

Discipleship Training 2021

After-Class Meditation, Practice, and Discussion Topics

As Always, So Now Also Christ Will Be Magnified

2021.04.11 Newman Discipleship Training ND2-001: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus Christ
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Outline

A. The focus of the great commission: make all the nations disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)

1. The definition of “disciple”: learner, follower

2. The purpose of discipleship training: to resemble Jesus (Acts 4:13, Mark 14:67)

*My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you...
(Galatians 4:19)*

3. The testimony of the disciples of Jesus Christ: The Word became flesh

Jesus said..., “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” (John 8:31)

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (John 15:8)

B. How to become a disciple of Jesus Christ

1. God cultivates through the external environment: life is the classroom; the environment is the teaching material.

*28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God...29
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, ... (Romans 8:28-30; Colossians 3:11)*

2. (God disciples us) through the instruction, renewal and change of the indwelling Holy Spirit

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit... 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as [b]by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:16-18; 1 John 2:27)

3. Having been called by the Lord, we deny ourselves, pay the price, and become willing to follow Jesus.

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ... 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26-27, 33; Matthew 10:37-38)

C. Discipleship training with the goal of “building up the body of Christ”

1. What God wants is Christ in the body

... which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:23)

2. The individual's growth is for the testimony of the group

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles...12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to... a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... 15 ... grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

1) Have guidance; 2) have (Christian) companions; 3) grow (into Christ) in all things.

Meditation, Practice, Discussion

- Content Review: Based on the theme verse and content of this lesson, what are some questions you may have?

1. Jesus called all His believers to become disciples. What is the definition and purpose of a disciple?

Definition: _____

Purpose: _____

2. What is the goal (direction) for this round of discipleship training? Why?

- Further Reflection: The impact of this lesson on me, the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and additional thoughts

Week 1: How do I respond to Jesus' call – “All Christians should also be disciples”? To you, what is the greatest challenge as a disciple?

Week 2: This session of Newman Discipleship Training particularly emphasizes on “the goal of building up the body of Christ.” How do you understand this? How do you prepare to live out the testimony of Jesus Christ’s disciples together with your companions (fellow classmates)?

- The Path to Implementation: Following the above questions for reflection, how do I practice godliness with God’s grace in practical actions?

A Kind Reminder: **8** For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things (1 Timothy 4:8). The purpose of Discipleship training is in implementation. So, for each theme, there is two weeks’ time for us to practice (exercise) and hopefully we continue to grow from there.

1. In these two weeks, by submitting to the moving of the indwelling Holy Spirit, practice denying ourselves in life. Please record at least three specific changes:

Week 1: _____

Week 2: _____

2. Please list how you will pray for the leaders of the discipleship training program, your companions, and common growth in Christ during these two weeks.

Note: While thinking and exercising, do you have anything you don't understand or need help with? Please write them down here and bring them up in the small group discussion or ask the tutor.