ROOTED

Disciple-making

What you have heard, entrust to faithful people.

MATTHEW 28:18–20 · ESV

“**All authority** in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”

Five Anchors of a Disciple

WEEK 1	**God-Loving**	*Loved into loving*
WEEK 2	**Christ-Centred**	*Not I, but Christ*
WEEK 3	**Spirit-Filled**	*Not by might, not by power. By His Spirit*
WEEK 4	**Word-Grounded**	*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly*
WEEK 5	**Disciple-Making**	*A disciple makes disciples*

One God.
One Book.
One Mission.

One God — Weeks 1–3 · One Book — last Sunday · One Mission — today

No book. No building. No budget.
He left people.
There is no Plan B.

“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” — John 20:21

Every follower of Jesus is a disciple of Jesus.

Not the advanced class. The only class.

WHAT THE FIRST CHURCH CALLED THEMSELVES

261

times the New Testament says **disciple**

3

times it says **Christian** (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)

“in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.” — Acts 11:26

Word counts: mathētēs / Christianos in the Greek New Testament (Emmaus University, 2022)

GENESIS 1:28 — GOD'S FIRST COMMAND TO HUMANITY

“Be fruitful and **multiply** and fill the earth…”

MATTHEW 28:19 — JESUS' LAST COMMAND TO HIS CHURCH

“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations…”

The Bible's first command and its last command are the same command: multiply.

You can attend church for years and never once be a disciple.

Are we following him —
or just around him?

LUKE 14:25, 27 · ESV

“Now great crowds **accompanied** him, and he turned and said to them… ‘Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me **cannot be my disciple**.’”

“Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance… Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer · The Cost of Discipleship (1937)

Grace is free. It is never cheap.

“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having **itching ears** they will accumulate for themselves teachers **to suit their own passions**.”

We do not avoid discipleship because it asks too little. We avoid it because it sits close enough to tell us the truth.

Why would you say yes to following Jesus?

Freedom

Not doing whatever you want. Finally being free from whatever was mastering you.

"…you are truly my disciples, and the truth will set you free." — John 8:31–32

Joy

Not a mood that comes and goes. His own joy, planted in you, growing full.

"…that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." — John 15:11

"Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." — Matthew 16:25

Who is discipling you?

Start with God.

“You then, **my child**, be strengthened by **the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.” — 2 Timothy 2:1

Jesus is discipling you right now.

JOHN 15:1–2 · ESV

“I am the true vine, and my Father is **the vinedresser**… every branch that does bear fruit **he prunes, that it may bear more fruit**.”

Winter

The stripped-back season.

Branches bare. Everything looks dead. Nothing is. The Gardener prunes, and the roots go deeper in the dark.

“…he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” — John 15:2

“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted.” — Psalm 34:18

Spring

The new-growth season.

First love. Fresh starts. The thaw after a long dry stretch. Everything is small, green and hungry.

“The winter is past… the time of singing has come.” — Song 2:11–12

“Behold, I am doing a new thing… it springs forth.” — Isaiah 43:19

Summer

The long-obedience season.

No drama. Just heat — and staying green through it. Ordinary faithfulness when nothing feels special.

“It does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green.” — Jeremiah 17:8

“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap.” — Galatians 6:9

Autumn

The harvest season.

Fruit heavy enough to feed someone else. Harvest is where being discipled turns into discipling.

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit.” — John 15:8

“They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green.” — Psalm 92:14

The seasons change. The Gardener doesn't.

Superdry

How do you start?

Ask someone ahead of you

Name one person you respect. Ask them: “Could we meet once a month? I want to grow.”

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” — Prov 27:17

Invite someone behind you

Read a Gospel together, one chapter a week. You don't need answers. You need presence.

“…ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.” — 1 Thess 2:8

Get into a room

Join or host a group. Discipleship grows where two or three keep showing up.

“…consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” — Heb 10:24

No curriculum required. Two people, an open Bible, a regular table.

Who are you discipling?

“and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also**.” — 2 Timothy 2:2

Paul → Timothy → faithful people → others also

Four generations in one sentence.

This week

1 · Who is discipling you?

Ask Jesus this week: “What are you teaching me?” Then tell one person in this church your answer. If you want company on the way, join a group.

2 · Who are you discipling?

Write down one name. Not a programme — a person. Your child, your friend, your workmate. Pray for them daily. Share one meal this month.

Groups, daily devotion and this series: app.clichurch.com

παράθου *parathou — “entrust”*

A banker's word: place a deposit for safekeeping — the same root as “guard the good deposit” (2 Tim 1:14). The gospel is a treasure on deposit. You are its trustee, not its owner.

A deposit is kept safe by being handed to the next faithful hands.

Come and tell me: “I want to be discipled.”

I will find someone to journey with you.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?… **Feed my sheep**.”
— John 21:17

*“If we are faithless, **he remains faithful**…” — 2 Timothy 2:13*

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