnic! To work together with Jesus in furthering God's kingdom? Knocking doors with Jesus, or to go shopping with Him, or to have personal Bible studies with your friend and Jesus leading the studies. This is what friendship should be in the kingdom of God! In this lesson we will see Jesus and the relationship He had with His friends. And of course, from this we can make application to our own lives.

1. [John 15:14-15](#) – Jesus viewed His disciples as His friends. He didn't see them as projects or as spiritually unequal. He saw them as men who needed to be trained and taught. But most of all, He saw them as friends. Jesus shared everything with them that His Father had taught Him, Do you see your disciples as friends? Or are they people that have been thrust upon you by your leaders? Do you share everything with your fellow disciples?
2. [Luke 22:14-16](#) – Jesus is about to go to the cross. He knows it. Before He faces His death, what He wants most is to spend time with his closest friends. That is why He tells them He “eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you”. He needed His emotional needs to be taken care of by His friends. When you are feeling emotional, who do you want to hang out with?
3. [John 11:3, 5, 36](#) – Jesus didn't just have close relationships with His disciples, but also with others, Lazarus, Mary and Martha were dear friends that He went to see often. He was often over at their house eating and hanging out ([John 12:1 -3](#), [Luke 10:38-42](#)). Do you have close relationships other than your discipleship partners? Who do you feel close to that is in another zone?
4. [Luke 19:1-10](#) – Jesus was able to make friends quickly with those people who were not Christians. He was able to pull rich and poor into His life. Zacchaeus is so excited that he immediately desires to pay back four times the amount he is expected to. He was excited because Jesus had asked to come to his house, and through that, was telling Zacchaeus He wanted him for a friend. Jesus was not afraid to make friends with non-Christians. Do you feel uncomfortable calling non-Christians your friends? Jesus also did this with Matthew ([Luke 5:27-32](#)).

Friendships are very important to all people. Life is more fun when we have close friends to share it with. Jesus needed friends in His life and so should we. We must always be making new friends so we can win them for the Lord. In the process, we will also have our own emotional needs met as these friends are added to our life.

Day 9: Jesus And Openness

## In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Matthew 26:36-46

**Assignment:** Make a list of feelings or emotions you have not been open about and share them with a friend.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus was very real about His feelings and emotions, but He never allowed them to keep Him from obeying His Father.

It is hard to imagine that Jesus had feelings that were negative or He had an unhappy or an emotional day. It's easier to see Him in control of every emotion or negative thought or that He was always upbeat, happy and above the feelings which so easily ensnare us. This picture is inaccurate! He was a man. As such, He had to wrestle with the emotions that come with being human, "But we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are --yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4: 15). This is proof of the fact Jesus had to deal with His emotional nature but would not give in to it. There is great comfort in knowing that Jesus understands how difficult it is to control human emotions. What is also encouraging is to know that Jesus never pretended to be something He was not. He was always very honest and open about how He was feeling! He was not superficial or fake about the challenges He faced. He shared those feelings with the people He was close too. This was so He could overcome those feelings and not submit to them. In this lesson we are going to examine the way that Jesus was so real about His feelings, but how He never allowed those feelings to keep Him from obeying His Father.

1. John 11:33-35 – Jesus was "deeply moved in spirit and troubled". He was not a rock that was impervious to feeling pain. He was a very compassionate man who saw the pain of His friends, Mary and Martha, and responded to it. His tears are real. They are the tears of a man who loves people deeply and can feel the pain of others. As a man, He is not afraid to be emotional. He saw tears as a part of life. Just imagine the Son of God crying because you lost a loved one. Are you afraid of emotion in your life? Do you find it hard to empathize with someone who is hurting? Do you cover up your pain so no one would see it?

2. John 13: 21-27 – It is but a few hours before His death at this point. He knows that Judas will betray Him. In anguish, He tells all what He knows and what He is feeling, Jesus had to feel the pain of knowing that Judas, His friend, was about to betray Him for money. But He is open about this with His disciples. He doesn't hide it or ignore it. He shares it. When you are hurt how do you react? Do you pretend that there is no pain? Do you act like everything is all right?

3. Matthew 26:36-36 – Jesus tells His friends that He is so sad that He could physically die. The challenge of the cross weighs heavy upon Him at this moment. He is so real with His disciples. He wants them to help Him and pray, but their sorrow causes them to be too self-focused to be of any help. Jesus didn't deny His feelings. He shared them He prayed about them. And then He obeyed God's will for His life. We must learn to be real with the challenges we face as Christians. Be open about them. Pray about them and then obey God's will for your life.

Jesus was so very real with His feelings and emotions, He never allowed them to keep Him from doing what God wanted but that did not prevent Him from sharing those feelings with the people He loved. We must learn to have this balance in our lives if we are to face the challenges that God has laid out for us. Sometimes, by denying what we feel we give the devil an opportunity to create bitterness or hypocrisy in our lives. This can never be. Always be open! And then obey!

Day 10: Jesus, Doing It Right!

## In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Mark 7:31-37

**Assignment:** Make a list of the areas in your life where you need to make a greater effort for excellence than you have been.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus, as the reflection of God's Glory, always did His best in all that He did.

It is very hard to live life perfectly. To always do a good job as a spouse, a parent, an employee, a student, or as a Christian is very challenging. Sometimes, because of failure, it seems easier not to try, Jesus had the same challenges that we do, but He was able to do all things well. He struggled with the weakness of the flesh that we all do, but He was able to overcome it. In this lesson we will examine Jesus' attitude towards the work God had given Him and how He accomplished it. We will examine how it was possible for Jesus to always keep the level of excellence high in His life.

1. Mark 7:31-37 – The people of Jesus' day were astonished at what Jesus was able to do. They were also astonished at the level of excellence with which He accomplished these feats. It would be hard to imagine people saying this about us! How hard it is to do all things well. But practice makes perfect. We must never allow our inadequacies to be an excuse for giving less than our best. Training only comes through trial and error. Therefore, to give up because we are not perfect is contrary to the concept of being a disciple. That is why we are being trained.

2. Matthew 9:33 – The crowd is amazed at the variety of Jesus' abilities. Jesus gave evidence to the fact that He was able to do many, many things well. As Christians, we must always be willing to grow in our abilities. We should attempt new things all the time in order that we might become better at them. So often we are only willing to attempt things that we know we are good at. What are you afraid of doing because you think you will fail? Pray about this and then try it.

3. Hebrews 9:26-28 – Jesus was able to accomplish the work God sent Him to do. What He did was done right, so that no other sacrifice need ever be made in our behalf. His work ethic was incredible! He wanted to do God's Will and He wanted to do it quickly and accurately. Is this your attitude? Do you procrastinate doing what you know you should? When you finally do it is it done with an attitude of perfection? Are you too willing to give a half-hearted effort, knowing you will have to redo it someday soon? What would Jesus do?

Jesus is an incredible example of a man who had a very high standard for Himself. He always wanted to give His best for God. Since it is for God that we do all we do, shouldn't we always give 100%? Certainly, from an intellectual standpoint this makes sense, but does it also from a practical standpoint? Let us never allow insecurities about our abilities determine the level of our effort. Being imperfect is the reality of being human, but there is never an excuse for a poor effort.

Day 11: Jesus, A Joyful, Grateful Man!  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** [John 17:1-19](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of ten things in life you are most grateful for.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus was a man under constant pressure, but that did not keep Him from being happy or grateful.

The religious world has a picture of Jesus as a very burdened, misunderstood and unhappy man. This is far from the truth. Jesus lived a life of constant pressure as He tried to accomplish God's Will for His life, He knew the task before Him was very hard to complete. None before Him had been able to do what He was trying to do. Yet, He did not become morose, sullen or ungrateful. Gratitude is a direct result of the level of joy we have in our life. Do you not find it easier to be thankful when your life is filled with joy? In this lesson we will see how Jesus was always able to keep a joyful attitude.

1. [John 17:13](#) – Jesus was filled with joy. He wanted His disciples to experience His joy. It was one of his goals to leave them filled with joy. His prayer is that His Father would fill His disciples with joy. Are you filled with joy? Jesus makes this statement a few hours before He will die on the cross. He did not allow the circumstances of His life to destroy that joy He felt. Can you only be happy when everything is going right? Do you have a joy that you can share with others? Do you have a joy that can fill others?
2. [John 11:41-44](#) – Jesus is filled with joy and thankfulness in the midst of other people's sorrow. He also thanks God for something that hasn't happened yet. Jesus had prayed about this and before God can answer His prayer Jesus thanks Him. This is an example of faith and gratitude working hand in hand. Do you have faith that God will hear your prayers? Do you thank God for hearing your prayers before they are answered? When others are sad can you bring a sense of joy and gratitude to them that will affect them?
3. [Luke 10:17-24](#) – Jesus had a very optimistic point of view. This is one of the reasons He was so filled with gratitude and joy. In this situation it would be easy to be discouraged, as so very few people understood who Jesus was, and His purpose in His coming. But Jesus sees the situation totally different. He thanks God because only the pure of heart can discern the truth. He sees the glass as half full and not half empty. Pessimism only leads to faithlessness, ingratitude and unhappiness. Are you someone who can see the good in every situation? Do you struggle with pessimism?

Jesus was a happy, fulfilled and grateful man. Are you? As followers of Jesus we should be. What do you have to change in order to be that way? Our joy springs from hearts that are filled with gratitude for all God has done for us. Think 'about the things God has done in your life and you will feel a genuine happiness. Make a list of those things. Fill your prayers with gratitude. Often, this is one of the most effective ways of finding out if we are truly grateful. Jesus' prayers were filled with thankfulness. From that, we can conclude that He was happy. Many times our prayers are only filled with requests. Therefore, let's fill our hearts and prayers with the joy that Jesus has poured out upon us!

Day 12: Jesus and Money

**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** Matthew 6:19-24

**Assignment:** Make a list of the areas where money has affected your commitment to God.

**Lesson to Learn:** Although Jesus could have been very rich, He always remembered His purpose in coming to Earth.

“You cannot serve both God and Money” (Matthew 6:24b). What an exclusive statement Jesus makes here. There is no grey area, but everything is either black or white. Jesus knew the greatest temptation in a relationship with God would be a person’s love of money, but Jesus had to see these temptations also. He grew up in a poor family. When He began His ministry, He would have been able to generate large amounts of capital. At one point, people even wanted to make him king (cf. John 6:14-15). It would have been so easy for Jesus to submit to the temptation of an easy, carefree life. He could have used His talents and gifts to fulfill His own needs and desires, but He did not. He would not serve God and Money! In this lesson we will see how Jesus handled His money and what was his attitude toward it.

1. Luke 16:13-15 – Jesus believed that the love for money is detestable in God’s sight. He saw so many people in his days who had sold themselves to the goal of gaining money. These people were the religious leaders of Jesus’ days. How opposite of what God wants! He knows we need money to live, but He wants us to love Him above all! Let’s see if this was Jesus’ attitude.

2. Luke 8:1-3 – Jesus’ way of providing for Himself and His disciples was based on the generosity of some women. Had He wanted to, He could have made money by simply catching fish (cf. Matthew 17:24-27). Jesus, the Son of God fed Himself while He was preaching and teaching God’s Word by waiting on the generosity of the people He affected. How faithful are you right now about your financial situation? Are your thoughts filled with worry because you think you don’t have enough money to provide for your needs? Do you believe God know what your needs are and that He is able to meet them?

3. Matthew 22:15-22 – Jesus paid taxes! He didn’t have much money Himself but He still felt the need to obey the law (cf. Matthew 17:24-27). Jesus never used His position as God’s Son to exempt Himself from the requirements of citizenship, but He always made the distinction between “giving to Caesar that which is his and to God that which is His.” Do you pay your debts? Do you honour the commitments you have made financially? Do you give to God that which is His?

4. John 13:29 – Jesus was poor Himself and yet, He gave money to feed the poor. It’s a matter of perspective. There will always be someone in a worse financial situation than you. But do we dismiss meeting their needs by thinking we are too poor to be of any help? This was not Jesus’ heart.

Money can be a very dangerous spiritual adversary. Jesus knew this. That’s why He did not amass any money Himself. When He died, His clothes were all He owned and these were divided among the guards. Jesus died a poor man physically but rich spiritually. Jesus was an outstanding example of love and commitment.

Day 13: Jesus, The Perfect Discipled – Part 1 – The Basis for Jesus' Discipleship  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Mark 1:16-18

**Assignment:** Make a plan of action as to how you will incorporate the principles of this lesson into your disciple's lives

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus, as the perfect disciple, can teach us how to disciple others.

Jesus was the best disciple that God ever had. He was the only one to ever obey Him perfectly. Jesus is therefore the perfect role model for us to follow as we try to disciple others. In this lesson we will examine the basis of Jesus' discipleship. He had a standard that he used in calling others to be his disciples. We must understand that, if we are to call others to be our disciples.

1. Matthew 4:15-16, 11:10, 13:14-15, 15:8-9 – Jesus was always quoting the Scriptures to his disciples. He saw the Bible as the basis for all training that His disciples received. Since the only Bible He had was the Old Testament that was what He used to preach and teach from.

2. Mark 10:32 – Jesus was always leading the way. He never commanded His disciples to do something He was not willing to do himself, He inspired His disciples by the example He set. Some were so impressed with His example that they were either astonished or afraid. Do you lead the way for your disciples? Do you challenge them to do things that you are afraid to do yourself? Do you help them accomplish the challenges you give them. (cf. Matthew 23:4)?

3. Mark 1:16-18 – Jesus had a purpose for His disciples. He wanted them to be fishers of men. He did not call them to follow Him so that they could merely hang out together, or have great parties, or watch movies together or even just to be great friends. What is the purpose that you see for your disciples? Do you talk about this purpose often? Do you pray together about this purpose?

4. John 17:6 – Jesus' goal for His disciples was to reveal God to them. He knew that in doing so they would grow spiritually! Using this motivation can change people more quickly than any other. Do you have as a goal to reveal God to your disciples? How would you do that?

5. John 15:15 – Jesus was a great disciple Himself. He imitated His Father and that is why He was able to teach His disciples about imitation. Since He imitated God, He was not afraid to call His disciples to imitate Him. Only when a person has learned to be a great disciple can they teach anyone else how to be a disciple. Are you a great imitator of the person who discipled you? Is the person you disciple a great imitator of you? If not, maybe the problem is that you have not learned to be a great disciple yourself.

Jesus had a standard that He used in training his disciples. It was necessary if they were to become fully trained. Do you use the same standard that Jesus used? If not, why not? Do you use the Bible to train people? Do you set the example yourself? Do you know the purpose of a discipling relationship? Do you reveal God to your disciples? Are you a good disciple yourself? These were the standards Jesus used, and so must we.

Day 14: Jesus, the Perfect Discippler! – Part 2 – Building Relationship  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** [John 13:1-5](#)

**Assignment:** Make a plan as to how you can build a better relationship with your disciples.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus saw His disciples as friends before He saw them as disciples.

Jesus could be described as a man on a mission. As such, we might think He was too busy to spend time building relationships with people. This is not true. Jesus knew the value for Himself and for His disciples: of having a friendship with the men He was discipling. Every discipling relationship should be, first and foremost, a friendship relationship. In this lesson we will see Jesus' attitude towards the men He was discipling.

1 [John 13:1-5](#) – Jesus loved the men He was discipling. This is very important to understand, as Jesus did not just give His disciples ministry techniques but He gave them His heart. He demonstrated His love in so many ways. By serving them, teaching them, believing in them, having vision for them and yes, even sometimes, by rebuking them. Would your disciples know that you love them? Make a list of things you can better do to demonstrate your love for your disciples.

2. [John 15:15](#) – Jesus saw these men He had chosen to be His disciples as His friends. Jesus knew that His friendship with these men would compel them to do more for God than if He simply told them what to do! As friends, they shared in Jesus' life. Later, when the apostles would all end up giving their lives for God, it would be the friendship with Jesus that they would remember, not the amazing ministry techniques Jesus taught them. Are you close friends with your disciples? Why or why not?

3. [Mark 3:13-15](#) – Jesus spent time with his disciples. It was the only way for Jesus to affect them. They saw His life and He saw their lives. There is no substitute for time spent together. Do you have a regular discipleship time with your disciples? Do you spend time with them apart from your regular discipleship time?

4. [Matthew 5:1-2](#) – Jesus taught His disciples. Since the Bible is the standard for any discipling relationship, it is only natural that there should be a Bible study when disciples get together. Jesus knew that through His teaching He could mature His disciples so that they would be able to withstand the schemes of Satan. Do you have Bible study in your discipleship times?

5. [John 17:6-19](#) – Jesus prayed for His disciples. What better way to improve your relationship than to bring your friends name before the throne of God. Do you pray for your disciples? Every day?

Often discipling relationships fail because they are not built upon the foundation of friendship. Jesus was going to entrust the building of His church to these men He had chosen. In order to ensure that they would be successful they needed more than religious training. They needed friendship! No one would argue with Jesus' success as His disciples evangelized their world. It would only make sense to imitate His heart in this area.

Day 15: Jesus, the Perfect Discipled – Part 3 – The Training Begins  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Mark 3:13-19

**Assignment:** Make a list of the changes you want to make in training your disciples.

**Lesson to Learn:** Jesus knew that He needed to train His disciples to carry on when He was gone or the message of the cross would be lost to the next generation.

Train, train, train! This was Jesus' mindset. His role was to die and pay the price of our sins but if this message was not shared with people, His sacrifice would have been wasted. So, He knew that He had to prepare His disciples to carry on when He left. He had about three years to prepare them for the most important role they would ever have, the role of being God's spokesmen! In this lesson we see how Jesus trained His disciples. He was the master trainer as His disciples were able to fulfill His plan, which was to evangelize the world they lived in.

1. Luke 6:12-14 – Jesus needed to focus on the right people to train. He needed to be able to have an impact on a small number of people, who in turn could have impact on others. He spent the whole night in prayer as He chose the twelve men He would call His disciples. This was one of the most important decisions He ever made. Even though you may not have personally chosen your disciples, do you feel as if you have made a decision to focus on them to train them?

2. Mark 3:13-19 – After Jesus had chosen His disciples He made it very clear as to the purpose of this relationship. He wanted to train them to evangelize His world. He made sure they knew this! Do your disciples know the purpose of the relationship you have with them? Have you made it clear to them?

3. Matthew 17:1-13 – Jesus was always doing things that He knew would inspire His disciples. It was important that they were spiritually inspired to new heights in their lives. Peter would remember this incident many years later as he wrote in 2 Peter 1:16-18. Do you inspire your disciples? How could you inspire them?

4. Matthew 16:13-20 – Jesus was always looking for ways to encourage His disciples. They were not always the most perceptive people, and yet, Jesus wanted to encourage the smallest success. This would build their confidence for future tasks. Do you encourage your disciples? Do you think of ways to build them up (cf. Hebrews 10:24)?

5. Matthew 16:21-23 – In this passage Jesus rebukes Peter. This is part of the training all disciples need if they are to understand the deeper principles of righteousness. Often, we are afraid of receiving a rebuke or of giving one. We have a very worldly view towards rebukes. But Jesus used a rebuke to open the eyes of His disciples to the truths they were missing. Do you get an attitude if someone rebukes you? Do you see this as a part of the training you need? Do you feel the person does not like you if he rebukes you?

6. Mark 6:30 – Jesus gave His disciples tasks to fulfill and then after He would want a report on how they did. He could then correct any mistakes they made. He held His disciples accountable! Accountability was one way He used to refine their abilities and skills. Do you resent accountability in your life? Are you hesitant to hold others accountable?

If you realize that your goal is to train people you will not be frustrated when you see areas in your disciples' lives where they need to be trained. Training is a continuous process in our lives and in the lives of our disciples!

Day 16: The Disciple as a Vision of God's Glory  
In His Footsteps - A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Ephesians 1:3-6

**Assignment:** Make a list of the purposes you have as a disciple.

**Lesson to Learn:** The purpose of a disciple's life is to bring glory to God!

What is the reason that God chose you as His child? Why are we disciples? We saw Jesus' role in coming to earth was to bring glory to His Father through that which He did. Bringing salvation to all men was part of the role that Jesus had. For the disciple, our purpose is to bring glory to God through that which we do! Our lives are testimony to the world of the grace of God at work. Sharing the gospel with the lost is one of the most important ways that we can bring glory to God. However, it is not the only way to glorify God. It would be of no glory to God to share your faith daily and yet have an adulterous relationship that no one knows about, or to be studying the bible with people and yet not teach our children the truths of God's Word. As in all areas, we must have a balance that will then give glory to God.

1. Ephesian 1:3-6 - God chose us to be disciples before the world was even created. He saw us as His children before the first atom or molecule was brought into existence. But why did He choose us? The Bible says it was to the praise of His glorious grace! In other words, it was so that people would praise God because of His choice. God wants us to bring praise to His name. This is the underlying purpose behind everything that we do. Why are you a disciple? Do you see clearly the purpose for God choosing you to be a disciple?

2. Acts 2:42-47 - The first Christians had many aspects to their new lives. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They were very benevolent as they shared what they had with those who had a need. The result is that God was praised! Their new Christian lives were fulfilling a purpose that God had for them. Then, the natural consequence of this was that they grew in numbers. Growth was a natural by-product of their lives. People were attracted to what they saw and therefore became Christians. Do you see yourself as having the same purpose as these Christians? What do you need to change? Do you think your life is attractive to those in the world?

3. 1 Peter 4:11 - The Christian must be able to look at his life and know that he is glorifying God in all areas. Peter said that in all things God might be praised! What a specific direction he gives us here for our lives! Can you say with confidence that in all things your life brings praise to God?

4. John 21:18-19 - God expects us to glorify Him in all areas of our life, even in our death. Jesus looked at Peter and expected him to imitate in all areas. Peter's death would glorify God. Do you see yourself so committed to your purpose as a disciple that you would even glorify God in your death?

When a disciple doesn't fulfill his purpose he can feel that his life is pointless. Many times, what is really the case is that the disciple doesn't understand his purpose. What he may be actually doing is not fulfilling one aspect of Christianity. Our lives as a disciple must be lights to the world we live in. They must be deeds, which cause people to praise our Father who has made these lives possible (cf. Matthew 5:14-16).

Day 17: The Disciple's Purpose  
In His Footsteps - A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Matthew 28:18-20

**Assignment:** Talk to a friend about the convictions you have received from this lesson and then share the changes you will make.

**Lesson to Learn:** As a disciple, our purpose must be to make disciples, who in turn can make disciples!

Have you ever wondered why God wants the message of Jesus to be shared with all people? Since man's purpose in being created is to bring glory to God, it therefore makes sense that the greater number of people who know this, the greater God will be glorified! God is not the president of a corporation whose only concern is the bottom line. He is a loving Father who wants all people to be adopted as His children. It is the responsibility of His other children to share His message of love and grace. A child of God who does not talk about his Father has lost focus as to why he was adopted. He does not demonstrate appreciation for God choosing him to be a son. He has stopped walking as his big brother Jesus walked! In this lesson we will examine the purpose the disciples in the first century had, and then make the application for ourselves.

1. Mark 1:16-18 - Jesus made it very clear to His first disciples what He expected from them. They were to become "fishers of men." Later they would learn that this meant all men, Gentiles included. This was a very new concept for the Jewish people. Are you as committed to this purpose as the day you were baptized?

2. Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus now expands the scope of discipleship-making to include all men. But, He adds a new concept here also. He wants His disciples to make disciples who can make other disciples. God did not want the message of the cross to die with one generation. He wants that message to be heard by all men, God does not want addition. He wants multiplication!

3. Acts 2:40-41 - In this chapter, Jesus' disciples are fulfilling the purpose He has for them as they are preaching and teaching and making disciples. There were three thousand people who were baptized in one day. Part of the plan of Matthew 28 is being fulfilled. Were the apostles able to fulfill the second part, which was to make disciples who could make disciples?

4. Acts 8:1-4 - The persecution begins in earnest against the church. The church was scattered everywhere, but the apostles remained behind in Jerusalem. These new Christians, who were facing an intense persecution, were scattered everywhere. They used this as an opportunity to preach wherever they went. The apostles were able to make disciples who were able to make disciples. Multiplication took place and not simply addition! Would you remain as committed to Jesus if you had to face the persecution these disciples faced? Would you still share your faith and make disciples?

As a disciple of Jesus, do you understand that your purpose is to make disciples who will make disciples? Have you ever baptized someone? Has that person then in turn baptized someone? This is God's plan for evangelizing the world we live in. Make a commitment today to fulfill God's plan for your life. Pray about it. Talk about your convictions with a friend. Then, go and make disciples who will make disciples!

Day 18: The Disciple and Obedience  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** [John 14:23-25](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of areas in your life where you could obey God more completely.

**Lesson to Learn:** As disciples, your goal must be to obey everything God asks, no matter how hard it seems.

Obedience in the life of a young disciple can sometimes be easier than when we get older. This would seem to be contrary to what we expect. Initially, as a young disciple, everything is new and exciting. If we are not careful, as we get older, we can lose that zeal we possessed at first. One of the areas that is neglected is the area of obedience. We replaced our old worldly actions with new religious ones. We can feel these religious actions replaced the necessity of obedience. God has never wanted this! "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams," [1 Samuel 15:22](#). In this lesson we will examine the need we all have to grow in our ability to obey God.

1. [Matthew 28:20](#) – Jesus expects all disciples to be taught by other disciples how to obey God. Obedience is not a natural response, but a trained one. Jesus' goal in life was to be obedient to His Father. Since Jesus obeyed God, He expects His followers to do the same thing. Are you being trained to obey God? Is it a priority in your relationship with God?
2. [John 4:23-25](#) – Jesus sees love as obedience. For a person to say, "I love Jesus," and then not to obey what Jesus has said, is a contradiction. To be disobedient to Jesus is to actually hate Him! Jesus said, if you will not obey me, you do not love me. Do you love Jesus? Do you obey Jesus? Would other people be able to see from your obedience to Jesus, the degree to which you love Him?
3. [Acts 5:29](#) - Jesus was able to impart this attitude of obedience into the hearts of His disciples. It would have been very easy for Peter to submit to the pressure the religious leaders were bringing upon him. But he knew that he could not. He was compelled to obey God and not men. With his attitude, God would be able to use Peter in a great way in furthering His Kingdom. Are your convictions about obedience as deep as Peter's were? Have you trained your disciples to obey everything Jesus' commanded in the same way Jesus was able to train His disciples?

Obedience is something we all can do. It is not dependent on talent or education or wealth. All we need is a responsive heart that loves God above all. The more we learn to obey the easier obedience becomes. When we are trained to obey we will become more and more effective at it. This is God's plan for every disciple.

Day 19: The Disciple in Subjection to Leaders and Authorities!  
**In His Footsteps - A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 16:13-18

**Assignment:** Write a note to your Sector Leader expressing your thankfulness for his service.

**Lesson to Learn:** The disciple must have a heart that is willing to be in subjection to leaders and authorities if they are to please God and grow spiritually.

There seems to be no more controversial an issue in religious circles today than the one concerning Christians being in subjection to spiritual leadership. We live in an independent age, where people pride themselves on their self-sufficiency. To many, subjection is a sign of weakness or inadequacy. This is not a spiritual mindset at all. Jesus had to learn to be in subjection to the authorities in His life, and so must we. God designed salvation to be found through the help of other humans (cf. Roman 10:14-15). This was so no man would be prideful and independent. Jesus expects His disciples to be in subjection to the authorities in their life! In this lesson we will examine the need we have to be in subjection in order that we will grow spiritually and that we would please God.

1. Romans 13:1-7 - Disciples must be in subjection to the governing authorities. Not just the governments that are democratic, but as was the case when Paul wrote this, even if they are harsh and unjust. We must pay our taxes and in every way be model citizens. This was the example that Jesus gave us. Do you view governments as that which God has placed in power?
2. 1 Corinthians 16:13-18 - Paul expected Christians to be in subjection to those people who worked hard at serving the saints. Their lives were proof of the fact that they poured themselves out for the church. Therefore, it was only right that they accept their leadership and be in subjection to them.
3. Hebrews 13:17 - God commands us to obey our spiritual leaders! God will hold people who lead in the church accountable for the responsibility of leading. We must never make their leadership a burden. The verse states that if you make their work a burden, this would be of no advantage to you. God will judge us for this. No disciple can grow spiritually if he is unwilling to learn the secret of being in subjection. His pride will ensure that God will oppose him (cf. James 4:6). If he, in humility, accepts the authorities in his life, then God will bless him.
4. Acts 16:1-5 - These verses reveal two examples of disciples in subjection to the authorities in their life. First, Paul, who is an apostle, is fulfilling the command he received from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. He is delivering a letter to the Gentiles. Second, Timothy, a young disciple, is in subjection to Paul, who wants him to be circumcised if he is to take him on this journey. This was a matter of opinion as; no law commanded Timothy to be circumcised. Paul felt it would be expedient for the ministry, since it was his habit to go first to the synagogue to preach. Timothy would not have been allowed to enter if he was uncircumcised. Therefore, Timothy submits to Paul's opinion in this matter. Do you find that you will only submit to leaders if they have a scripture to show you? Will you submit to authorities in your life in issues of expedience or opinion?

Christians must be in subjection to governments, as well as the leaders of God's church. God will never bless us if we are in rebellion to authorities. The reason is that we are really in rebellion to God! We can never win that battle. When we, in humility, accept God's leadership in our life then God can bless us richly!

Day 20: The Disciple and his Dependence on God  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** Galatians 3:1-3

**Assignment:** Make a list of the things you asked advice about in the last week.

**Lesson to Learn:** A disciple must learn to totally depend on God if he is to grow spiritually.

The Spirit of God leads us to become a disciple. We are born again by “water and the Spirit” (cf. John 3:5). It is impossible to begin the Christian journey through the power of the Spirit and then complete the goal through your own human power. There is, however, a great temptation to try. The challenge that every disciple faces is to learn to depend totally on God. His spiritual life will only reach higher levels if he has a humble heart, and allows God to fill him with strength and wisdom. In this lesson, we will examine the areas that a disciple should learn to depend on God more.

1. Galatians 3:1-3 – Paul was upset at the Galatian church because they had returned to the law as the means to be spiritually perfected. He reminds them that this is impossible. They were born through the Spirit and would have to be perfected through the Spirit! Do you live your life as a disciple by the power of God? Do you pray daily for God’s strength to enable you to accomplish His will?

2. Philippians 4:13 – Paul was convinced that he could do anything if God would supply the strength. Nothing is impossible for God! The limiting factor is whether we depend on God to give us our strength. God’s wisdom and strength are immeasurable. Do you believe that you can do anything through the strength that God supplies? Does your life reflect this dependence on God?

3. Proverbs 15:22 – One of the areas to measure whether we depend on God or not is in the area of seeking advice. The Bible teaches that when we seek counsel our plans will succeed. Why do we not seek advice more? Often the problem is our pride that prevents us from being humble before another disciple and asking for input. Do you seek advice for the plans that you make? Do you feel more than competent to make all decisions for your life? If you do, you are not relying on God!

4. Proverbs 11:14 – Everyone would like to have “sure victories;” to venture forth, knowing that you will win. This is only possible if we have advisers who will give us spiritual advice. God assures us that we will win the victory! Are you a person who is known for getting advice? Do people challenge you on your independence?

5. Acts 15:1-21 – A large problem had arisen in the church when some began to teach that Christians must return to the law to be saved. Paul, as an apostle, had the authority to deal with this problem. However, they travelled to Jerusalem to seek the wisdom and advice of the apostles and elders there. Paul was not angry because he had to do this, nor was he threatened. He had faith that God’s wisdom would be revealed. When the counsel makes a decision, it is Paul who carries this message to the churches. Would you have the same humility as Paul did? Do you get angry if someone questions your decisions?

Relying on God brings peace and tranquillity. When a disciple relies on himself for all the strength he needs, he will feel isolated and alone. Seeking wisdom and advice from others will test the degree of your humility. However, victory is assured if we ask other disciples for advice.

Day 21: The Disciple Must Imitate!  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 4:14-17

**Assignment:** Make a list of five people in your life that you have imitated and are most like.

**Lesson to Learn:** Imitation is a spiritual principle that can be used to make quick and permanent changes in your life.

In every Christian's life, there comes a time when you are faced with the challenge of trying to change some deep rooted sin or to correct some character weakness. Initially, young disciples will find it easy to change the surface sins that they were involved with when they were in the world. After those first few layers of change are made, there comes the greater challenge of changing the core sins. The secret to making these changes is found in the spiritual principle of imitation. When we imitate someone more mature than us, it allows us to make changes quickly and permanently. The greatest hindrance to imitation is found in our pride, which will hold us back from accepting someone as more mature than us. In this lesson we will examine the need we all have to imitate!

1. 1 Corinthians 11:1 – Paul commands Christians to follow his example. He was not afraid to have people imitate his life. Some might think that he was being arrogant and prideful. Paul gave this command through the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is God's plan for disciples not Paul's. Are you afraid to imitate spiritual people? Why do you think that is?

2. 1 Corinthians 4:14-17 – Paul commands the church to imitate him and then he says he is sending Timothy to them. Timothy would be able to remind them of Paul's ways. Timothy had learned to imitate Paul so well that Paul felt confident to send his disciple to this trouble church in order to correct the problems there. Do you remind people of the person who is discipling you? Do you even want to be like the person discipling you? If not, you will find it hard to grow spiritually beyond your present situation. God will oppose your pride.

3. Acts 4:13 – The extraordinary changes the enemies of Jesus saw in the apostles could only be attributed to the fact that the apostles had been with Jesus. They saw Jesus' character in the apostles. The apostles changed from fearful, faithless men through the power of the Holy Spirit, and because of this they began to imitate Jesus. Imitation was the key for them to make quick and permanent changes in their life. Have you ever made such radical changes in your character that people understood it was a result of you imitating the person discipling you?

4. Acts 7:54-60 – Stephen imitates Jesus perfectly as he is dying. The words he uses and the prayer he prays reminds us of what Jesus said when He was dying. The disciples of the first century focused on this spiritual principle of imitation. As a result, they were able to make quick and permanent changes in their lives.

Every disciple should want to grow to be more like Jesus. How can they accomplish this goal? Do what Paul commanded the Corinthian church: follow the example of the person discipling you as they follow the example of Jesus. This is the spiritual principle God has laid out which will allow us to make quick and permanent changes in our life.

Day 22: The Disciple as a Servant!  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** Ephesians 4:11-12

**Assignment:** Make a list of how God's grace has motivated you to serve others.

**Lesson to Learn:** When a disciple has a servant's heart he is fulfilling one of the roles God has chosen for His children.

One of the ways we can demonstrate to the world that we are truly different is in the area of service. The joy and peace that we have as a Christian is evident when we have to serve in some area where the world is involved. They see us giving blood, raising money for charity, working in the Free Clinic and they do not understand the energy we have or the patience we demonstrate. The greatest workers in any company should always be Christians. We do everything to bring glory to God, no matter how trivial or mundane the work. This is what God had planned for His children. We are lights to the world and the world gives glory to God as they see our good deeds. In this lesson, we will examine the attitude a disciple should possess as servants to all.

1. Ephesians 4:11-12 – God's plan involves disciples being matured and perfected so that they can be effective in works of service. We receive from others so that we can give to others. If a disciple only receives, he will become like the Dead Sea, stagnant and useless. A disciple must give to others. Only then will he fulfill God's purpose for his life. Do you see your role as that of a servant of all?
2. 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 – What motivates a disciple to serve or work hard? Paul teaches us that it is God's grace. When a disciple understands that he has been given a second chance, that grace has saved him, he will be motivated to work hard. Do you feel that you are motivated by God's grace? Do you resent having to drive people home, to work in Kid's Kingdom, or baby-sit for a married Christian so that they can go to a parenting workshop? If you do, maybe you have lost your focus on God's grace.
3. Acts 9:36-43 – Dorcas was a disciple whose reputation of service was known by all. When she died, the church mourned her loss. Peter was so moved by this display of affection that he raises her back from the dead. What an impact this woman had on the church and on the world that she lived in. Would your reputation of serving be like Dorcas'? Do you even want a reputation like that?
4. Acts 6:1-7 – There was a problem in the church! It involved this area of serving. The wrong people were doing the 'waiting on tables.' The church needed to get organized. The apostles were too busy to be able to fulfill the role God had chosen for them which was to minister to the word and to prayer. When they appoint deacons to fulfill this need in the church, the result is that the word of God spreads. Serving has impact on our goal of evangelizing the world. Is your ministry going well? If not it may be because you are not serving.

Jesus said that the greatest is the servant. How hard this is to accept. It seems greater to be served than to serve. The effects of serving are that people will see that we are followers of God and that we will have our heart trained to be more like Jesus. Serving can be a test of the depth of our convictions. Do you feel that God's grace is motivating you to serve as Jesus served?

Day 23: The Disciple and His Friends!  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** Proverbs 18:24

**Assignment:** Make a list of the friendships you see in the kingdom that you admire the most.

**Lesson to Learn:** Disciples need close relationships to help them grow spiritually and stay faithful.

Everyone wants and needs a best friend, Jesus, as strong as He was spiritually, needed friends like Peter, James and John. He was able to accomplish more for God because He had close friends. This is very important for every disciple to imitate. When a disciple gets emotional or frustrated, it could be a close friend who can help him to change. Without it, sometimes, disciples lose their commitment to God and fall away. In this lesson, we will examine the need we all have for friends and how these friends can help us grow spiritually.

1. Proverbs 18:24 – If a person has many companions it does not mean that he has close friends. What every disciple needs is to have a friend that will ‘stick closer to them than a brother’s’; a friend who will emotionally and spiritually meet their needs. Do you have a friend like that right now? Whom would you develop this kind of relationship with?

2. Proverbs 27:17 – A true friendship is not one where you simply hang out together, but it is one where another spiritually sharpens you. Often, we feel we have one close relationship, when in reality we have many people who would meet our needs if we made them known, who is the one person who sharpens you spiritually more than any other?

3. 1 Samuel 18:1 – David and Jonathan had a deep friendship that could be seen in the fact that one would lay down his life for the other. Jonathan would even face the wrath of his father in order to protect his friend David. Their friendship could be seen in the unity of spirit that they possessed. Who are you this close to?

4. 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 – Paul need his friend Titus. Paul even allowed a door of faith to go unopened because he was alone and in need of his friend. Our goal of evangelizing the world could be seriously jeopardized if we do not develop deep relationships that will help us accomplish those desires. Do your relationships help you to fulfil Jesus’ command to evangelize the world?

5. Philippians 2:19-24 – Timothy was one of Paul’s best friends. He had trained him in the ministry, and often sent him when he could not be somewhere himself. Timothy had such a good relationship with the apostle Paul that he became very effective for the Lord. Close relationships should have as their goal to make us more fruitful and effective for God. Would you say that this is true of your friendships? When you feel overwhelmed whom do you want to call and talk with?

One of the most important ingredients to having a close friendship is time. As disciples, we should see the time we devote to making close friendships as important to them and of course, to us also. This will be time well spent! The result of everyone having two or three close friendships will be that we will be stronger spiritually, and then be able to fulfill Jesus’ goal for our lives.

Day 24: The Disciple and Openness!  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** [James 5:16](#)

**Assignment:** Make a list of your most common fears.

**Lesson to Learn:** Openness is necessary if the disciple is to be forgiven and healed.

Many people are afraid to be open with their feelings or weaknesses. To be vulnerable with people is to run the risk of rejection or ridicule. As a result, people hide behind a fake image of who they are. They want to appear to be someone they are not. Christianity frees us from playing these games. Jesus was very real about His thoughts and feelings. In this lesson, we will examine the spiritual principle of openness and make the application to our own lives.

1. [James 5:16](#) – Disciples are commanded to be open about the sin in their life. James writes this to Christians, not to people who are about to be baptized. Confessing sin must be a part of any discipling relationship. Disciples need the continued forgiveness that comes through confessing (cf. 1 John 1:9). Also, confession of sin demonstrates a disciples' humility. If a disciple will not confess his sin, he will never be able to overcome that sin. God's help to overcome our weakness is received when we pray and are open about our sin. When was the last time you confessed sin to someone? When did you last pray about your sin with someone?
2. [Proverbs 28:13](#) – It is never healthy for a man to pretend he is sinless or perfect, when he is not. When we conceal our sin, be sure that God will judge us (cf. [Numbers 32:23](#)). However, when we confess our sins it is like a weight has been lifted from our shoulders. We can experience God's mercy and then we will have peace of mind.
3. [Acts 19:17-20](#) – When people become disciples, it is necessary for them to confess their evil practices and to demonstrate their repentance. This, however, should not be a one-time occurrence. It is a natural part of Christianity. The world will try to make us feel like confessing sin is unnecessary, or in some way evil. Do you feel that confessing sins to your discipleship partner is necessary? If not, why?
4. [2 Corinthians 7:5-7](#) – Paul was very real about his feelings. When he came to Macedonia he faced tremendous trials and challenges. Paul admits his fear in the face of challenges. He even says that he was downcast, sad, and depressed. God comforted him by sending Titus, who was able to reveal the condition of the Corinthian church. Paul was concerned that the Corinthian church would not receive his first letter very well. He was even unable to preach until he heard how the church had repented (cf. [2 Corinthians 2:12-13](#)). How real are you with people about your fears and weaknesses? When you are downcast do you feel you are in sin? It's sin when we allow our distress to keep us from obeying God.

Every disciple must learn to be real and open about whom they really are. We must let the walls that surround us come down. People are actually drawn closer to us when they see how real we are. Weaknesses are part of our lives. So, when we share our feelings and our sin, it allows people to relate to us. God will then bless our humility.

Day 25: The Disciple and Excellence!  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** Colossians 3:23-24

**Assignment:** Make a list of the things that you do well and the reason why you do them well.

**Lesson to Learn:** Disciples should give their best effort in all they are called upon to do!

When Adam sinned, he brought on all humanity the curse of having to work “By the sweat of your brow.” Since work is seen by many as a curse, they feel giving their best effort is unnecessary. This was not Jesus’ attitude. He worked as a carpenter for most of his life. His work ethic was an upward call to all. Every disciple should view their work or school as an opportunity to bring glory to God. Work is not a curse, but an opportunity to let your light shine in such a way that when people see your good deeds, they will praise your Father in heaven, (Matthew 5:16). In this lesson, we will examine the attitude disciples should have at all times, as they give their best for their Father.

1. Colossians 3:23-23 – One of the most important ways to ensure that a disciple gives his best in all they do is to remember whom they are serving. When you think you are working for a pay cheque or to please your boss, you will not be motivated to always do well. When you remember, however, that you are working to please God you will be inspired in a greater way. Your reward will be Heaven and not simply your pay. Why do you go to work? Is it to get a pay cheque, or is it to bring praise to God’s Name?
2. Proverbs 18:9 – To do a job half-heartedly is to be a brother to the one who destroys. Sometimes we may think taking a shortcut will have no real harm, but it does! You must always, to the best of your ability, give, your employer or teacher a 100% effort. No one would find fault with a person who tried their best. Do you feel your life is a testimony to the high standards that a disciple should have?
3. Matthew 25:26-30 – One of the greatest deterrents to a disciple giving their best is laziness. God will judge the world on the basis of how each person uses the talents that are given to him. Laziness is often the excuse used to defend a half-hearted effort. God did not accept any excuses. He sent the servant with one talent to the darkness, where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you struggle with the sin of laziness? What are you going to do to overcome it? Have you confessed this to someone lately?
4. Philippians 2:19-23 – Timothy was a unique disciple of Paul. Paul had trained him from a young age. Timothy had learned well, to the point where he had become very useful to Paul. Paul says that he had no one else like Timothy who had a very high standard that he lived by. He always gave a 100% effort. Is there a high standard of expectation in your discipling relationships?

We must always remember whom we are serving. If God were to stand before you today and ask you to do something for Him, how would you respond? We would want to please Him no matter what the cost or effort involved. That’s the way it should be. Sometimes we forget it is God telling us what to do when we are at work or at school. We should, therefore, give Him our best always!

Day 26: The Disciple, Joyful and Grateful!  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Assignment:** What is the most challenging trial you face in your life?

**Lesson to Learn:** A disciple can be a light to the world because of the joy and gratitude he has.

To be joyful in all circumstances is a challenge. We are emotional beings and therefore it sometimes seems impossible to control our joy level. Often, our joy is determined by the circumstances in our life. If we view those circumstances as positive, then we feel we can be happy. If we view them as negative or difficult, then we could be depressed or sad. True joy and gratitude should not be dependent on the conditions in our life. To be a light to our world the disciple must learn the secret of being content in any and every situation. The result of that peace will be that we will be joyful and grateful. To maintain this attitude is to be in sharp contrast to the world that we live in. Then God will be glorified by our lives! In this lesson, we will examine the spiritual qualities of joy and gratitude, and then make application to our own lives.

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – Be joyful always! What a challenging command to obey. Joy is an emotion and emotions are very hard to control. Did God make a mistake in giving us this command? Is this beyond the realm of possibility? God would never command us to do something that was impossible for us to obey. Jesus commands us to not let our hearts be troubled, (John 14:1). It was obvious to Him that this was possible. It involves our understanding of what should make us happy and grateful. To be joyful always does not mean always laughing but to be filled with an inner peace. It means to be grateful in spite of circumstances that surround you. To be joyful always means to be filled with faith and confidence that God is working in your life in all circumstances, (Romans 8:28). Are you joyful always? Are you filled with gratitude in spite of difficult trials in your life?

2. Luke 10:20 – Jesus commanded His disciples to rejoice because their names were written in heaven. When you want joy to come from your position or power you will, at some point, be disappointed. Joy must radiate from your relationship with God. Then, that joy and gratitude will touch all other areas of your life. Are you still grateful for your salvation? When did you last thank God for your home in heaven?

3. Philippians 4:4 – Rejoicing is much easier when it is in the Lord. That means our joy is found in God and in Godly things. Often, our sadness comes from things that are not godly or are not God's plan for us. This is what James tells us in James 4:1-3. Do you rejoice in the Lord? Do you love Godly things more than worldly things?

4. Acts 5:41-42 -- The disciples are rejoicing after they are beaten. How is that possible? They were rejoicing in the Lord and their focus was on heaven. They were excited to be able to share in the sufferings of Christ. They saw their lives as an opportunity to bring glory to God. Do you have this depth of commitment to God? Do you see very discouraging situations that arise in your life as an opportunity to glorify God?

Joy and gratitude are possible always. They are emotions that can be controlled. Jesus was a joyful, grateful man and so must we be. If we focus on heaven, we can face any trial. Stephen was able to die as he preached the gospel by keeping his eyes fixed on heaven (cf. Acts 7:54-60). With this joy and gratitude in your heart you will become a light that brings glory to your Father!

Day 27: The Disciple and Money!

**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**Assignment:** Make a list of the ways you use money to glorify God.

**Lesson to Learn:** The love of money can destroy our love and commitment to God.

Have you ever found yourself feeling like you are not as committed to God as you once were? You hear a lesson on sacrifice and you feel you need to repent and be more giving to people. There are times when a disciple will lose his zeal for God and he will not know why. The love of money and the desire for an easier life can be one reason that we find our commitment to God has changed. The problem with our love for money is that it usually enters our life in small increments. The changes can be so subtle we do not always notice them. It takes a reawakening for us to see the changes we have made. In this lesson, we will examine the danger of money and what our attitude should be towards it.

1. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 – Being content with what we have is one of the greatest safeguards we have to our spiritual purity. Paul warns us that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. People wander from the faith because of it. The word “wander” speaks of a slow progression in our life which overcomes our commitment to God. Disciples do not usually determine to love money. It happens slowly and methodically. The zeal and commitment they had at their baptism is replaced with a desire for pleasure and comfort. This is where the love for money comes in and chokes out the word of God (cf. Luke 8:14). Do you feel your zeal for God is less now than when you were first baptized? What do you think caused this?

2. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 – Wealth may appear to be certain and solid. The reality is, however, that money is fleeting and uncertain. To put your hope in money is to put your hope in that which will let you down. Put your hope in God! He will never desert you or abandon you in your time of need. Money will not give you peace or contentment. It will only bring you responsibility and heartache. Do you trust money more than God? What would you feel more secure with a million dollars or God?

3. Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11; 6:1-7 – The first real problem the church faced was not persecution, but how to handle money. Ananias and Sapphira wanted to use their money to appear as committed as other Christians. Their love for recognition and glory caused them to lie to God. If they had no property they may have never fallen into this sin. They would have had no means to satisfy their desire to “look good” before the apostles. In chapter six, the church faces a problem of the feeding of the widows. Again, money, and the use of it, is at the root of this problem. If the church had no money it would not have faced this problem. Had the apostles made the wrong decision, the church could have split over this issue. Money can be very dangerous if it is not used properly. We must always think spiritually when we consider how to use our money. Do you seek spiritual input when you are making decisions that will involve the spending of money?

4. Acts 2:44-45 – The disciples of the first Century were very generous in their giving to meet the needs of the newly established church. They learned to have a spiritual attitude towards the blessings God had given them. Do you see yourself having this same attitude?

Disciples must love God, and not money! This challenge must be faced in every generation, by every disciple. Our zeal for God and His mission is at stake. The love of money will change us from spiritual radicals to complacent suburbanites. Let us never exchange the glory of God for a temporal solution to a temporal problem!

Day 28: The Disciple as a Discipler – Part 1 – The Foundation is Laid  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

**Text:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Assignment:** Make a list of the things that you see about yourself that show that you are a great disciple to the person discipling you.

**Lesson to Learn:** The necessary practicals every disciple should know in order to train others.

The Great Commission Jesus left for all men states that they should make disciples who, in turn would make other disciples. This is God's simple plan to evangelize the world. As each new disciple grows in his faith, he will be able to help someone else to grow in his faith. In this way, the burden of maturing a fast growing church does not fall upon just a few men, but upon all. In the next three lessons, we will examine a few practicals that will help you to train younger disciples to grow in their faith. This lesson will examine the foundation that is necessary to have a great discipling relationship.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – The basis for a discipling relationship must be the word of God. The Bible was given to us by God as a way of maturing every disciple in his or her faith. Do you use the Bible in your discipling times? When you counsel a person do you use the Bible as the basis of your counsel?
2. 2 Corinthians 11:16-29 – One of the most inspirational ways to impact a person is to show them a great example. Paul was one of the greatest trainers of spiritual truths that ever lived. His ability to raise up men to preach and teach helped disciples in the first Century to evangelize their generation. One of Paul's greatest assets in impacting men was his example. We must lead the way for our people. We must show them the way to pray, study their Bibles, share their faith, raise their children, love their spouse, etc. Is the example you leave for your disciples inspirational?
3. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 – Paul had an incredible vision for the Corinthian church, even though they were weak and sinful. He saw them as saints and as holy. He inspired them with his love and vision. Do you believe in your disciples? Do you see them as doing great things for the Lord? Do you share with them what you can see them doing for God?
4. Acts 20:25-27 – Paul, in training his disciples, made sure he declared the whole will of God to them. He didn't just train them in one aspect of Christianity but he focused on all areas. He wanted to raise up mature, well-rounded disciples. Do you focus on many areas in your disciples' lives? Make a list of the things you have been working on with your disciples in helping them to grow and mature in the Lord.
5. 1 Corinthians 4:17 – Timothy was a great disciple to Paul. Because of this, it would be easy for Timothy to train others. An important spiritual principle is at work here. You must be a great disciple in order to raise up other disciples. Instinctively, your disciples will imitate your heart. If you are not a great disciple they will imitate that and then not be great disciples either. Are you frustrated with the people you are discipling? Maybe the problem is that you need to become a better disciple yourself. Then your disciples will follow your lead.

The foundation for an effective discipling relationship is important in order to help your disciples to grow the way God wants them to. Use your Bible in all your discipling times. Show your disciples a great and inspirational example that they can follow. Always have a vision for your people. Teach them the whole will of God and always be a great disciple yourself. With these basics, you can help anyone to grow spiritually.

Day 29: The Disciple as a Discipler – Part 2 – Developing a Relationship  
In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12

**Assignment:** Ask your discipler if they think you are good at developing close relationships.

**Lesson to Learn:** The discipler must learn to build a deep relationship with his disciples if he is to have an impact in their lives.

The mandate Jesus has given every disciple is to go to all nations and make disciples. This is an incredible challenge which, to our knowledge, was done only once before. The disciples in the first century were able to evangelize their world (cf. Colossians 1:6, 23). They accomplished this without the use of telephones, cars, planes, trains, fax machines, etc. But, what they did have were incredible relationships. The power of the church is not our ministry techniques, but the deep relationships that exist between disciples. Usually, when people become disciples they do not know how to build deep relationships. It is very important that all disciples learn how to build relationships that will last forever. When persecution is directed toward us, it is those close relationships that will help us overcome the anger of the world. In this lesson, we will examine the Biblical directive on how to have close discipling relationships.

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 – One of the most important things you must do to build a close relationship with anyone is to pray for them. Paul prayed continually for the churches and for his disciples. When you pray for someone, you spend time thinking about them and their needs. Through prayer, you will develop a more compassionate heart and you learn to empathize with them. Do you pray continually for your disciples?
2. 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7 – One way to pull your disciples into your life is to learn to be gentle with them. To start a relationship with an iron fist is to build a wall between you and your disciple. Paul uses the analogy of a mother caring for her little children. When a newborn comes home, that mother is very gentle and caring for that child. Only later, as the child grows, do you begin to train and discipline them.
3. 1 Thessalonians 2:8-9 – To have a close relationship with your disciples, you must love them. You must want what is best for their lives. You must enjoy being with them and appreciate their friendship and company. Paul loved the church in Thessalonica, and they knew it. Do your disciples know that you love them and that you want what is best for them?
4. 1 Thessalonians 2:8-9 – Paul shared his life with his disciples. He was open with them about his feelings and struggles. They knew about his past, his strengths, his weaknesses and his fears. Paul spent time with them. Spending time with people is the only way to get to know them. Do you share your life with your disciples? Do you have a regular weekly time that you get with each of your disciples? Is this time the same from week to week or is it a floating time. If we don't put it into our schedule it will not happen.
5. 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 – Paul was always encouraging, comforting and urging his disciples. There has to be a balance in every relationship. It cannot be just training, or rebuking, or just hanging out together, or just encouraging, or just comforting. Every relationship needs to have a combination of all these ingredients, There must be a proper balance. That is why you should be constantly re-evaluating your discipling relationships to see if you are maintaining that balance.

If we are to evangelize all nations, we must build close personal relationships that will last a lifetime. Jesus poured Himself into His disciples. The result was that they accomplished the goal He gave them. Be quick to incorporate these principles in your relationships and then God will bless you with the same results.

Day 30: The Disciple as a Discipler – Part 3 – The Training Begins  
**In His Footsteps – A 30 Days Quiet Time Series**

In this lesson, we will depart from the usual format used and give you a checklist of areas to look at in your discipling of other people. It is always good to look and see whether we are covering all areas of discipling in order to help people grow. So, here are some specific areas of discipleship during your times together.

**A. Pray**

Make sure, first of all, that you do it.

Teach them how to pray (for example- Matthew 6:9-15).

Discuss and teach them concerning any misconceptions they have about prayer.

**B. Follow-up**

Make sure you follow up in any areas you discussed from the last time you were together, either during your scheduled times together or any impromptu times throughout the week.

**C. Their Marriage**

If married, make sure this is an area you talk about often, as this relationship, more than any other human relationship, will affect them.

1. The husband's role (Ephesians 5:25-33/ 1 Peter 3:7)
2. The wife's role (Ephesians 5:22/1 Peter 3:1-6)
3. Bring up any areas you see they need help in as you have spent time together.
4. Their finances
5. Are they praying with their spouses?

**D. Their Children**

If the individual has children make sure this is discussed often, as children can have the most profound impact on their parents.

1. Any area of concern about their children
2. The whole area of discipline
3. Any struggles/questions with the husband's/ wife's role in raising the children.
4. Are they having regular family devotionals?

**E. Dating Relationships**

Some areas to discuss:

1. Purity – Ephesians 5:3-4
2. Not running ahead of where the relationship realistically should be.
3. Character changes that need to happen.

**F. Addressing Life Dominating Sins**

You need to address areas in your disciples life where there is recurring sin.

1. Don't be naïve. Satan will come back to tempt them again (Luke 4:13)
2. Don't allow the disciple to become over confident (1 Corinthians 10:12)
3. Keep stressing the putting-off of the old and putting-on of the new (Ephesians 4:20 – 5:3f).

**G. Bible Study**

Some areas to discuss:

1. If they are going through the New Christians follow-up studies, discuss the topics.
2. Discuss how their quiet times are going (i.e.-any problems, questions, what they are learning).
3. Share from your own quiet times.
4. Discuss the Sunday sermon, Wednesday class.

## **H. Evangelism**

Some areas to discuss:

1. Make sure you know how they are doing in this area.
2. Any problems or discouragements
3. Specific people they are studying with.
4. Address any comments they made as the two of you studied the Bible with a non-Christian.
5. Talk about boldness and how to overcome timidity.

## **I. Perfecting Other Christians**

In order for the discipling process to continue, the person you are discipling needs to be faithful in their discipling of others. Some areas to cover:

1. Are they covering the areas in this handout?
2. Are there any problems they do not know how to handle?
3. Are they being perceptive in their evaluations of the problem or the people?

## **J. Our Walk With God**

Some areas to discuss

1. Are they still living by faith?
2. Is there sensitivity to conviction?
3. Is there peace in their life?
4. Is there a spirit of thankfulness?
5. Are they still motivated by grace?
6. Are they growing in their boldness?
7. Are there any hints of a complaining spirit?
8. Do you see areas in which the individual has quit giving their best?
9. Make sure they are solution oriented in their discipling of others.