



School of Discipleship

FOUNDATION 102 (F102)

DRAWING

NEAR TO

CHRIST

A DISCIPLESHIP HANDOUT

BIBLE CENTRED LIFE MINISTRIES

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A WORD FROM DR. SAMUEL J. ISONG, BIBLE CENTERED LIFE MINISTRIES, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE, OYIGBO, NIGERIA

Beloved in Christ, it is exciting experience to us the Bible Centered Life Ministries being a part of God's instrument to building your Christian life and walk on earth. God has called us as a "disciple making ministry." In our continuous submissive and obedient walk with God, we will reach our every neighborhood in the community and every continent of the world in view of finishing the Great Commission. We believe commitment to the great commandment will definitely enhance us to fulfill the Great Commission. Our ultimate goal is to disciple you to disciple another and therefore impacting your world for Christ. So we cannot do without you. Your intentional cooperation and yielding to the needs and demands of discipleship will help us make huge and fast success. This intentional cooperation and yielding includes:

1. Availability
2. Outside Reading
3. Assignments
4. Practical working on others as the process of discipleship demands.

This training manual is designed to introduce and welcome you to the discipleship walk with God. The lessons are simple and very practical for easy assimilation to a willing prospectus disciple – give all your time to it as if that's all your life depends on, which indeed it is. We are looking toward seeing your life changed, your behavior transformed as you yield to the way and life of Jesus and to see you grow to full maturity and habitual person in the kingdom lifestyle and impacting the world for Christ. It's possible! The need of the Kingdom is to disciple the teeming population coming to Christ daily around the world. Please get ready and be willing to join in this journey. Every disciple is a student at all levels.

MILLSTONES TO DEAL WITH

1. In a world of breaking covenant, promises and inconsistency, you have to deal with a millstone of unfaithfulness. To be faithful is victory over the battle of unfaithfulness. So be a winner to be FAITHFUL, to classes, to teachers (disciplers) and fellow disciples.
2. In a busy world today where AVAILABILITY and COMMITMENT are problems, you have to fight the millstone of unavailability. To be AVAILABLE is victory over the battle of unavailability. Be a winner by being available to classes, to your disciplers whenever you are needed.
3. In the 21st century of pride, growing knowledge, diverse ideologies and deliberate choice of teachers with itching ears, it takes a meek and teachable person to be willing to settle down in a process of time to be taught and complete a course of study, especially in Christendom. It takes victory over the battle of PRIDE to be teachable. Be a winner by being TEACHABLE so that Christ will take you to the height of your life through human vessels. Blessed are you that hear this thing if you do them.

KUDOS:

Dr. Samuel J. Isong

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REVISED EDITION:

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Printed and Published by
Eagle's Height Printing Press
Nigeria, West Africa

Electronic copy made available as *In Christ Series* by
5-Fold Global Ministries
North Canton, Ohio
www.5Foldglobal.org

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F102 – 001

JESUS' CORE VALUES FOR A GROWING DISCIPLE

Matt. 6:1 - 7:27 Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew took time to enumerate Jesus' major emphasis on values. Jesus knew His first task was to provide a set of core values for his disciples. We now present to you the list of these core values.

1. Do the right things for the right reasons. (Matt. 6:1-8, 16-18)
2. Pray God's agenda, not your own. (Matt. 6:9-13)
3. Relationship will make or break you. (Matt. 6:14, 15)
4. Prioritize eternal things, not temporal things. (Matt. 6:19-24)
5. Don't sweat the small stuff. (Matt. 6:25, 31, 34)
6. God's kingdom is paramount; seek it first. (Matt 6:32, 33)
7. Judge yourself before you judge others. (Matt. 7:1-6)
8. If you need something ask, if you have something give it. (Matt. 7:7-12)
9. Stay true to your convictions; don't wander from the narrow path. (Matt. 7:13-20)
10. Obedience to God is the only sure foundation for life. (Matt. 7:21-27)

Values are principles, key points or important truths that you must hold strongly too. They have eternal implications on your life.

F102 – 002

PRAYER

TEXT: Matt. 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-4

M/V: Matt. 6:9-13

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION: Christ's life was filled with prayer. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35,). If you are to grow into his likeness, you also need to spend time with him in daily prayer. Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). He indicated that if you do not pray, you will faint. Without prayer, you will be easily defeated by the temptation of the enemy. God assures you that in answer to prayer, He will take care of your every need.

Jesus said, "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). Paul said, "He who did not spare his own son, but delivered Him up for us all. How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Rom. 8:32). Your Lord promises to answer prayer, but there are certain conditions. "If you abide in me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7). To abide means to constantly live.

In other words, if you live in constant fellowship with Christ, and in daily obedience to His word, then you can ask what you will and it shall be done. At first prayer may be difficult. The words may be slow, but you must keep on praying; even the disciples had to learn to pray. They went to Jesus and said "Lord teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). The questions in this lesson are designed to help you learn more about prayer and His power. Fill in the answers in your own words.

PATTERN OF PRAYERS

1. To whom am I to address my prayers? (Luke 11:1)
2. Why then am I to approach God in Christ's name? (Jh. 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5)
3. Whom do I have continually helping me as I pray? (Rom. 8:26)

4. How can I be sure that God hears my prayers? (1 Pet. 3:12; 1 John 5:14,15)
5. What is God's condition for answering prayers? (Matt. 21:22)
6. What am I to believe? (Heb.11:6)
7. What is the major reason prayer is answered? (John 14:13)
8. What is another reason prayer is answered? (John 16:24)

PROVISION IN PRAYER:

9. What has God done that assures me that he will provide for all my needs? (Rom. 8:32)
10. Through whom does God supply my needs? (Phili. 4:19)
11. What can I bring to God in prayers? (Phil. 4:6)
12. What are some of the specific things for which I should pray?
Matt. 6:11

Matt. 6:12

Matt. 6:13

Rom. 10:1

James 1:5

James 5:16

13. What is a good prayer I can pray to help me live a life of victory? (Psalm 139:23)

PROBLEMS IN PRAYER:

14. What are some causes of prayer being unanswered?

Jer. 5:25

Jer. 11:25-26

James 4:3

15. If my prayer seems to be unanswered and I believe that I am asking in God's will, what should be my attitude? (Heb. 10:35,36; Psalm 40:1)

16. What are some characteristics of the prayer life of Jesus?

Matt. 14:23

Mark. 1:35

17. When did David find it best to pray? (Psalm 5:1-3)

18. When would be a good time and where would be a good place for me to spend a few minutes alone each day in prayer?

Time

Place

19. Why is it important for me to pray daily?

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷ "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. (Matt. 6:5-8 NKJ)

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." ² So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. ³ Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one." (Luke 11:1-4 NKJ)

F102 – 003

FELLOWSHIP

TEXT: 1 JOHN 1:1-7

M/V: 1 JOHN 1:1-7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

INTRODUCTION: There is no such thing as a private or individualistic Christianity. Christianity is all about relationships. We shouldn't stop with enjoying only our relationship with God; we need to get involved in the lives of others also. Real Christian fellowship – "*Koinonia*" - involves truly loving one another. It is based on relationship giving, sharing, and receiving. God wants Christians to live in unity and harmony. Our fellowship with other Christians is designed to assist in mutual edification and spiritual growth. God has designed us to enjoy a close, loving relationship both with him and with other Christians. It is never to be "just Jesus and me." Instead, it should be "Jesus and we!" Please use this lesson to learn to commit yourself to healthy Christian relationships. No excuses that people have done this or that to you.

KEY PRINCIPLES

- A. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** Fellowship comes from the Greek word "*Koinonia*" which means "sharing in common." It means that you share an active part of something; be it a business, friendship, marriage, or in this case, our relationship with Christ. Christ wants to share an active part in our daily affairs, but He also wants Christians to be actively involved in the lives of one another.

WHY IS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IMPORTANT?

(1) Why is human fellowship important? (Prov. 27:17; Eccl. 4:9-10)

(2) What are the benefits of meeting together as believers? (Heb. 10:24,25)

(3) Why is fellowship important to you?

- B. WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S BODY:** God desires that every believer be involved with a local church. Every local congregation is part of God's family of believers. The church universal is the body of Christ and each Christian is a part or member of Christ's body. Be careful of anyone

who does not belong to a church. Such can be dangerous. How is your membership with the local church?

1. Who is the head of the body? Why? (Col. 1:18)
2. Each believer is given a different but important place in the spiritual body of Christ, the church. Read 1 Cor. 12:14-27 and respond to the following questions:
 - a. Who gave the members their various functions? (vs 18)
 - b. What is His desire? (vs 25)
 - c. What attitude leads to disharmony in the body? (vs 15, 16, 21)
 - d. Is any member of the body unnecessary? (vs 20-27)
 - e. If you cut a finger, doesn't that injury affect the whole body? How does this illustration relate to the body of Christ when one of her members is hurting? (vs 26)

C. HOW SHOULD WE RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER: The New Testament states that the Christians are believers, God's holy church, the Bible house, the body of Christ. Every member contributes to her success. The following verses show some of the ways that Christians are to relate to one another:

1. Member of one another (Rom. 12:5)
2. Devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10)
3. Honor one another (Rom. 12:10)
4. Oneness of mind (Rom. 15:5)
5. Accept one another (Rom 15:7)
6. Admonish one another (Rom. 15:14)
7. Serve one another (Gal 5:13)
8. Bearing with one another (Eph. 4:2)
9. Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21)
10. Encouraging one another (1 Thess. 5:11)

D. THREE AVENUES OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:

1. This is the gathering of believers for corporate worship and instruction from the Bible through preaching and teaching.

2. Read Acts 2:42-47, at this early point in the history of Christ's church, there were already several thousand believers. In verse 46, identify the two locations where Christians met together.

3. Read Acts 20:20, where are the two locations where Paul states that he preached?

1Cor. 4:17

1Cor. 16:1-2

QUESTIONS:

1. What must I as a true believer never neglect? (Heb. 10:25)
2. What is Christ's attitude toward His church? (Eph. 5:25)
3. What should be my attitude toward attending church (Psalm 122:1)
4. From this study, why is it important for me to attend church faithfully and participate in its activities and fellowship?

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- ² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- ³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. ⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1John 1:1-7 NKJ)

F102 – 004

WITNESSING

Note: This section is being written and will be made available at a later date.

F102 – 005

CHURCH STRENGTHING YOU

Note: This section is being written and will be made available at a later date.

F102 – 006

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Note: This section is being written and will be made available at a later date.

F102 – 007

CARING FOR YOUR PASTOR, GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-11; ROMANS 15:27; PHILIPPIANS 4:13-19

M/V:

According to the above scriptures, we discover that caring or giving to our pastor (a servant of God) is God's command.

In the Old Testament, God instructed the people of Israel to provide care for the shepherd (the Pastor) for they are them that feed the flock of the Lord.

The teaching is divided into three sub-headings:

1. Who is a pastor?
2. Why must we care or provide for our pastor?
3. Reward (benefits) of caring for your pastor.

WHO IS A PASTOR?

Pastor is a person called and ordained by God for the service of the Lord. In other words, pastors are those chosen by God to teach the people of God the commandments and statutes of the Lord. (Jer. 1:5, Isaiah 49:1, 5). Their work is to lead and direct the people of God in the way they should go. The pastor's responsibility is to feed the flock of the Lord. (Jer. 3:15, John 21:16, 1 Peter 5:2)

WHY MUST YOU CARE (PROVIDE) FOR YOUR PASTOR?

1. You care for your pastor because it is God's command for you to do so. (Gal. 6:6, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Heb. 13:16)
2. Is it their right and also our responsibility to care for our pastor? (1 Cor. 9:1-11, Rom. 15:27, Phil. 4:13-19)

THE REWARD (BENEFIT) OF CARING FOR OUR PASTOR

1 Kings 17:8-16, provision, increase

2 Kings 4:8-17, unexpected miracle

Phili. 4:18-19, their need was made, abundant supply. As you provide and care for your pastor, God's servant, your need will be met. Give and it will be given unto you (Luke 6:38, Matt. 10:40-42). Caring and providing for your pastor is an act of sowing a seed which will yield fruits and increase. It is also reciprocal, (give and take). (Matt. 10:40-42, Gal. 6:9-10, Heb. 6:10, 1 Cor. 15:58).

As we love, care and provide for our pastor, so the Lord will open the window of heaven, and pour us a blessing. (Mal. 3:10, Ezek. 44:30)

Questions / Discussion:

1. Discuss any example in the Bible you know that was blessed by caring for a servant of God.
2. Do you think it is necessary to care for your pastor? Why do you think so?
3. Write down areas you think you can care for your pastor.

F102 – 008

TRANSFORMATIONAL INDICATORS

VALUES AND ATTITUDE

A. A DISCIPLE WORSHIPS GOD.

A disciple worships God. (Rev. 22:9)

B. A DISCIPLE GETS TO KNOW JESUS

A potential disciple responds to Jesus' invitation and is interested in Jesus and spiritual things. (John 1:39, 45)

C. A DISCIPLE WITNESSES GOD'S MIRACLE

A disciple sees the supernatural acts of God. He waits on God and refuses to give up until he proves God's faithfulness and uses it as a testimony to bring others to believe in Christ. (John 2:23. John 4:53)

D. A DISCIPLE PREPARES TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

A disciple prepares mentally to live for Christ. He stands for Christ whether life or death. (1 Pet. 1:13)

E. A DISCIPLE HAS REVERENTIAL FEAR OF GOD

A disciple has a holy fear of God's judgment and turns from evil. (1 Pet. 1:17, 2:17)

NOTES