



Following Jesus

Colossians 2:6-7 *As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

Ephesians 5:1 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Although Jesus was the master of discipleship, he did not create discipleship. It is traced back hundreds of years before Jesus. But Jesus flipped this practice on its head when he began his ministry. Discipleship before Jesus looked like students who had grown up learning the Torah in the Jewish system going to a Rabbi and asking if they could follow them. Through a rugged set of testing, the Rabbi would determine if the student would be a good fit for the role of a rabbi, and if so, the rabbi would accept them. If not, the student would go home and take on their father's role. Jesus changes the master and apprentice relationship when he calls Peter and Andrew to be his students. Instead of the students coming to him, Jesus went to the students. In the same way today, Jesus still calls people to follow him.

The word disciple means follower, student, or learner. A more appropriate word for disciple is actually apprentice. In historical rabbinic apprenticeship, apprentices would watch everything that their rabbi did. They would watch how their rabbi ate so they could eat like him; they would watch how they taught so they could teach like them. Everything their rabbi did, the students reflected. Rabbi Tim Kelly wrote: "It is said that the disciples stuck so close to their rabbi that they became covered with the dust kicked up by his sandals. Your personal life took second place to that of the rabbi. After all, it was your goal to be just like the rabbi, and it was the rabbi's goal for you to become just like him. In fact, being a first-century Jewish disciple meant that you not only wanted to be like your rabbi, you wanted to be what your rabbi is – able to do everything he could do. Yeshua hinted at this when he said – A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained, will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40:"

We are followers of Jesus, our rabbi/master. We live our lives with Jesus, we become like him, and we do what he did.

October Assignments

- Read Part 2 of *Why Do I Do What I Don't Want To Do?* By Jonathan Pokluda and prepare a summary of part 2 to share with your group. The summary should be approximately one page with the following info:
 - List the big ideas.
 - List your key takeaways.
 - Discuss how you will apply it to your life now.
 - Text or email each DM in your group before meeting.
- Man-date with one other guy in your group: This would be a great opportunity to practice saying your verses and develop a relationship with others in your group.
- Memorize the verses below before your next group meeting. (*download the Verses app for help memorizing.*)
 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. *Proverbs 3:5-6*
 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2:20*
Scripture is taken from ESV, but use whatever translation you prefer.
- REMINDER: Each month, go to biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen to download materials.