



Foundation 103 (F103)

BECOMING

LIKE

CHRIST

BIBLE CENTRED LIFE MINISTRIES

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PORT HARCOURT, R/STATE. OYIGBO

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

FOUNDATION 103 (F103)

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For further inquiries contact Dr. S. J. Isong or 5-Fold Global Ministries
(samuelesong@yahoo.com) (5foldglobal@gmail.com)

Becoming Like Christ

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F103-001

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.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' ²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matt. 7:21-27 NKJ)

The Concept of Discipleship

Matt. 28:19-20

Introduction:

Since two of the major focuses we have in ministry are discipleship and raising leaders, we must take time to understand what discipleship and leadership are all about in detail to help us fulfill our calling. In our studies in this school we shall examine the scriptures, discover the biblical concept of discipleship, the need for it, then its goals and objectives. Open your heart; I pray that through a personal revelation of the word, within your inner man, you will have meaningful change in your lifestyle and in your vision in life. I pray that you will teach others who are faithful like you.

A. Definition and Concept

- i. **Discipleship-** is the process of reproducing or imparting the life of a teacher to a pupil. It is a life-long process, a systematic and cumulative way of making someone (a student, a pupil, a trainee, an apprentice, a raw material, a disciple) to be conformed or transformed into the image, the stature and the full personality of the Master (in this case, the Lord Jesus Christ)
- ii. **Discipleship-** is God's means of achieving His eternal purpose and central goal to calling anyone to Himself. His purpose is that everyone He calls should conform to the image of His only son, the Savior Jesus Christ, so that Christ might be the first born among brethren (Rom. 8:28-29, Heb. 2:10-11). Discipleship is the only means designed by God to bring us into the measure of the fullness of Christ, growing up into Him in all things (Eph. 4:13-15).
- iii. **Discipleship-** is God's family training scheme (Gal. 4:1-2, Heb. 12:7-11) for an heir who is a child to be brought into his inheritance; he is kept under training and tutelage till he grows to work into the heritage of his father. It involves discipline and training of character. The tutors and teachers of the kingdom are men and women appointed by our Father, God, to watch over our growth and development until we become like the son He loves.
- iv. **Discipleship-** is like a MASTER and APPRENTICE or TEACHER and PUPIL relationship, with a ready curriculum and behavioral objective between the Christian and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a personal apprenticeship under the Master Jesus Christ with a view of becoming like Him (Luke 6:40, Matt.4:19-20, Matt. 11:20, 30)
- v. **Discipleship-** is a process; it is a life-long process. It calls for a very close association with the Master (Heb. 12:6, Ps. 118:18)
- vi. **In Discipleship-** the Master deals with each person uniquely and in a peculiar way to the individual. The path each must tread to glory, the portion of service and talents allotted to him are also unique. No disciple should compare Christ's dealings with him with another disciple's experiences with Christ. To whom much is given, much is required. Consider

Christ's dealings with Peter in John 21:15-25, Thomas in John 20:19-20, 24-29. Compare these with the laborer in Matt. 20:1-6, "Take what is thine and go thy way.... is it not lawful for me (the Master) to do what I will with mine own?"

- vii. **Discipleship-** is the "ship" that brings the willing volunteer disciple across the ocean of the natural lifestyle, the gulf of the fallen nature into the new spiritual relationship with the Lord, his character deeds and manner of life and speech show obviously to these around that he "...he has been with Jesus" (Acts. 4:13, Matt. 26:69-73, Acts 11:26).

B. The Pattern

- i. DISCIPLESHIP has a beginning, an entrance and a definite starting point when the trainee willingly yields his neck to the yoke of the Master to learn from Him (Matt. 11:28-30).
- ii. DISCIPLESHIP involves direct encounters and interaction with the Master Himself, in prayer, in His word, in His service, and in following in His footsteps. (John 8:31-32, 15:8-10, 1 Pet. 2:21).

WHO IS A DISCIPLE?

- i. A disciple is first of all, one who has been BORN AGAIN (John 3:1-7, 1 Cor. 2:13-14, Ezek. 36:26-27). Except a man is born a new by the spirit-he has no potential to become like Jesus. A baby lizard can never grow up to become a crocodile, no matter the training, the feeding, or the exposures. No matter the principles of discipleship applied, a sinner cannot develop, by training, to become a saint. He has to be born again.
- ii. Having had rest from sin and the devil, the disciple voluntarily yields his neck to the yoke of the Lord Jesus Christ so as to be taught and nurtured by Him, until he becomes like Him (Matt. 11:29-30). WHAT IS YOKE? A yoke is a wooden bar put across the necks of two animals of the same kind to hold them together for the purpose of plowing. A yoke does not allow you to do what you like.
- iii. Since a servant cannot be loyal to two masters at one time, a disciple is a man of one focus, under one master, he possesses a single eye, lives a singular life, not an intermix of the natural and spiritual, and must have a clear testimony of a deliverance of sin (1 John 3:5-10, Matt. 6:21-24, Luke 1:74-75).
- iv. A disciple is a learner that willingly obeys the teacher. He accepts his teacher's wisdom as the best ever possible for his own life. He is not afraid of anything (Rom. 8:28-29, John 6:68-69, Job 13:15). He respects, obeys and accepts the teacher in every way.
- v. A disciple is not choosy. He does not mind by what means the master chooses to hammer him into the desired shape (2 Cor. 4:16-17, Eccl. 3:11, Rom. 8:28). He is not argumentative, he submits whole-heartedly to heavenly pattern and believes they will mold him into shape, according to heavenly pattern.
- vi. A disciple loves his Master, is loyal, submissive, committed to Him and is zealous for His (the Master's) honor and interest at all cost. Consider David's men in 1 Chron. 11:15-19, Peter and John in Acts 4:19-20, 5:32-42 and Paul in Acts 20:22-24, 21:20-24.

A DISCIPLE AND HIS MARRIAGE

FOCUS: WHOM SHOULD A TRUE DISCIPLE MARRY? WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT WHOM A DISCIPLE SHOULD MARRY?

A. GOD'S POSITION ON DISCIPLE MARRIAGE.

1. God says marriage is a good thing (Prov. 18:22).
2. God says our sons and daughters should be given to marriage (Note: should be given into not themselves jumping into it) (Jer. 29:6).
3. God says a disciple should marry only one wife (1Tim. 3:12-13).
4. God says younger widows should marry (1 Tim. 5:14-16).
5. God says marriage is honorable, and that marry partners should be satisfied with each other (Heb. 13:4).

B. MARRIAGE WITH "UNBORN AGAIN" IS FORBIDDEN

1. Thou shall not take a wife from the Canaanites – unborn again (Gen. 24:3, 28:1).
2. Don't make marriage with them (unbelievers) (Deut. 7:3).
3. It is breaking of covenant; it causes spiritual setback and casualties (Josh. 23:12, Ezr. 9:12, Neh. 13:25).
4. Light has not communion with darkness (John 8:12, Matt. 5:14).
5. God's temple has no agreement with idols. The born again and the unbeliever cannot agree. They are different in all areas. A true partnership is impossible. They can't have the joy of marital fellowship in Christ and His serve (2 Cor. 6:14).

DANGERS OF MARRYING A NON-BORN AGAIN

1. An unbeliever is a stranger to the life of God and things of the spirit and even counts them as foolishness, as the god of this world has blinded his eyes (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
2. It is a direct disobedience to God and His instruction.
3. God says they will turn your sons and daughters from following me...(Deut. 7:4).
4. God's anger will be kindled against you (Deut. 7:4). Verse 5 says is such a relationship tries to arise destroy it totally and burn it with fire.

QUESTION:

1. Who should a disciple marry?
2. Who is the stranger that a disciple should not marry?
3. Mention and explain the dangers of marrying a stranger.

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CONDITIONS NEEDED FOR YOU AS CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

1. Self-denial and cross bearing (Matt. 16:24).
2. Renunciation (Luke 14:26)
3. Leaving all (Like 14:33)
4. Steadfastness (John 8:31)
5. Fruitfulness (John 15:8)

BLESSINGS PROMISED TO A TRUE DISCIPLE

1. Spiritual Knowledge (Hos. 6:3, Luke 14:27)
2. Spiritual light (John 8:12)
3. Guidance of the still small voice (John 10:27)
4. Heavenly honor (John 12:26, 21:22, Eph. 5:1)
5. A divine example (1 Peter 2:21, Rev. 14:4)

QUESTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Discuss self-denial and cross bearing (Matt. 16:24).
2. Discuss "leaving all" in the light (Luke 14:33)
3. Discuss 4 blessings promised to a true disciple.

OBEDIENCE: A DISCIPLE'S IDENTITY

John 14:21 (NIV) "Whoever has my commandments and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father."

INTRODUCTION:

Prophet Samuel went to the King Saul with these words; "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people, Israel; so listen now to the message for the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says; "Now go attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them" (1 Sam. 15:18-23).

Key Principles:

1. Whom should a disciple obey?
 - a) Who is Lord over all things and why is He worthy of our submission and obedience (Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:1-13)?
 - b) What will happen when Christians call Jesus their Lord, but do not do what He has commanded (Luke 6:46-49)?
2. How should a follower of Christ live?
 - a) What should be a disciple's relationship to sin (Rom 6:11-12)?
 - b) What does Rom. 6:13 state you should do?
 - c) What challenge does Peter present (1 Peter 1:14-16)?
3. How does disobedience affect our relationship with God?
 - a) Consider the example of King Saul (1 Sam. 15:18-23).
 - b) Consider the example of Israelites (Zech. 7:11-14)
4. Obedience brings glory to God.
 - a) Consider the example of Abraham. What were his two great acts of obedience? Gen. 12:1-4, Heb. 11:8-16, Gen. 22:1-3, 9-12
 - b) Consider the life of David (Acts 13:22).
 - c) Consider the example of Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:7, John 6:38)
 - d) Consider the words of John to the early believers (1 John 3:21-24).
5. Check out the blessings of obedience from these passages. (James 4:17, Psalms 119:59-60, John 15:5-10, 14, Job 17:9, John 14:21, 1 Sam. 15:22)

APPLICATION: OBEY WHAT GOD IN HIS WORD HAS TOLD YOU TO DO

1. Write down one thing that you know God has revealed to you that He wants you to do in obedience to Him.

2. Is this in line with the truth of God's Holy Word- the Bible?

3. Get ready now to accomplish what you wrote in number 1.
 - A. Make it number one goal at this time in your disciple's life.
 - B. What else will you do today and this week in order to obey God?

STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S TICKET FOR GREATNESS

INTRODUCTION: A young couple took their two children on a holiday outing to the beach. On their way, the father stopped in a provision store and bought soft drinks and ice cream for everyone. He also purchased a large bag of peanut and cheeps, which he asked, IFEANYI, his eight year-old son, to carry out to the car.

The family had a wonderful time traveling to the beach singing and laughing. However, when the ice cream and soft drinks were gone, NGOZI, the five year old daughter, spotted the large bag of peanuts and cheeps which being carefully guarded by IFEANYI.

Give me some peanuts demanded NGOZI. "No", IFEANYI shot back, "Dad gave them to me and you can't have any. Besides, you already had ice cream and soft drinks. You should be happy with what you got!" "Daddy!" NGOZI cried, "IFEANYI won't give me any peanuts." "Hold on, kids!" Dad interrupted.

"IFEANYI" Dad went on to explain "when I gave that large bag of peanuts and cheeps to you I didn't mean for you to keep it just to yourself. I gave you responsibilities for the peanuts and chips so that you could enjoy some and share the rest with the whole family."

"Sorry, Dad," IFEANYI answered, "I thought they were all mine."

This simple story is an illustration of how your heavenly Father deals with you. He is the true owner and provider of all things. Everything He gives should be managed as He would desire. He wants to meet your needs and use you in meeting the needs of others. He never intended that you hoard His good gifts. You have been called to be His faithful steward.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

GOD IS THE SOURCE AND OWNER OF ALL THINGS. What did Israel's king David declare regarding God's ownership as stated in 1 Chr. 29:10-16?

GOD HAS MADE YOU ONE OF HIS STEWARDS.

1. Who is a steward? A steward manages someone else's property or possessions. A Christian steward is one who manages his life and resources to the glory of God, since he and all he has belongs to God. The Christian steward offers the whole of his life as a living sacrifice. (Rom. 14:11-12, 2 Cor. 5:10)
2. In 1 Cor. 4:1 Paul speaks of "those entrusted", meaning those who are managers or stewards. What does he teach they must do in 1 Cor. 4:2?
3. What is the basic on which servants were found faithful in Jesus' parable of the talents? (Math. 25:14-30)

LOOK AT WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

1. Your Talents.

- a) How should you use the gift and talents God has given you? (1 Pet. 4:7-11)
- b) What talents and abilities has God given you?
- c) How would you apply Col 3:17 to the stewardship of your talents?

2. Your Treasures.

- a) What so you learn from Jesus' parable? (Luke 12:13-21)
- b) Why is it important to have the proper attitude toward money? (1 Tim. 6:6-11)
- c) What is one positive use of money? (1 Tim. 5:3-8)
- d) What did God command His people as recorded in Mal. 3:8-10?
- e) How does Jesus instruct is to give? (Luke 6:38)

3. Your Time

- a) If you are to be a wise steward and obey the commands of your Lord, how will you use your time? (Eph. 5:16-17)
- b) In (Math. 6:33-34), what two things are believers told to seek?
- c) How important did Paul consider work? (2 Thess. 3:6-12)
- d) How might you improve in the way you use your time?

APPLICATION: ACCEPT YOUR POSITION AS ONE OF GOD'S STEWARDS

- 1. Acknowledge God's ownership.
- 2. Thank Him for all He has given.
- 3. Determine to manage all your resources to the glory of God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

M/V: ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria to the ends of the Earth.

INTRODUCTION: Mary’s retirement income was barely enough to make ends meet. Her husband had died years before and since she has lived in loneliness and poverty. Mary felt destitute and defeated.

One day she was visited by Gloria, a friend whom she hadn’t seen since childhood. Gloria decided to stay with Mary for a few days to help. In the course of straightening up the house, Gloria discovered a shoe box tucked away in the hall closet; inside the box they found an old bank savings book, stock and bond certificates, a key to a safety deposit box, and a love note from Mary’s husband explaining how he had provided for her care upon the death.

When the value of the savings account and the stock certificate were calculated, Mary was told that she has more than \$697,840.00! She had been living in misery and despair over twelve years when all along her husband had provided for her very need.

This story is often too similar to the way many Christians live their lives. God has provided boundless resources through the Holy Spirit. Yet, many Christians live unfulfilled, fruitless and spiritually malnourished lives. They live only within the limits of their own human strength when they could enjoy abundant resources of the Holy Spirit.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person. The Bible states that the Holy Spirit possesses all the elements of personality; intellect (1 Cor. 2:11), a will (1 Cor. 12:10-11) and emotions (Eph. 4:30). He also performs actions which illustrate that He is not some impersonal force or power.
 - a) He speaks (Acts. 13:2)
 - b) He teaches (Jhn. 14:26)
 - c) He guides (Jhn. 16:13)
 - d) He convicts (Jhn. 16:7-8)
 - e) He commands (Acts. 8:29)
 - f) He helps (Rom. 8:26)
 - g) He comforts (Jhn. 14:16)

2. **The Holy Spirit is God.** The Holy Spirit possesses characteristics and performs works that can only be attributed to the fact that He is God, the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - a) He is eternal (Heb. 9:14)

- b) He is Omnipresent (present everywhere) (Ps. 139:7)
- c) He is Omniscient (all-knowing) (1 Cor. 2:10-11)
- d) He is Omnipotent (all-powerful) (Job. 33:4)
- e) He inspired the scriptures (2 Peter 1:21)
- f) He caused the miraculous conception of Christ (Lk. 1:35)
- g) He brings salvation to men (2 Thess. 2:13)

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- a) **CONVICTION:** He reveals the need to change some thought, attitude or actions. He convicts men of their sin. (John 16:8)
- b) **REGENERATION:** When a person becomes a Christian the Holy Spirit gives him a new spirit. He is regenerated or “born again” (Titus. 3:5)
- c) **INDWELLING:** The Holy Spirit takes up residence within a person when he becomes a believer. (Rom. 8:9)
- d) **BAPTISM:** The Holy Spirit “baptizes” or “place” a new believer into the spiritual body of Christ, the church (1 Cor. 12:13)
- e) **SEALING/GUARANTEE:** The Holy Spirit becomes the down payment, the earnest, or guarantee of the believer’s spiritual inheritance, which will not be fully realized until after he dies. (Eph. 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 5:5)
- f) **SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** The Holy Spirit gives various spiritual gifts to believers so that they can minister to others effectively. (1 Cor. 12:4-11)
- g) **FILLING:** To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be controlled, directed and empowered by for life and service. (Eph. 5:18)

CHRISTIANS NEED TO LOVE BY THE SPIRIT.

Living by the Spirit. “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Gal. 5:24-45)

- a) **The sinful nature:** those who do not live under the controlling influence of God’s Spirit demonstrate the actions and qualities listed in Gal. 5:19-21. Which of these items have you struggled with in your life?
- b) **The fruit of the Holy Spirit:** Christians who live under the controlling influence of God’s Spirit demonstrated the character qualities listed in Gal 5:22-23. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit bringing forth this fruit in your life?
- c) **Yield to the Control of the Holy Spirit:** the only way to overcome the sinful nature is to yield to the power and control of the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:16, Rom. 8:1-13). Have you yielded your life to the power of the Holy Spirit?

APPLICATION: BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

God wants you as a disciple to fill you with His Spirit (Eph. 5:18). He cleans your sins and empowers you to take on the character of Christ.

Here are some suggested steps to demonstrate your desire to live by the power of God’s Spirit.

1. Confess any known sin, you need the Holy Spirit's cleansing and infilling (1 Jhn. 1:9)
2. Yield every area of your life to Christ. (Rom. 6:12-13, Rom 12:1-2)
3. Ask Him to take control of your life and empower you to live pleasing to Him (1 Jhn. 5:14-15)
4. Receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith as you continue to yield your life to Him.

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TRANSFORMATIONAL INDICATORS

HABITS

- A. A disciple repents (2 Peter 3:9, Lk. 13:3, Acts 17:30, Rom. 2:4, Rev. 2:5,16,22, 3:3, 9:20-21, Acts 2:38, 19)
- B. A disciple repents of seeking God's favor through fleshly work (Heb. 6:1, 13:9)
- C. A disciple observes the disciple maker. A disciple sees the passion of the disciple maker for pleasing God. (John. 4:34)

VIRTUES

A disciple rejoices in his/her salvation. (1 Peter 1:6, 8)

A disciple forgives and continues to love.

A disciple reconciles offended parties restores them to fellowship and love.

A disciple doesn't defend himself.

SERVICE

A disciple works to develop another disciple.

A disciple does not miss discipleship meeting.

A disciple goes out for evangelism as a lifestyle.

A disciple pays his tithe without persuasion.

A disciple visits and cares for fellow believers.

A disciple looks around and take responsibilities on his initiative.

NOTES