

Connect Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

Discipleship

Q: How would you define discipleship?

Q: What does it mean to you personally, to be a disciple of Jesus?

A disciple is someone who does whatever the master tells them to do. As Christians we can start out with this willingness to submit ourselves to God, but our feelings can change. Remember your first driving lessons? You were very careful to try to do exactly as you were told, but once you got confident your thoughts might have included: "I know what I'm doing"; "The sign says 60Kms but it's perfectly safe at 70, it's a good road and there's not much traffic"; "There's no-one around, I can get away with it." ...

The same thing happens to us as disciples, self-confidence leads to doing things our own way instead of God's way. The Bible calls self-confident people fools. We often see how other people are being stupid in their disobedience, but for ourselves - we have good reasons for doing it our own way!

Read Revelation 3:19

Read Psalm 94:12

Q: How is it joyful or a blessing to receive discipline from the Lord?
(Keep your finger in Psalm 94 - we'll come back to that in a moment)

Q: How do we learn how to be a good disciple?

One way is to read our instruction manual.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16

Q: Have you ever experienced the Lord disciplining you?

Did it produce a good result for you? Share what God has done through disciplining or disciplining you.

David lists one good outcome in Psalm 94

Read Psalm 94:12-13

In the Amplified Bible, verse 13 says "That You may give him power to keep himself calm in the days of adversity"

Q: How does being a disciple and co-operating with God's discipline give you relief from trouble or help to keep you calm in troubled times?

(optional) Read and discuss Psalm 94:14-22

Just as you trusted that if you followed his instructions your driving instructor would help you get out of difficulty, we can relax when we put God in charge.

Read Matthew 11:29

Read Hebrews 12:5-12

So Psalm 94 says that his discipline will result in joy, blessing, and relief from trouble, and Hebrews 12:11 says that we will enjoy peace in right living.

This sense of rightness, peace, and joy is the mark of the presence of the Kingdom of God (Romans 14:7), and as his children we have a right to have that inner peace and joy continually, even in difficult times.

Q: How do you know at any moment whether you are getting it right or not?

Any time you are not experiencing peace it would be wise to check with the Holy Spirit for any instruction you might not have been following.

Read Colossians 3:15

The Amplified Bible says "Let the peace and harmony which comes from Christ act as umpire continually in your hearts, deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state to which you were called to live."

(optional) Let's look at an example of what a good disciple's life looks like.

In 1 Timothy 3 Paul describes an excellent standard for us as disciples of Jesus.

(paraphrased) Live a life that is above reproach, be faithful, exercise self-control, live wisely, be sensible, well behaved and dignified, lead an orderly disciplined life, and have a good reputation. Show love and be a friend to the believers, and strangers or foreigners. Do not be a heavy drinker or be violent. Be gentle and considerate, not quarrelsome, but forbearing and peaceful, and not greedy for money. Manage your responsibilities and relationships well, being respected and respectful.

Read Philippians 2:12-13

It is important for us to remember verse 13 "God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him".

Let's pray for Him to do that.