

Discipleship Plan OTC 2018

Goal/Purpose:

PART 1 2018: Help OTC-ers know and follow Jesus together.

PART 2 2019: Create a team of Disciplers who help others know and follow Jesus in a Biblical, consistent way.

Jesus brought together a small group, equipped them, and then sent them out to make disciples. We are following that pattern through these Discipleship Groups.

PART 1: Be a Disciple. Know and follow Jesus.

1. 24 Topics covered in 3, 8-week Sections
 - a. Small group discussion format
 - b. Start times: Section 1: February, Section 2: April, Section 3: September
 - c. Content + discussion + application assignments
 - d. Scripture-driven; text → conclusions
 - e. Debrief application each week at the beginning of the section: “How did that go?”
 - f. Goals:
 - i. Come away with a shared Biblical foundation; knowing the essentials that every follower of Jesus should know.
 - ii. Know where these essentials are found in the Bible for future reference.
2. Ongoing personalized follow-up during and between the sections
 - a. Help people apply what they are learning in their own life.
 - b. Strengthen fellowship with each other as we follow Jesus together.

PART 2: Disciple Others. Help others know and follow Jesus.

1. Those who have completed Part 1 and are called to disciple others will be invited to participate in Part 2.
2. 8 Topics covered in 1, 8-week Section
 - a. Small group discussion format
 - b. Start early 2019
 - c. Goal: Develop and equip a team of Disciplers who have a shared understanding of discipleship.
3. Ongoing personalized support/coaching for active Disciplers
 - a. Monthly 1-1 or small group

Part 1 Topics:

Section 1 (weeks 1-8)

What’s wrong with the world? God’s gift of Creation and Humanity’s Fall

How God is rescuing His world: A Savior Promised, The Savior Sent

Section 2 (weeks 9-16)

How we follow Jesus together: The Church, Bible, Prayer

Section 3 (weeks 17-24)

How we follow Jesus together: Fellowship, Mission, Serving, Sharing

NOTES for leaders:

- Keep time focused and on topic...personal crises hold off and address afterward; don't get sidetracked and stay focused on covering the material. Watch the time.
- Draw out the quiet ones, reign in the talkers
- As we go through the course, ask the participants to ask God to bring to mind people whom He is calling them to disciple when finished.

OTC's Mission: Help people know and follow Jesus

Discipleship Group Purpose: Come alongside each other before God to help one another know and follow Jesus.

Group guidelines

1. **Participation:** I will honor the other members by attending regularly and by being on time and present in our time together. The group leader(s) will direct the conversation at times to make sure everyone has time to share.
2. **Care and Acceptance:** I will help provide and protect a non-condemning atmosphere so everyone can share openly.
3. **Confidentiality:** I will uphold the trust of the other members by keeping all group discussions confidential.
4. **Honest Self-Disclosure:** I commit to sharing personal struggles with the group. I will bring out what is going on inside me including issues that involve the group.

WEEK 1: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS (Overview)

1. (10 minutes) **Question:** (in 30 seconds) **How long have you been a disciple of Jesus, and why are you a disciple of Jesus?**

- (10 min total; keep it moving): Have each person share their name and answer the question.

2. (1 min) **Today's Topic: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?**

- Don't ask the group to answer that; read the passages first; Teach them—we want to teach them to move from the text to conclusions rather than starting with their conclusions. We want them to observe what is in the text and get their answers there rather than from what they've heard second hand. "What does the text actually say."
- First, what is a disciple...what does that word mean...

General definition of *disciple* (*mathetes*): a learner, a student.

- fill-ins will be blank on the student copy; you'll have a teacher copy with answers

3. (15 min) **Read:** have someone read it (participation) **Matthew 28:18-20** [Jesus speaking to His disciples after his resurrection] ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* ^{NIV}

- Now, just looking at the text, what does it say about a disciple?

A disciple of Jesus has been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Ask: What does this indicate? Baptism is the step you take to announce that you have turned to God, received forgiveness of sins and are immersed (baptized) into the life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Shorthand: A disciple is someone who has received God's salvation. You were invited to this discipleship group because you have been saved. This is not an exploring Jesus or new believer's class. We will discuss "salvation" in detail starting next week.
- Ask: okay, so far, are you a disciple? I.e. have you been baptized?
- This is an early, clear public step that Jesus calls people to take when he calls them to follow Him.
- If you haven't, it's okay, you can still be in this group. But let's talk this week about taking that step (point them to me).
- Back to the passage...what else is a disciple

A disciple of Jesus is learning to obey everything Jesus commands

- Not just some of the things Jesus commands, but "everything I have commanded you [the apostles]".

Question: What are some of Jesus' commands?

- NOTE: Be sure this is a command from Jesus (either directly from him or through him in the NT). We want to help our group use words Jesus uses. Coming from the Bible. Don't go overboard with that but we want to train people to think that way.

4. (15 min) **How does a person become a disciple of Jesus?** Don't answer here, but "as we read, underline or circle what the text says about how a person becomes a disciple...circle or make notes on what you see Jesus does and what disciples do"

John 10:27 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* ^{ESV}

- Observe "(they) hear", "(I) Know" "they follow"

Mark 2:14 *As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.* ^{NIV}

- Observe "follow me" "they followed"

John 1:43-51 ⁴³ *The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."*

⁴⁴ *Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.*

⁴⁵ *Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*

⁴⁶ *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.*

"Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."*

⁴⁸ *"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.*

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

⁴⁹ *Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."* ^{NIV}

- Observe "Follow me" v.43, "know me" v.48, "I saw you" v.48
- Personalize all these fill ins where possible, using first person pronouns to help us get them into our hearts

"I Your Name became a disciple because Jesus knows me and called me and because I heard His voice and followed Him."

- He does this in many ways, but it happens at Jesus' initiative. He chose you and called you.
- Do this next Discussion question if there is time...if not, drop it and go to #5.

Discussion: How did Jesus call you (what people, experiences, or situations did He use)?

How does Jesus continue to call you to follow Him today?

5. (5 min) **This week: 1) Journal about the following:**

What did you hear Jesus say to you today? When ask, give some examples. Remember disciples "hear" Jesus.

Is there a next step where He's calling you to follow Him? Disciples hear and "follow"

2) Memorize Matthew 28:18-20, and journal about what you are hearing God say to you through this text. Where is he calling you to follow him?

- Next week, we'll draw a name from the hat to recite Matthew 28:18-20, and ask you all to show what you journaled.

Pray to close