

the study of
JAMES



**DISCIPLESHIP
CULTURE**





DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

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WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE?

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE has discipleship in its DNA

Last words are important and Matthew records the last words of Jesus as this: *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. Matthew 28:19*

Jesus told His followers that they needed to go and make disciples of every nation. The call is no different today than it was 2,000 years ago. Somewhere along the way we have forgotten or even ignored Jesus' call to make disciples. Discipleship should not be just a program one can join, but it should be deeply rooted in the believer and Church's culture and fabric.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE does not rely on "One on One" discipleship

Greg Ogden in his book *Discipleship Essentials* says this, "The one-on-one sets up a teacher-student dynamic. The pressure is upon the discipler to be the answer person or the fountain of all wisdom and insight. When a third person is added, the dynamic shifts to a group process. The discipler can more naturally make his or her contribution in the dynamic of group interchange. Triad discipling shifts the model from hierarchical to relational. The greatest factor inhibiting those who are being disciplined to disciple others (multiplication) is the dependency fostered by one-on-one relationships. The triad/quad, on the other hand, views discipleship as a come-alongside relationship of mutual journey toward maturity in Christ. The hierarchical dimension is minimized."

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE helps provide accelerated growth

The goal of every believer should be to become mature and help others become mature. *He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28*

We believe that if each person really puts their best into Discipleship Culture that they will see exponential spiritual growth in their life and in the lives of others.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE provides accountability

Accountability is taking the relational context of discipleship to another level. Accountability means giving your discipling partners authority to call you to keep the commitments you have made to one another. Accountability is rooted in realness and confessing sins to one another as well as keeping confidences within the D.C.

DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE multiplies

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. II Timothy 2:2

Paul wrote this to Timothy and it actually represents four generations of disciples.

Paul ----- Timothy ----- Reliable People ----- Others

The proof of lasting discipleship is not really if I have disciplined one other person. The proof of lasting discipleship is if the person I disciplined has disciplined another person well enough to disciple another. Has your mind been blown yet? Discipleship Culture provides a systematic way to multiply the Kingdom of God. The goal being that each person in the group would go out and disciple two to three others within a year. We believe groups of three or four work best.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Bible Study and Prayer

Five days a week we are asking every person to spend a significant amount of time studying their Bibles and to faithfully SOAP. SOAP is an acronym that will help you get the most out of your daily Bible reading. Here is how it works.

S.O.A.P

S (scripture) • Read the Scripture assigned for that day.

Write down a verse or a passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (observation) • Write down observations you made about the scripture you read.

A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture you read to your everyday life.

P (prayer) • Pray to God about the scripture you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

It is really that simple.

Scripture Memory

We believe that Scripture Memory is a spiritual discipline that is essential for accelerated growth and daily living for Christ.

Pastor Chuck Swindoll wrote, *“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified”* (Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life, p. 61).

You will be responsible for memorizing scripture every week. We memorize scripture because Psalm 119 tells us that we are to hide God’s Word in our heart. The key to memorizing scripture is to review it every day and to meditate on its meaning.

Review

At the end of the week make sure you have reviewed your lessons and be prepared to share what you have learned with your group. Write it down. Also make sure your scripture memory is word perfect before you attend your group.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Details on the next page.

MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Once a month all who are involved in D.C. will be getting together for a one hour meeting. This meeting will set out to accomplish three things.

1. Celebrate the Wins – We want to take some time every month to celebrate the victories of having a Discipleship Culture. We want to give thanks to God for forward momentum of all life change in our culture. This will also help us understand better how to make D.C. more successful.

2. Identify the Obstacles – We look at this first session of Discipleship Culture as a pilot program. We want to know what isn’t working and what tweaks need to be made along the way to help people become more like Jesus. Disciplers and Disciples alike are invited to suggest minor adjustments that may create greater impact.

3. Gain Instruction – Every month we will be spending part our time sharing vision and teaching more on the culture of Discipleship.

WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

If you agree to be part of Discipleship Culture you are expected to be at all 8 weeks of meetings. The meetings will last one hour and will include accountability, reciting the Scripture memory verse, discussion of daily Bible study, and prayer.

Here is what the Weekly Discipleship Culture looks like:

1. Check In – [10 minutes] Start each meeting by checking in. This is the time when we are reminded to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and sharpen one another through accountability (Proverbs 27:17).

A. **JOY, ANGER, FEAR, or SADNESS:** Sometimes it is hard for us to open up, but this exercise is very effective. These four feelings seem to be the base emotions we all feel. Share with your group the core emotion you are feeling right now and why.

B1. Accountability Option 1: Answer three basic questions

- 1) *How are you protecting your life with purity?*
- 2) *Share a win that you've had investing in the work of God? (Time, Talent, Treasure)*
- 3) *How are you glorifying God in your thought life?*

B2. Accountability Option 2: This is an extensive list that James Wesley created over 200 years ago but is still practical today. Use it to highlight areas of your life as you check in but be sensitive of time. Don't go over every question.

- 1) *Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?*
- 2) *Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?*
- 3) *Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?*
- 4) *Can I be trusted?*
- 5) *Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?*
- 6) *Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?*
- 7) *Did the Bible live in me today?*
- 8) *Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?*
- 9) *Am I enjoying prayer?*
- 10) *When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?*
- 11) *Do I pray about the money I spend?*
- 12) *Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?*
- 13) *Do I disobey God in anything?*
- 14) *Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?*
- 15) *Am I defeated in any part of my life?*
- 16) *Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?*
- 17) *How do I spend my spare time?*
- 18) *Am I proud?*
- 19) *Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?*
- 20) *Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?*
- 21) *Do I grumble or complain constantly?*
- 22) *Is Christ real to me?*

2. Share Your SOAP – [15-20 minutes]

A. Recite memorized verse.

B. Share observations and applications (as well as questions you may have) from the week's reading.

3. Pray – [15-20 minutes] Pray together. We recommend using this prayer structure: **praise God, confess your sinfulness, and offer willing service to Him.** Pray through what you just talked about with each other. Pray for each other, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict you and guide you. Remember, you are all just talking with your Father together! It is a holy and fun conversation!

S • Read James 1:1-8

WEEK 1 • DAY 1 • DATE _____

DAILY RUNDOWN:

S (*scripture*) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (*observation*) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.

A (*application*) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.

P (*prayer*) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

O. _____

A. _____

PRAY

S • Read James 1:9-11

WEEK 1 • DAY 2 • DATE _____

WEEK ONE

Scripture Memory: Choose a verse that sticks out to you and write it here. Memorize it for next week.

O. _____

A. _____

PRAY

S • Read James 1:12-15

WEEK 1 • DAY 3 • DATE _____

O. _____

A. _____

PRAY

S • Read James 1:16-18

WEEK 1 • DAY 4 • DATE _____

O •

A •

PRAY

S • Read James 1:19-21

WEEK 1 • DAY 5 • DATE _____

O •

A •

PRAY

Summarize what you would like to share with your group

DAILY RUNDOWN:

S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (observation) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.

A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.

P (prayer) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

WEEK ONE

Scripture Memory: Choose a verse that sticks out to you and write it here. Memorize it for next week.

S • Read James 1:22-25

WEEK 2 • DAY 1 • DATE _____

DAILY RUNDOWN:

S (*scripture*) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (*observation*) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.

A (*application*) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.

P (*prayer*) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

O.

A.

PRAY

S • Read James 1:26 -27

WEEK 2 • DAY 2 • DATE _____

WEEK TWO

Scripture Memory: Choose a verse that sticks out to you and write it here. Memorize it for next week.

O.

A.

PRAY

S • Read James 2:1-4

WEEK 2 • DAY 3 • DATE _____

O.

A.

PRAY

