

## D2 Course Introduction



### Introduction

#### I. Purposes of this course.

- A. To give the Christian an understanding of what type of person he is in Christ and what kind of character qualities he should manifest of the Lord Jesus. We will learn the value of a blameless testimony.
- B. To provide a solid foundation on which to build further spiritual growth, to grow in maturity, balance, and leadership development via discipleship.
- C. To prepare the Christian to be able to work-out what he or she is receiving in discipleship through biblical service. We will learn how to have a Spirit-filled family and exercise a Spirit-filled ministry through a Christlike testimony.
- D. To give a complete overview of the Bible so the Christian has a working knowledge of the word of God. We will see how to study the Bible for ourselves and defend a faith-based view of the Word of God. This will give us a sound doctrinal safety-net as an anchor to our faith.

#### II. The format of this course. 32 Weeks / 5 Phases / 7 Parts

- A. Pre-Discipleship 2 – A study of how discipleship happens via the biblical philosophy of discipleship, and exactly **how to disciple**. We will discover the format that can be used to actually disciple someone using our Discipleship 1 Lessons. We show you how to break down each lesson into its focus and function to communicate the Bible and life, and how to put your own personality into what you are teaching. 3 Weeks
- B. Phase 1 – Part 1: A study of the **qualities of character** necessary for the man or woman of God to develop maturity and Christlikeness – Text: I Tim 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-9. Part 2: This is followed by a study of **true spirituality**, to show how to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh. 6 Weeks
- C. Phase 2 – A more detailed review of the biblical **pattern of discipleship**, to show developmentally how the character qualities function, using the example and ministry of the “Life of Christ” with his 12 disciples. 1 Week
- D. Phase 3 – The principles of **dating, marriage, and family** life from a biblical viewpoint. 3 Weeks
- E. Phase 4 – Principles on **how to study** the Bible. This will cover the biblical rules of Bible study, how to resolve contradictions, differences between Bible versions, the two kingdoms, Bible typology, numerology, and key words and phrases. We also encompass a simple Bible survey, and focus on the key book of Acts to study the development of earth’s earliest church. 13 Weeks
- F. Phase 5 – **Doctrinal studies** on mysteries, baptisms, resurrections, and judgments as a theological safety-net against cults and false teaching. 4 Weeks

## D2 How to Disciple Scaling the Heights



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### Introduction

Discipleship is one of the foundational ministries at Harvest, because we are a disciple-making church. It is the first step in getting grounded in the word of God as the cornerstone for developing spiritual growth, and the entryway to leadership in ministry.

*2 Tim 2:2* And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

**Thesis:** The process of discipleship is transferring of spiritual maturity from one believer to another, using our D1 lessons as the vehicle to establish a biblical foundation in the disciple's life.

These lessons are **not** designed for group studies, as evangelistic tracts, or to make an opportunity for social, political or educational debate (i.e. do not do that!). In addition, they are not a way for the discipler to brainwash, manipulate or control the disciple.

**Design:** The discipleship lessons **are** designed as a structure to enable you to systematically take someone through the building blocks of the word of God by studying and applying sixteen key, fundamental areas of the Christian faith.

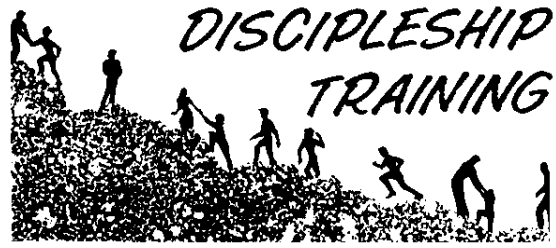
**Intent:** The intent is to accomplish four primary biblical goals. Those goals are consistent with Christ's mission for the church in the world, in order to accomplish God's Eternal Purpose (Eph 3:10-11,21)

**Mission:** The Harvest mission is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Mat 28:19-20) by reaching the lost, discipling the saved, and equipping the saints to continue the work that is started.

After you complete this training you can commit your life to a ministry of discipleship, and thereby fulfill the design of God for your life, becoming Christlike, and being a valuable asset to this body of Christ.

# D2 Philosophy of Discipleship

## Part One: The COST of Discipleship



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### I. The Parable of the Sower, Luke 8

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**A. There are three KINDS of Christians in this parable.**

1. The backslidden (v 13)
  2. The barren (v 14)
  3. The bearing (v 15)
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**B. There are three KEYS to fruitbearing.**

1. An honest and good heart
  2. Hearing and keeping the word, Col 1:2
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3. Patient endurance
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**C. There is one KEY to fruit that endures.**

1. The unsaved hear the word, but they do not believe it.
2. The backslider hears and receives, but has no moisture.
3. The barren hear and receive, and even go forth!
4. Only the fruitbearer endures.

**Note:** None of the first three people are disciples (even though they are saved), only the last one is.

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**John 15:2** Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

- a. The barren Christian is condemned to backsliding
- b. The bearing Christian is committed to pruning

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- Are you standing by the wayside?
- Or are you standing on the stony ground where there is not much depth?
- Or are you standing among the weeds?
- Or are you standing on good ground?

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**C. What we are asking you to do now.**

1. Count the cost of following Jesus

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2. Be consistent

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3. Be prepared for opposition

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## II. What does discipleship look like?

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**A. Discipleship is the fulfillment of the Great Commission. *Be faithful! Matt 28:18-20***

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**B. Discipleship is the reproduction of spiritual life. *Be fruitful!***

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1. Paul began the process of discipleship by having Timothy follow him in his ministry, Acts 16:1-5
2. Paul then sent Timothy to disciple the church in Corinth, 1 Cor 4:15-17
3. At the end of his life and ministry, Paul instructs his disciple Timothy to have a ministry that is always reproducing disciples, 2 Tim 2:1-2

**C. Discipleship will accomplish four main goals in each follower of Christ.**

1. Establish the disciple in Worship: *The focus of life. Gen 22:5; Psalm 22:27; 29:2*

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2. Establish the disciple in the Word of God: *The final authority of life. Psalm 138:2*

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3. Establish the disciple in the Local Church: *The fellowship of life. Acts 2:42;46-47*

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4. Establish the disciple in the Ministry: *The fulfillment of your life. 1 Pet. 4:10*

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**D. Our Discipleship utilizes a curriculum of 16 lessons.**

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## Part Two: The Biblical PHILOSOPHY of Discipleship

### Text: 2 Timothy 2:2

#### Introduction

The **purpose** of understanding a biblical philosophy of discipleship is

- To establish the fact the Bible gives us a clear pattern for making disciples of all people
- To study that pattern in the life of Christ, working with his disciples
- To search our lives to determine how we are progressing in his purpose for saving us

(See Appendix: “Discipleship—The Embodiment of 2 Tim 2:2.”)

The **background** to a biblical philosophy of discipleship is God’s Eternal Purpose.

God’s Eternal Purpose is to connect you with him in glory—beyond time and space—through redemption by Jesus, and being a member of Christ’s body. Therefore, our purpose is the Eternal Purpose of God: to glorify himself by Jesus Christ, through his body this church, as we preach the gospel to the world (Eph 3:10-11,21).

The **method** to accomplish that purpose is the mission of the Great Commission, Matt 28:19-20: by reaching the lost, discipling the saved, and equipping saints to continue the work God started.

God can take you deep, but he only does that as you seek him, serve him, and study his word. Seek, serve, study! It is your life-responsibility to be a disciple-making saint, because **deep is a function of discipleship**. Knowing God is a function of knowing his word and living by it. You have to show up so you can grow up, and then sign up to make disciples.

| There Is a Process                           | There Is a Pattern                   | Teaching You         | Training You        |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <i>The Purpose of our New Life in Christ</i> | <i>The Plan for Our Present Life</i> | <i>The Lessons</i>   | <i>The Life</i>     |
| <i>Four Goals of Discipleship</i>            | <i>Seven Stages of Discipleship</i>  | <i>Organization</i>  | <i>Presentation</i> |
| PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLESHIP                   |                                      | PLAN OF DISCIPLESHIP |                     |

The first weeks of D2 is dedicated to helping you understand the biblical philosophy of discipleship, then seeing exactly how to use our lessons—in the context of your life and our church—to actually disciple someone. In the Bible we see a process and pattern to discipleship. So in D2 we **teach** you how to communicate the lessons, and **train** you to communicate life.

To do this we must get at the very heart of God. Discipleship is the heartbeat of God, the purpose of our new life in Christ, and God’s plan for our presence on this planet. So we will first spend a moment with three things to understand discipleship philosophy: the biblical **principles** behind discipleship, the biblical **process** to discipleship, and the biblical **pattern** for discipleship. After that we will be ready to learn how to **practice** discipleship.

## **First: There Are Biblical PRINCIPLES Behind Discipleship**

### **Discipleship Is the Heartbeat of God.**

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#### **I. Discipleship is the heart of God’s MISSION. Gen 1:26-28**

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**A. The very first words God ever spoke to man were, “Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth...”, Gen 1:26-28**

**B. That commandment contains three tasks**

1. Bear fruit—produce life (Evangelism)
2. Multiply that fruit (Discipleship)
3. Teach the entire world (Missions)

**C. God has never changed his original plan for humanity!**

#### **II. Discipleship is the heart of God’s MANDATE.**

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**A. Noah - Gen. 9:1**

**B. To the nation of Israel, by way of**

- Abraham - Gen. 12:3, Gen. 22:17
- Isaac - Gen. 26:4
- Jacob - Gen. 28:3

#### **III. Discipleship was the heart of Jesus’ MINISTRY. Titus 1:2**

**A. There were two objectives for the first coming of Jesus Christ.**

1. To restore in humanity the lost image of God - Col. 3:10; Luke 19:10
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2. To train his disciples to take his message to the world - John 4:34; 17:4
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**B. His first coming was concluded by the commissioning of his disciples, Matt 28:18-20.**

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1. Bearing fruit – Going with the gospel and baptizing converts to Christ.
  2. Multiplying - Teaching all nations to observe all things commanded.
  3. Reaching the world – To *all nations* (scope), and *unto the end of the world*.
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**Breaking it down (Matt 28:18-20)**

- Bear fruit - produce life. (Evangelism)
  - Multiply - fruit that remains. (Discipleship, John 15:16)
  - Replenish; reach the entire world. (Missions)
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**Major Point:** Winning souls is not the fulfillment of the Great Commission – it is just the beginning! Eph 4:12

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**IV. Discipleship is the heart of Jesus’ CO-MISSION for his body, the church.**

**A. The Great Commission contains five primary objectives.**

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1. Evangelizing the lost - bearing fruit - Col 1:13-14
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2. Establishing churches - Eph 4:11-16
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3. Making disciples - II Tim 2:2
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4. Conforming our life to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ - Rom 8:29; Col 1:27-28; Gal 4:19; Eph 2:10

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5. Bringing glory to God - Eccl 12:13; 1 Cor 6:19-20, 10:31. See also Isa 43:7; 1 Cor 1:31; Psalm 100:4; Col 3:17; Rom 16:25-27

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**B. These five objectives can be illustrated by the analogy of the family.**

1. Evangelism

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2. Establishment of churches

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3. Making disciples

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4. Conforming our life to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ

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5. Bringing God the glory, Prov 17:6; See also Prov 10:1, 15:20, 23:24-25, 29:3.

• Raising children is hard work physically and spiritually.

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**C. All five objectives of true Christianity are vitally important.**

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• Discipleship forms the link between the first two “quantitative” goals which can be measured (evangelism and establishing churches), and the last two “qualitative” goals which cannot be counted (conforming to Christ’s image and bringing glory to God).

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• Discipleship provides God’s children with all the tools necessary to carry out their ministry and bring glory to God.

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Let’s put it all together!

