CFC
CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CENTRE

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# WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Following Jesus Completely

**MONTHLY SERMON SERIES | FOUR-WEEK TEACHING GUIDE**

Prepared for ministry teaching and discipleship

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# SERMON SERIES CONTENT

A complete four-week CFC teaching resource for preaching, Bible study, discipleship and ministry development.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE? A 4-Week Sermon Series

Theme: Following Jesus Completely

## Key Scripture: Matthew 4:19

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

## SERIES INTRODUCTION

A disciple is more than a church attendee. A disciple is a committed follower of Jesus Christ who learns from Him, obeys Him, becomes like Him, and helps others follow Him.

In today's generation many people want the blessings of Christ without the discipline of Christ. Jesus did not call us merely to believe in Him; He called us to follow Him.

Christianity without discipleship becomes powerless religion. The Church grows stronger when believers become true disciples.

## MONTHLY SERMON OUTLINE

Week

Topic

Main Scripture

## Week 1

The Call to Discipleship

Matthew 4:18-22

## Week 2

The Characteristics of a Disciple

Luke 9:23-24

## Week 3

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33

## Week 4

The Mission of a Disciple

Matthew 28:18-20

## WEEK 1 - THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP Main Text:

Gospel of Matthew 4:18-22

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus did not begin by building buildings or organizations. He began by calling disciples.

The first disciples were ordinary fishermen:

- Peter
- Andrew
- James
- John

Jesus saw beyond their occupation and saw their destiny.

God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

The word disciple means:

- Learner
- Student
- Follower
- Apprentice

A disciple is someone who:

- Follows Jesus
- Learns from Jesus
- Obeys Jesus
- Becomes like Jesus
- Leads others to Jesus

## POINT 1 - JESUS CALLS ORDINARY PEOPLE

The disciples were fishermen, not scholars. Example:

- Moses was a shepherd

- David was a shepherd boy
- Gideon was hiding in fear
- Peter was impulsive and unstable

Yet God used them mightily. Lesson:

Your background does not limit your calling.

## POINT 2 - A DISCIPLE RESPONDS IMMEDIATELY

The Bible says:

"Immediately they left their nets..."

Delayed obedience is disobedience. Example:

When Jesus called Matthew the tax collector, he left his table and followed Christ.

A true disciple prioritizes Jesus above comfort.

## POINT 3 - A DISCIPLE LEARNS FROM JESUS DAILY

Disciples walked with Jesus daily:

- They listened to Him
- Watched Him pray
- Saw miracles
- Learned humility

You cannot become like someone you do not spend time with. Practical Application:

A disciple must:

- Read the Word daily
- Pray consistently
- Attend fellowship
- Grow spiritually

## POINT 4 - JESUS CHANGES DISCIPLES

Jesus said:

"I will make you..."

Discipleship is transformation.

Peter became bold. Thomas became convinced. Matthew became evangelistic. John became loving.

God changes character before assignment.

## CONCLUSION

Jesus is still calling people today: "Follow Me."

The question is: Will you leave your nets? Altar Call:

- Surrender fully to Christ
- Commit to spiritual growth
- Decide to become a true disciple

## WEEK 2 - THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE Main Text:

Gospel of Luke 9:23-24

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE 1. A DISCIPLE DENIES SELF

Discipleship requires surrender.

Self says:

- "My will"
- "My comfort"
- "My desires"

Jesus says:

- "Not My will but Yours."

Example:

Jesus in Gethsemane surrendered to the Father.

## Application:

Sometimes discipleship means:

- Forgiving enemies
- Walking in holiness
- Giving sacrificially
- Serving faithfully

## 2. A DISCIPLE CARRIES THE CROSS

The cross represents:

- Sacrifice

- Death to flesh
- Commitment

Example:

The apostles suffered persecution but remained faithful.

Modern discipleship without sacrifice is incomplete Christianity.

## 3. A DISCIPLE OBEYS GOD

Obedience is proof of discipleship. Example:

Abraham obeyed God even when he did not understand.

A disciple says: "Lord, Your Word is final."

## 4. A DISCIPLE LOVES OTHERS

Jesus said:

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

A disciple:

- Encourages
- Forgives
- Serves
- Restores

## CONCLUSION

Discipleship is not about titles. It is about transformation.

## WEEK 3 - THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP Main Text:

Gospel of Luke 14:25-33

"Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

## INTRODUCTION

Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything.

Many want Jesus as Savior, but few want Him as Lord.

## THE COSTS OF DISCIPLESHIP 1. IT COSTS COMFORT

Discipleship may require:

- Leaving comfort zones
- Enduring persecution

- Standing for truth

Example:

Paul endured prison, beatings, and rejection.

## 2. IT COSTS RELATIONSHIPS

Not everyone will understand your commitment to Christ. Example:

Joseph was rejected by his brothers.

A disciple remains faithful despite opposition.

## 3. IT COSTS WORLDLY DESIRES

A disciple cannot serve:

- God and sin
- God and the world

Example:

The rich young ruler walked away sad because he loved possessions more than God.

## 4. THE REWARD IS GREATER THAN THE COST

What we lose for Christ cannot compare to eternal reward. Example:

The disciples left everything but gained eternal impact.

## CONCLUSION

Jesus never hid the cost. He wants committed followers.

Ask yourself: What is stopping me from fully following Christ?

## WEEK 4 - THE MISSION OF A DISCIPLE Main Text:

Gospel of Matthew 28:18-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

## INTRODUCTION

A disciple is not only called to grow; a disciple is called to reproduce.

Christian maturity is measured by multiplication.

## THE MISSION OF A DISCIPLE 1. MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus did not say: "Make church members."

He said: "Make disciples." A disciple teaches others:

## Prayer

- Holiness
- Faith
- Scripture
- Evangelism

## 2. PREACH THE GOSPEL

Every believer has a testimony. Example:

The Samaritan woman immediately told others about Jesus.

A disciple shares Christ boldly.

## 3. TEACH OTHERS TO OBEY GOD

Discipleship includes teaching people how to live for God.

Church attendance alone is not enough. People must be spiritually formed.

## 4. DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised:

"I am with you always."

Discipleship cannot happen without:

## Prayer

- The Holy Spirit
- God's power

## FINAL CONCLUSION OF THE SERIES

A disciple is:

- Called by Jesus
- Changed by Jesus
- Committed to Jesus
- Sent by Jesus

The Church does not need more spectators. The Church needs disciples.

## FINAL CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Ask yourself:

- Am I truly following Jesus?

- Am I growing spiritually?
- Am I obeying God fully?
- Am I discipling others?

## CLOSING PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, make us true disciples. Teach us to follow You faithfully, obey Your Word, carry our cross, and fulfill Your mission. Transform our hearts and use us for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen."