

**Good Word Schedule**  
**“Discipleship”**  
January, February, March 2014

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## **General Introduction**

Our lessons for the next 13 weeks are entitled Discipleship. The lesson author defines discipleship as the process by which we become followers of Jesus and, as such, better able to disciple others. He expands on that definition later to say this includes a passionate desire to follow Jesus and as a supernatural result, a passionate desire to lead others to Christ as well. This definition should be remembered as we study this series of lessons.

For each of the 13 lessons we will follow a format of 4 steps. First there will be a short introduction. Second we will look at some words that need defining to understand the lesson. Third we will consider 2-4 Bible texts that are the core of each lesson. Fourth we will look to some personal application of the lesson topic. A Bible dictionary or concordance should be used to find the meaning of the key words. The Bible texts should be carefully read and reread before attempting to apply the lesson to our own life. Note that in all the lessons the reader is encouraged to study and seek their own answers.

**Theme: *Disciples & Scripture***

I. Introduction:

This lesson emphasizes the fact that Jesus was deeply committed to the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament of Genesis to Malachi. He studied, read and quoted from it regularly and clearly viewed it as authoritative. This should certainly cause us to wonder why some Christians disregard or treat as unimportant this section of scripture.

II. Key Words to look up and understand: (see a good Bible dictionary)

- a. Disciple/discipleship  
(Matthew 28: 19, 20)
- b. Scripture  
(John 5:39)
- c. The prophets & Moses  
(Luke 24:27)

III. Core Texts: (read and re-read and summarize the message)

John 5:39, 40  
Luke 4:1-12, 16-21  
Luke 24: 13-32

IV. Personal Application Questions:

1. When we study scripture do we remember that Jesus is the center? How can we do that?
2. Jesus used scripture to deal with temptation. Do we do the same? How does that help us in our battle with Satan?
3. Satan uses scripture also (Luke 4:10, 11). How can we be sure when we use scripture that we are doing so in the right way and are not deceived?

**Theme: *Discipling Through Metaphor***

I. Introduction:

In our continuing study of discipleship we discover this week that Jesus and the scriptures are often taught by using stories, parables and metaphors. The purpose was to disciple. He used this method to reach people because this teaching method was not only interesting but also effective. This strategy has the added advantage that Jesus could deal with controversial or hard to understand topics in ways that did not repel people. This method still works today.

II. Key Words:

- a. Metaphor
- b. Parable
- c. Allegory
- d. Narrative

III. Core Texts:

Matthew 13:1-34  
II Samuel 12: 1-15

IV. Personal Application:

1. What kind of stories or parables are most meaningful to you?
2. Which way do you prefer to learn—straight forward logical facts or parables? Why?
3. Are Jesus' parables allegories or not? What are the reasons for your answer?
4. Do any judgment parables apply to you? Why?
5. Can we or should we use the parable /story method when we give Bible studies?

**Theme: *Discipleship & Prayer***

I. Introduction:

This lesson follows on the first two topics which emphasize, to begin with, the fact that the Bible's authority is a basis for leading others to discipleship and secondly, that parable, metaphor and story are some of the best ways to communicate the Christian message to others. This lesson talks about prayer, particularly intercessory prayer, as a key to seeing change in our lives and in particular leading others to faith. We must move out of the mode of only praying for our own needs and in love move on to intercede for others and their salvation.

II. Key Words:

- a. Prayer
- b. Intercession
- c. Meditation

III. Core Texts:

Daniel 9:2-19  
Daniel 6:10,11  
Mark 1:35-38  
John 17:6-26

IV. Personal Application:

1. Should we intercede for the same things Daniel did? Why? Should we follow Daniel's practice of 3 times a day prayer? Why?
2. In John 17 who does Jesus pray for and what does He pray for? What can this teach us about Jesus prayer for us and how we should pray for others?
3. Do you believe intercessory prayer really works? How? Why?
4. How much time should Christians use for intercessory prayer? Do some have special gifts for it?

Theme: *Discipling Children*

I. Introduction:

After finishing three introductory lessons on foundational principles for all disciple making, this lesson moves on to begin talking about certain groups or classes of people that need special attention and methods as we endeavor in love, to disciple them. The first group, which is the subject of this week's lesson, is children. Jesus goes out of His way to emphasize the importance and value of children.

II. Key Words: (Check your Bible Dictionary)

- a. Child/children
- b. Family
- c. Father/Mother

III. Core Texts:

Deut. 6:6,7  
Matt. 18:1-10  
Mark 10:13-16

IV. Personal Application:

1. Jesus says we should be child-like (not childish) if we expect to see the kingdom of God. What does this mean to us? What should we do to accomplish this?
2. Do we as the church emphasize children enough? Give reasons for your answers. What can we do about this?
3. Should we teach, convert, or baptize children when their parents do not believe? Why?
4. Do the texts give us any guidelines for us as parents? What are those guideline?

**Theme: *Discipling the Sick***

I. Introduction:

The second specialized group our lesson deals with is the sick. One wonders if the title of this lesson should really be “healing the sick” rather than “discipling the sick”. The lesson mainly discusses Jesus’ ministry to the sick. This is an important issue for Jesus. Three out of 4 gospels, which tell the story of Jesus, make healing as important as His teachings. The only gospel which gives a slightly more important place to teaching over healing is Matthew. How should we be ministering to the sick is a key question this lesson raises.

II. Key Words:

- a. Heal
- b. Save
- c. Savior

III. Core Texts:

Matt. 1:21; 8:16,17; 15:30,31

Mark 2:1-12

Luke 6:17,18

IV. Personal Application:

1. If you were to meet Jesus personally, what kind of healing would you ask Him for? Why?
2. If you were asked to visit a sick person what would you say them about Jesus as a healer?
3. In Jesus’ prayers for the sick in the gospels, the prayers are for evangelistic healing. Do we do that? Why or why not?
4. Have you seen Jesus heal someone? How did it impress or change you?

**Theme: *Discipling the “Ordinary”***

I. Introduction:

The next group of people we consider in our study of discipling are called “ordinary” people. Our study guide defines these people as carpenters, fishermen, farmers, housewives, shepherds, soldiers & servants. Jesus himself came from such a background since his earthly father was a carpenter. These are people Jesus cared about and it was these types of people who thronged to see and hear Him. This lesson raises the question of social class and how we relate to social differences in our lives.

II. Key Words:

- a. Poor
- b. Fisherman
- c. Carpenter

III. Core Texts:

Luke 4:18  
James 2:1-9  
I Cor. 1:26-29  
Gal. 3:28,29

IV. Personal Application:

1. What are the class distinctions you see in our society? Where do you fit? What do you think Jesus would say about social distinctions?
2. Who would be the “ordinary” people in our society? What is that based on?
3. How should we present the gospel so it appeals to “ordinary” people and they see Jesus as attractive?
4. Do you see anything in your life or the church that goes against Jesus’ love for the poor? What? And what can we do about it?



**Theme: *Jesus & the Social Outcasts***

I. Introduction:

In this lesson we move down one level from the “ordinary people” of last week and talk about Jesus and social outcasts. Jesus not only related well to ordinary people, he seemed to have a special place in his heart for people on the lowest rungs of society. Four types of people in the Bible who fit into this category are lepers, harlots, Samaritans and tax collectors. We will look at each of those groups this week.

II. Key Words:

- a. Adultery/harlot
- b. Tax collector
- c. Leper
- d. Samaritan

III. Core Texts:

Mark 1:40-45

Mark 2:13-17

John 4:5-32

John 8:1-11

IV. Personal Application:

1. Jesus loved and had compassion on lepers, tax collectors and sinners. Should I feel the same? What can I do to gain that kind of caring?
2. Who are social outcasts today? Name some of them and how should we treat them?
3. What would enable me to reach out to social outcasts successfully like Jesus did?
4. What would our church be like if we reached out to outcasts?

**GOOD WORD 2014.1**  
**Lesson #8 – Feb 15-21**

**Discipleship**  
**– prepared by Jon Dybdahl, Professor Emeritus, WWU**

**Theme: *With the Rich & Famous***

I. Introduction:

We now move to the other extreme of the social scale – the rich and famous. We move from the poverty and weakness of the social outcast to the power and prestige of the rich and famous. The point of this lesson is that Jesus worked to save and recruit as disciples the rich and famous. Jesus not only cared about the rich and famous but He also knew how to reach out to them and expected them to respond.

II. Key Words:

- a. Ruler
- b. Rich

III. Core Texts:

Mark 10:17-31

Luke 19:1-10

John 3:1-15

#### IV. Personal Application:

1. Do you consider yourself rich? What are you comparing yourself to? Other Americans or the whole world? If you look at the world comparatively, North Americans are very rich. How does that make you feel?
2. Is God calling you to give up your wealth like He did the rich young ruler? Why?
3. Is your financial condition a benefit to your spiritual condition or is it a hindrance? Why?
4. How would you reach out to a rich or famous person with the gospel? Would your approach be different?

**GOOD WORD 2014.1**  
**Lesson #9 – Feb 22-28**

**Discipleship**  
**– prepared by Jon Dybdahl, Professor Emeritus, WWU**

**Theme: *Discipling the Powerful***

#### I. Introduction:

Another segment of the population on the upper levels of society is the powerful. They can be and need to be approached and discipled as well. This lesson discusses 3 kinds of powerful people – ones of religious authority or power, military power and political/governmental power. The Pharisees, scribes and rulers are religious power, the centurion showed military power and King Agrippa represents governmental

power. God's representatives spoke and acted redemptively to all these groups. We are called to as well.

II. Key Words:

- a. Pharisee
- b. Centurion
- c. King Agrippa

III. Core Texts:

Matt. 8:5-13

Mark 2:23-28

Acts 4:1-12

Acts 26:1-29

IV. Personal Application:

1. Are you a person with power? Even authority in a small sphere or even a family can be a place of power. How have you used that power?
2. Have you been called before others with power to defend your belief or actions? What did that feel like?
3. At some time most of us will be called to witness to powerful people. How should we do this? Does success or lack thereof reflect on us?

## I. Introduction:

The special population discussed in this lesson is by far the largest group of all and probably the most challenging group for Jews. Jews considered themselves God's special chosen people and did not expect God to save non-Jews or Gentiles or as this lesson called them "the Nations". In the face of this tremendous bias the Bible and Jesus make it clear that the God of Israel was the universal Lord over all. The creator of the world cared for all of His children and wanted His followers to reach out and disciple ALL nations. No ethnic or social group is outside of His love & concern.

## II. Key Words:

- a. Nation
- b. People
- c. Gentile

## III. Core Texts:

Isa. 56:6-8

Matt. 28:18-20

John 12: 20-32

Acts 1:7,8

Rev. 14:6

## IV. Personal Application:

1. What should be our mission strategy? Why did Jesus first send missionaries to Jews rather than Gentiles? What should this tell us about our strategy?
2. Should our mission be adapted if we go to people with no Christian background? Why & how?
3. The Jews clearly had prejudices in relation to Gentiles. Do you see in our culture prejudice against some groups? Which groups? What should we do about this? How will prejudice affect our discipleship outreach?

**Theme: *Discipling Spiritual Leaders***

I. Introduction:

The lesson series shifts gears in this segment. It moves from describing and talking about reaching specific groups with the Jesus message to talking about how to prepare disciple makers. Jesus knew His time on earth was limited and so He needed to train people to carry on His mission if He wanted the ministry to continue. This lesson talks about choosing and training leaders. Any movement that wants to continue to advance and grow must continually train effective leaders.

II. Key Words:

- a. Messiah
- b. Elijah
- c. Apostle

III. Core Texts:

Matt. 16:13-20  
Mark 1:16-20  
Luke 6:12,13  
John 16:7-14

IV. Personal Application:

1. Before choosing the apostles, Jesus prayed all night. What does this teach us about the choice of leaders?
2. Jesus promises to make the apostles fishers of men if they follow Him. Does this apply to us? Will He make us fisher of men? How?
3. Have you had a leadership position in the church? Have you felt called? Have you seen the Holy Spirit leading? How? What kind of training did you need?
4. What leadership characteristics do you expect to see in church?

**Theme: *The Harvest & the Harvesters***

I. Introduction:

In many ways this lesson continues on from the previous one which showed that Jesus chose apostles to train and carry on His work of making disciples. We look more in depth in this lesson at the spiritual nature of these apostles and the kind of training they received. The spiritual life and leadership called for, is different from non-spiritual training which uses the methods of business and politics to develop leaders. The apostolic leaders must prepare themselves for spiritual warfare in their service for Christ. The Holy Spirit is a key in this.

II. Key Words:

- a. Prodigal
- b. Harvest
- c. Holy Spirit baptism

III. Core Texts:

Matt. 9:36-38  
Mark 6:7-13  
Luke 15  
John 16:7-15  
Acts 6:1-8

IV. Personal Application:

1. Do you have compassion for hurting, lost people? What could be done to strengthen or develop this caring? Notice Jesus' example!
2. Several of the parables talk about seeking those who are lost. What does that mean for you? How can we seek the lost?
3. The Bible teaches us clearly that we need the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us in life and witness to others. Do you see the Holy Spirit work in your life this way? What could we do to make this a reality in our lives?

**Theme: *The Cost of Discipleship***

I. Introduction:

This final lesson on the topic of discipleship is a reality check. If a person is to follow a life of discipleship i.e. personally be a disciple and work to win others to such a life, they must face certain realities. Discipleship is costly. Selfish urges need to be curtailed and discipline practiced. Persecution from those who do not believe and even ones own family may come. Even martyrdom has taken place and continues. The good news is that the final reward of eternal life is sure.

II. Key Words:

- a. Faith
- b. Martyr
- c. Cross

III. Core Texts:

Mark 8:34-38  
Luke 12:49-53  
I Cor. 9:24-27  
Heb. 11:32- 12:4

IV. Personal Application:

1. The apostle Paul talks about discipline and compares the discipleship life to training for a race. How should I practice this? How can I do this without making it a type of legalism or works righteousness?
2. Have you ever faced any kind of persecution for your faith? What was it? Do you believe persecution makes ones faith stronger or weaker? Why?
3. Has belief or discipleship ever caused strife in your family? Give examples. Should this kind of strife be avoided or expected?



