

Date _____

PREPARATION: Dear leader, this topic will help the members of your cell, and visitors, to realize the necessity of becoming Christ’s “disciple” in a deeper way. They will gain a better understanding of who the “disciple” is. They will learn how to become “a disciple” in Christianity.

Notes: _____

PURPOSES: You, as a leader, may find yourself in a situation when people wouldn’t want to become a *disciple of Christ*. The devil may whisper to them, “No way! You won’t be able to do this and that any more!” (meaning personal sins) That’s why you, as a leader, must be able to explain the simple truths that will help your *brothers and sisters* make the right decision. Here are some of them – focus on them:

- *There will be changes in their attitude to people, money, work and social duties.*
- *They will experience the cleansing of many negative thoughts, attitudes and actions, from their lives. These negative things are incompatible with Christ’s life.*
- *Love will direct their actions, words and feelings. They will learn to forgive. They will become more compassionate to people in need. They will be more concerned about the unsaved.*
- *Everything Jesus inherits from God belongs to them. If we are ready to share His suffering, we’ll share His glory (Romans 8:17). Even when their obedience is being tested, they won’t be losers. God’s will is to give all of us more than we give to Him, both in this life and in eternity in Heaven (Luke 6:38, John 10:10).*
- *Some of their old habits are going to change as well, because the Lord wants to see those changes. They should submit with readiness and withstand the temptation to return to old habits. Those old habits would compromise their discipleship (Colossians 3:17).*
- *Taking the discipleship upon themselves with responsibility they’ll seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness. So let them be sure that God keeps His promises. He foresees every need of ours as He did with Jesus (Matthew 6:33).*

OPENING PRAYER/WORSHIP (15 minutes)

“Heavenly Father, You are merciful and righteous! You sent Jesus Christ to teach people the way and the truth. You gave Him disciples who changed this world! I want to be a disciple like that! I want to teach others to be like that! Help us, oh Lord! We ask continued comfort, love, and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Help us to consider others better than ourselves, as we in humility learn to unite in spirit and purpose _____ (Special prayer requests and/or thanksgivings may be added here.) In the name of Jesus Christ! Amen”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL OFFERINGS (5-10 minutes)

We would like to recommend you start making special prayers during this time. Let people write down their prayer requests on a piece of paper. Before the group starts, let them give the requests to you. You can lead the whole group in this special prayer. If you want, you can ask someone from the group to be responsible for this part of the meeting. Let it be their ministry. You can also make a special box for people to put the special requests in. If you have an idea of how to do it differently – go for it! It would be great if you could continue singing and worshipping the Lord after this prayer. This way people in the group can feel special prayer is a part of your group worship.

THE LESSON ITSELF (35 minutes)

Discuss the following questions. Try not to interrupt or ridicule other people's opinions. Complement one another. Use interesting moments from your life to illustrate what you are trying to say. This will help others to understand what you are saying.

- **Who is a “disciple” in your understanding?**
- **What associations does this word bring?**

In Greek, the word that is used for “disciple” literally means “the one who studies the admonitions taken from another”. The Greeks used this word when someone became an apprentice of a craftsman. The disciple wasn't just a student, but a follower. He was spoken of as a successor of his teacher. Remembering that a Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus, we can make a conclusion from this meaning. We need to follow Jesus. We need to put His purposes as the foundation of our lives, without considering the price for us. Thus, a Christian disciple is someone who decided to follow Jesus Christ. He desires to learn from Him and live according to His example.

- **Why did Jesus call several people who followed Him “disciples”?**
- **Can we call ourselves His “disciples”?**
- **Who can be a “disciple of Christ”?**

1. A disciple is someone who constantly lives according to the word of Jesus. He doesn't just follow several individual commandments of the Teacher. He totally commits himself in obedience to the doctrine and way of the Teacher. Jesus is our Teacher. Every day He'll tell us the living words through the Holy Spirit. The commandments, the doctrine and the examples given by the Teacher must be seen in how we live our lives. The most important thing in discipleship is that it's not based on feelings and emotions. but on the admonitions of the teacher. We have to practically implement what the Word of God reveals to us. The basis of our discipleship is the absolute obedience to God's Word. Otherwise, we will be dependent on chance or a sudden feeling.

2. A disciple is someone who continually and entirely commits his life to the personality of the Teacher (Jesus Christ). He realizes His faithfulness and love to the disciple. Jesus has a right to demand such commitment from us. After all, He gave His life for us. Jesus entirely committed Himself to us. He's waiting for the same in return. He desires we trust Him every step of our life. This way He can guide it in accordance with His will. (Matthew 6:24, John 10:1-18) Our Teacher doesn't pursue His own interest. He takes care of His disciple's well-being and spiritual growth.

3. A disciple is someone whose connection with Jesus bears fruit. (John 15:4-5) Whalen Moor writes, “Our union with Christ transforms our life so that it helps others gain salvation. When a tree is filled with vital juices it can't keep them inside, and as a result it bears fruit! When a Christian is filled with Christ others see Him, hear about Him, and renew spiritually into the Kingdom of God. Such new converts are one of the fruits of the discipleship.” Without such fruit in our life, God's Kingdom won't spread. The Body of Christ won't grow.

4. A disciple is someone who has committed himself to an unconditional sacrificial love for others. (John 13:34-35) It's not love as we understand it. It is God's love that He revealed to us. This love isn't selfish; it doesn't look for anything in return. In the Greek original of the Scriptures, this love is described with the word “agape.” Agape means “love that doesn't demand anything in return.” It is when God, and your neighbor, are more valuable to you than your own egotistical desires.

5. A disciple is someone who committed himself to the fulfillment of the great commission of Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20) The purpose of our discipleship must be to gain other disciples. It is not just to gain new converts. Those who are newly converted may change their way of thinking, but the disciples are following their Teacher.

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS/ANSWERS (5 minutes)

GROUP PRAYER (15 minutes): *pray for each other so that you became true disciples of Jesus, so that you could follow Him in everything and fulfill His will. Serve with mercy those who are under the exposure of the Holy Spirit that they didn't trust Him their way.*