



LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE.

A Biblical Discipleship Model

LFS Discipleship Workbook - Foundations

WELCOME

Welcome to the LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE discipleship model. The LFS model is a biblical discipleship model that was designed to aid the church, the body of Christ, around the world in growing the Kingdom by making disciples.

Your leadership has chosen to use this model to help you become the best disciple of Jesus Christ you can be.

Assumptions

This model assumes the belief that discipleship is not only the desire of our Lord Jesus Christ for us and the church but will transform and grow the church like nothing else can.

We also believe that discipleship was meant to be a supernatural partnership between us and Christ and must be done with FAITH in the authority of Jesus to send us out to make disciples of all nations. Without this belief it will be impossible to make disciples and multiply the body of Christ—our eternal family.

You are the most important part of this model. You have the very important role of joining Christ in His mission to save the world and grow the eternal family of God. LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE. is simply an easy way to understand and live out what God has invited us as His children to do. This model does not replace doctrine or the Bible but instead brings to light the fundamental principles that are in the Bible to allow us to grasp and live a life that glorifies God as His disciples (students) and as His children.

LFS Discipleship Workbook - Foundations

This first Discipleship Workbook is designed to help leaders, seasoned Christians, and new believers alike have the same foundation on which to build the church, the family of God by becoming disciples who are able to make other disciples.

We are so excited for this new season in your life and earnestly pray that God will bless you and those you around you through the foundation you are beginning to build today.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

When we look at scripture, we find that Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

When we further look at the Bible we discover the primary way that Jesus was able to seek and to save those who were lost--was through discipleship. Primarily inviting disciples to follow Him and then sending them out to make more disciples who would follow Him.

It is for this reason we emphasize that the very basic answer to "what is a disciple?" is simply "someone who makes another disciple".

The multiplication of the family of God only happens when we can effectively make disciples who are able to make other disciples.

This will become clearer as we dive into the LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE. model.

We know this to be the will of God because the very first thing Jesus did after he resurrected from the dead was to gather the disciples which He had made and gave them the command to go and make other disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey

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everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Three key things that healthy disciples of Jesus Christ do in order to be effective in following Him you can probably guess by now!

First, Jesus calls us throughout the whole Bible to LEAVE.

Secondly, he taught and was a model of how to FOLLOW the will of God.

Thirdly, Jesus wanted us to SHINE in the world we live in.

This is the model we will learn together. The important thing to always remember is that you can take these three components and apply them with Faith to your life as:

1. An **individual**,
2. A ministry **leader**,
3. and a member of the **church**.

This Foundations workbook is to help you develop this model in your own life, in your ministry, and in the church in order to become and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Lets get started!

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FAITH

Much of what we do as leaders of the church requires skills and abilities that God has granted to us. However, if you look at churches closely you will discover something incredible among their leadership. Many times what started out as accepting the call of God through faith to lead a ministry becomes everyday routine.

Many leaders have become good at holding things together from their experience. This happens with pastors, youth ministers, music ministers, teachers, deacons, trustees, and so forth.

Many times leaders have made the transition from walking in faith as a biblical leader to performing ministerial duties in the flesh. Sometimes we as leaders don't even know or recognize this is happening.

As leaders go—so do those they lead. While many of your team members started out the same way, walking in faith and trusting God to do mighty things, they also learned how to do things from experience.

Now as that takes place in a ministry those who we want to impact are not impacted supernaturally. Sure we might have dedication to our ministries and people might get a meal or some clothes from our ministries, but what makes them impactful for God and the Kingdom is when we return to living by FAITH.

This means taking supernatural risks that require God show up.

The New Testament Church was at its healthiest and was growing rapidly when they:

WALKED in **FAITH** every day and they PRACTICED DISCIPLESHIP every day.

When we find healthy and growing churches it always because they possess a SUPERNATURAL FAITH and have a very strong emphasis in MAKING DISCIPLES.

When we consider growing our ministry and our church we have to look at the type of leader that was able to do this in the Bible.

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One of those leaders was Barnabas. In Acts chapter eleven there were people showing up in Antioch and preaching the gospel and people were coming to Christ. This all took faith. When the church of Jerusalem got word of it they sent Barnabas. When Barnabas arrives the Bible says this.

“Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. – Acts 11:24

1. He began to encourage them all to “remain **true**” to the Lord.
2. Was full of the **Holy Spirit**
3. Was full of **Faith**.

So Barnabas encouraged them to remain true to the Lord. Primarily that meant to continue being a witness for Him through the power of the Holy Spirit, to not waver or go backwards. Secondly, he himself was FULL of the Holy Spirit. That meant the Word of God was in him. Anytime you see people who are FULL of the HOLY SPIRIT in scripture that means they are about to preach or teach the word of God to others. As an example, Peter when He was full of the Holy Spirit gave his famous sermon in Acts chapter 2. Then finally, Barnabas was full of FAITH. He lived his life by faith, he took risks by faith, he saw God move by faith.

So as leaders in the church we have the same exhortation, to remain true to the Lord as a witness, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and to be full of the Holy Spirit and to minister by FAITH.

It is for this reason that **FAITH** is at the very center of the LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE. logo.

A healthy growing disciple will always possess a **supernatural** faith and a very strong **emphasis** in making disciples. A church or ministry is only as strong as its disciples! Even more true is a church or ministry is only as strong as the **FAITH** of its leaders.

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Two areas that leadership should always be focused on to maintain a healthy and growing ministry are:

- 1. Focus on evaluating and strengthening **faith** inside your ministry.*
- 2. Ensure a good model for **discipleship** in your ministry and the church.*

Living out the LEAVE.FOLLOW.SHINE. model will not only grow your faith but those who you lead.

LEAVE

LEAVE is the first part of discipleship and can be broken down into many different practical applications. However, for the sake of learning the core of what it means to LEAVE and FOLLOW Christ we will look at a few examples of this pattern in the Bible.

If you have your Bibles please feel free to read along.

Genesis 12:1-4

"The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

***³ I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."^[a]***

⁴ Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran."

If you want God to do something new in your life, you need to LEAVE where you are at. In fact, anytime that God wanted to do a work *through* someone in the Bible He asked them to LEAVE somewhere, something, or someone first.

I will say it again, anytime that God wanted to do a work through someone in the Bible He asked them to LEAVE

SOMEWHERE,

SOMETHING, or

SOMEONE.

In this case Abraham left all THREE!

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Take a minute and look in your notes or in your Bibles at Genesis 12:1-4 and write down the following.

What was the SOMEWHERE that Abraham left?

What was the SOMETHING Abraham left behind?

Who was the SOMEONE that Abraham left?

ANSWERS:

Abraham left his **LAND**, that was the SOMEWHERE

Abraham left his **FAMILY** that was the SOMEONE

Abraham left his **HOUSEHOLD**, that was the SOMETHING

...then he followed the new plan God had for His life.

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LEAVE Worksheet 1.1

SOMEWHERE, SOMETHING, SOMEONE

*Circle some examples that speak to you at this moment about LEAVING **SOMEWHERE** in order to follow Jesus.*

Comfort of Home Bad Job Wrong Career Lifestyle
Church Walls Business Venture City/State/Country

Can you think of some others? If so, write them below.

*Circle some examples that speak to you at this moment about LEAVING **SOMETHING** in order to follow Jesus.*

Selfishness Sin Unhealthy Habits Pride Routine
Judgemental Insecurity Self Worth Selfishness
Time Management Favoritism Laziness Complacency
Impulsive Impressing Others Entitlement
Being Accepted Social Media Busy Schedule Entertainment
Food Clothing/Jewelry Church Traditions

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Can you think of some others? If so, write them below.

*Circle some examples that speak to you at this moment about LEAVING **SOMEONE** in order to follow Jesus.*

Family	Friends	Boyfriend/Girlfriend	Group
Cultural Preferences	Media Personality	Non-biblical Leaders	
Counselor	False Teachers	Parents	Sister/Brother
Myself			

Can you think of some others? If so, write them below.

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When it comes to Jesus, He is very clear about what He means to LEAVE everything. These are Jesus' words in Luke chapter 14,

Luke 14:26-33 (NIV)

²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

³¹“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

That last verse, verse 33 always gets us. Jesus tells us we cannot be His disciples unless we give up **EVERYTHING**. There is a cost to being a disciple of Christ and Jesus wanted to spell it out for us. His description of “hating” father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, even our own lives in order to be a disciple is very strong language.

To understand this we have to understand the first and greatest commandment in the Bible. That commandment goes like this,

Mark 12:28-34 King James Version (KJV)

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²⁸ And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

²⁹ And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

So, the way we understand how Jesus uses the word “hate” we have to understand that the first commandment is to LOVE Him with ALL of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We cannot LOVE anything MORE than Him. Nothing else can take priority over Him. That is the foundation of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. That is how much it costs.

So what is it that Christ says to us in Luke 14:28,

*²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you **first sit down and estimate the cost** to see if you have enough money to complete it?*

Or this statement in verse 31,

*³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he **first sit down and consider** whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?*

Jesus is telling us we need to “first sit down and estimate” or “first sit down and consider” what it will cost us to LOVE Him first and prioritize His agenda, His calling, His will in your life. He tells us that is what is required to be a disciple of His.

So let's return to the story of Abraham.

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Now did Abraham know the whole plan of God for His life? Did he know where he would end up, what he would do everyday?

No. He didn't know.

This is what the scriptures say about him.

Hebrews 11:8

⁸By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed ^[a]by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

NOT knowing where he was going...he left everything to follow Gods plan and purpose for his life.

According to this scripture, what gave Abraham the ability to LEAVE everything behind?

Abraham **OBEYED** by **FAITH**

That is why the scripture says this a couple of verses before the account of Abraham,

Hebrews 11:6,

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God. Without faith it is also IMPOSSIBLE to obey God according to verse 8. That goes together.

LEAVING whatever God is asking you to LEAVE requires true **GENUINE** faith.

What is GENUINE faith?

Lets start with what it is not;

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1. It is not an **INTELLECTUAL** faith. It is not something you know about.

*Faith is not **intellectual**.* You cannot reconcile what God is asking of you with logic and reason or sometimes knowledge. Abraham had no logical reason to leave everything he had to follow after a promise from a God he barely knew. It was not a decision made intellectually through theological studies or seminary.

2. It is not a **CULTURAL** faith. It is not something you grew up with.

*Abrahams faith was not **cultural**.* He was not born into a culture of existing Jews. Israel did not exist, Judah was not around. Jerusalem was not yet built. There was no religious culture that he was born into except a pagan one.

3. It is not a **HISTORICAL** faith. It is not something you know happened in the past.

*Faith is not **historical**.* No one in his family **passed** it down and told him how to have faith, how to get faith, how to live in faith. He didn't have grandmothers and grandfathers that went to church. He didn't have godly mothers and fathers that taught him how to live by faith.

Then what is **GENUINE** faith? It is faith that just like the builder or the King you have sat down and considered if you want to give up everything for the Kingdom of God.

It is a **KINGDOM** faith (Matthew 6:33) that is practiced **DAILY**.

So God told Abraham to LEAVE behind land, family, his fathers comfortable place and go to a new land to start a new work.

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Faith is never logical. Faith is supernatural.

If God wanted us to live logically there would be no need for faith.

“Mark 6:7 (NIV)

Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.”

As a leader in the church not only should we have the faith to be sent out but we should have the faith to send others out.

If supernatural things are not happening in your life each and every day then you are not living by faith.

Yes, real faith always requires that we are forced outside of our comfort zone in order to understand and fully live inside of the supernatural power of our creator.

Kingdom faith is never comfortable to the human mind and heart.

Lets look a New Testament example next.

Matthew 4:19-22

¹⁸ Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And He *said to them, “[h] Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ²¹ Going on from there He saw two other brothers, [i] James the son of Zebedee, and [i] John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

When should we encourage someone to LEAVE? Immediately!

When Abraham, Moses, Esther, Deborah, Ruth, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul, and many others in the Bible were called. It was immediate.

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When Jesus called the disciples, and told them He would make them fishers of men, did he ask them to make sure they would have their jobs when they got back? No. Why? Because he called them to a new, supernatural life.

Did he tell them to pack up whatever they wanted? Their favorite Broncos jersey or camping gear? What if it was a good thing? A solid resume and a good career perhaps? If you liked it and it wasn't a sin, then could it come with you? That wasn't Jesus' message at all. His message was no packing, simply follow me to a new life, and immediately they dropped their nets and followed Him.

Dropping your nets in that day and age meant giving up your livelihood. You don't leave your nets, they are what provide food and economic stability to your family. You were supposed to mend nets, care for them because if they didn't work, you lost everything else. It would be comparable to leaving your career and all the money you invested in college and all the time you dedicated to getting that dream job that pays the bills.

To drop their nets took faith. It took courage. It will take you courage as well. It will take you stepping out in faith and saying you recognize God as your provider.

I want to give you the ultimate example of discipleship. That example is Jesus Christ Himself.

Lets go to Phillipians 2:5-7

“Have this attitude ^[e]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be ^[f]grasped, ⁷ but ^[g]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”

When Jesus was sent He gave up everything.

What is the somewhere Jesus left? Heaven

What is the something that Jesus left? His Throne

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What is the someone that Jesus left? **His Father**

So we see in Christ's example and Paul's admonishment that we are to "have this attitude" in ourselves which Jesus had. We must be willing to LEAVE everything and follow Jesus.

This is the very first thing that is required of a disciple and it is the very first thing this discipleship model helps us remember.

The second part of the model is what we are called to do and that is to FOLLOW Jesus.

FOLLOW

The first step when we begin to FOLLOW Jesus is first to LEAVE everything behind. At this point we should have already sat down as Jesus asked us to do and count how much it would cost us. We should have already sat down and considered everything we would have to give up and LEAVE. Then and only then are we ready to follow Jesus Christ.

The difference between the LEAVE phase of discipleship and the FOLLOW phase is this process of counting the cost. Sometimes it is necessary that we return to this place when we have let the Somewhere, Somethings, and Someone's of the world get priority in our lives again.

When we are certain of wanting to take hold of the life as a disciple of Jesus Christ then we are ready to follow Jesus in building His Kingdom.

Going back to Luke chapter 14, we will look at these two verses again briefly.

In the LEAVE phase of discipleship we discussed "sitting down and estimating the cost." Now we have to look at the type of examples that Jesus Christ gave.

Lets look at verse 28 and 31 again,

²⁸ *"Suppose one of you wants **to build a tower**. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"*

³¹ *"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he **first sit down and consider** whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"*

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We see now in these two verses Jesus refers to **BUILDING** and GOING to **WAR**.

In the book of Ephesians the Apostle Paul writes,

Ephesians 2:19-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Jesus understands if we FOLLOW Him we will become builders.

Just as the apostles laid the foundation with Jesus as our cornerstone we continue building. We are BUILDERS of the

Household of God

Holy **Temple** in the Lord

Dwelling **Place** for God

Again in Ephesians Paul writes,

Ephesians 6:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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Paul was proof that once you choose to follow Jesus you will be at war everyday. Jesus knew this and gave the example in the book of Mark of a man going to war and considering the cost of that war. That is why Paul in the previous verse in Ephesians 6, verse 11 talks about putting on the whole ARMOR of God. This is to defend ourselves and the Kingdom against all enemies.

Jesus as our King has given us armor in order to follow Him into battle. He has given us a goal of building a Household, a Holy Temple, a Dwelling Place, a Kingdom where God is glorified and the honor of defending it as warriors.

So what are the nuts and bolts of Kingdom building? What does a builder do once he or she is ready to begin following Christ? According to the model that Jesus left we make disciples that will grow together with us and build alongside of us. Disciples who will fight with us in the spiritual battles we will face.

In order to do this there are three things we see Jesus the builder do that we must do also.

1. We **call** people to FOLLOW Jesus.
2. We **define** for them what it means to be a DISCIPLE
3. We **model** what a DISCIPLE should be

I. THE CALL

How did Jesus Christ CALL people to FOLLOW Him?

- He called them to LEAVE every **obstacle** behind. (Matt 4:20-22, 8:22, 10:38, 16:24, Mark 1:17, 8:34, Luke 9:23)
- He called them to **change** the direction of their life (Matthew 9:59-62)
- He taught them how to **fish** for men (Matt 4:19)
- He taught them to **proclaim** the Kingdom of God. (Matt 10:7, Matt 12:14, Luke 4:18, 4:43, Acts 9:15)

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One clarification is needed that doesn't get a lot of attention and that is this question; "What is the Kingdom of God?"

Definition: The Kingdom of God is where Jesus Christ saves, redeems, and rules over the hearts of men.

Here are helpful steps to proclaiming the Kingdom of God...

- ✓ **Telling** people WHO Jesus is and about His GOSPEL.
- ✓ **Describing** what the Kingdom of God is like. (ex. Jesus' parables) and
- ✓ **Inviting** them to **BUILD** the Kingdom of God with us.

Here is a list of reference verses for personal study to give us an idea of how Jesus Christ **CALLED** the disciples.

Matt 4:19

Matt 8:22

Matt 9:9

Matt 10:38 (strong)

Matt 16:24

Matt 19:21

Mark 1:17

Mark 2:14

Mark 8:34

Mark 10:21 (called but didn't follow, couldn't leave his possessions)

Luke 5:27-28

Luke 9:23

Luke 9:59

Luke 18:22 (called but didn't follow...)

John 1:43

John 12:26 (serving ministry leaders)

John 21:19

John 21:22 (don't worry about someone else, follow Jesus)

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II. DEFINE

Once we CALL someone to follow Jesus the second step will be to **DEFINE** what a disciple or follower of Jesus is,

One of the most important issues is defining what it means to follow Jesus.

Because the church has done such a poor job at defining this. Everyone is led to believe that they are following Jesus.

For example. "Anyone who goes to church is a follower of Christ."

If you serve in a ministry you believe you are following Christ. This is also false.

A person who distributes clothing and food for refugees but is not a believer would never be called a follower of Jesus Christ. Serving others does not make us followers of Christ.

So what distinguishes us as followers of Christ?

Jesus CALLED the very first disciples and then tells them what His disciple making plan was in the book of Matthew.

Matthew chapter 4 verse 19.

Matthew 4:19 Matthew 4:19 (NASB95)

19 And He *said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

When you follow Jesus you are immediately aware that you will be transformed into someone who catches men with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus used this illustration because they were fishermen. He wanted to define what it was they would be doing if they were to follow Him.

Another passage in scripture that further defines someone who follows Christ is found in,

Luke 9:59–60 (NASB95)

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59 *And He said to another, **“Follow Me.”** But he said, **“Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”***

60 *But He said to him, **“Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”***

When Jesus says, “Follow Me” He means, go **proclaim** the **kingdom** of God **everywhere**.

After Jesus was resurrected from the dead He told His disciples to meet Him Galilee and then He said in Matthew 28:19,

Matthew 28:19–20 (NASB95)

19 ***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,***

20 ***teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***

You cannot follow Jesus without making disciples. What is a disciple? From these passages of scriptures and the many more that support these we learn that a follower of Jesus is,

“A disciple of Jesus is someone who makes other disciples of Jesus.”

Jesus made 12 disciples or followers who would then turn around and make other followers and that is the model Jesus left.

So to review.

When we **CALL** someone to follow Jesus:

- We call them to leave every obstacle
- We call them to change the direction of their life
- We call them to fish for men

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- We call them to proclaim the Kingdom. (The Gospel of Jesus, Describe the Kingdom, Invitation to join Us).

When we **DEFINE** what a follower of Jesus we understand that first,

“A disciple is someone who makes other disciples.” This is the primary life purpose of each disciple, to seek the Kingdom of God first.

Then there are the “characteristics” of a disciple who makes other disciples. These characteristics are found in each disciple. In order to be effective at making other disciples we must practice the following characteristics that Jesus Himself modeled.

They will do three things “in the process” of making disciples.

1. **Always be Learning** the commandments of Jesus (2 Timothy 2:15)
2. **Always be Doing** what Jesus commands (ex. Matt 28:19)
3. **Always be Teaching** what Jesus commanded (ex. Matt 28:19)

A disciple will always be learning, doing, and teaching what Jesus commanded us to do **WHILE** he or she makes disciples.

III. MODEL

The next step in **FOLLOWING** Christ is to **MODEL** what that looks like so others can follow with us.

When we **MODEL** who a disciple is we show them by our actions how to **CALL** people to follow Christ and show them how we **DEFINE** it for others.

If when we invite people to follow Jesus we tell them that it means that they will be expected to do the same thing we do they should have a model of how to do that, not just an invitation to follow Christ.

In this way, we don't have any problems carrying out the command of Jesus to go and make disciples it will be integrated into the very fabric of what we do every day.

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Jesus MODELED what it was to FOLLOW by following the will of the FATHER.

His own Father CALLED Jesus to LEAVE His throne and follow His plan for the redemption of all humanity.

Jesus then DEFINED what following the Father looked like for Him.

He tells us in Luke 19 verse 10,

Luke 19:10 (NASB95)

10 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

He was not here to judge or make an appearance. Jesus came to FISH! Then in Matthew 4:19 he called His disciples to follow Him so that He could make them fishers of men. This is HOW Jesus would seek the lost and this is how He would save the lost—through His disciples.

In Luke 9 verses 1 and 2 it says,

Luke 9:1–2 (NASB95)

Ministry of the Twelve

- 1** *And He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.*
- 2** *And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.*

So Jesus **called** the TWELVE, **defined** what a follower does (goes and makes other followers by proclaiming the gospel) and continued to **model** it Himself.

We as His disciples are to do the same. We are to focus on making fishers of men who can be sent to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

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Discipleship Worksheet 1.2

Almost every time fishing for men will require that we communicate with people. Jesus was the WORD in the flesh. He was the best communicator of us all. List at least 7 ways that Jesus and His disciples communicated the gospel to people.

Example:

House to House

The third and last thing that Jesus requires us to do is SHINE.

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SHINE

Simple definition of what it means to SHINE.

To SHINE is to INCREASE OUR WITNESS in DARK PLACES.

The more we follow Jesus Christ the more we SHINE. The more we allow Jesus to live through us the more we increase our witness and begin multiplying the kingdom for His Glory.

Simply put. When we shine, we have no alternative but to increase the number of disciples that are being made.

We cannot SHINE without any light. Jesus sees us as lamps that carry this light. What we have to understand first is the answer to this question, "What Is light according to the Bible?"

WHAT IS LIGHT?

We discover the answer to this question in a very short verse found in John chapter 1.

John 1:4 (NASB95)

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

In Jesus there was LIFE

LIFE is the LIGHT of men.

Jesus tells us He is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE.

How can you get to the Father without LIFE? You cannot.

So we find that John tells us that the LIGHT of men is LIFE and that LIFE is Jesus.

Acts 26:23 (NASB95)

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23 *that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."*

In proclaiming "light" to the Jews and Gentiles it means that after Jesus was raised from the dead he would be the first to proclaim LIFE (Himself) to both groups of people. ALL people.

Acts 13:47 (NASB95)

47 *"For so the Lord has commanded us,*

'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES,

THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.' "

Jesus was placed here to be LIGHT or LIFE to the Jews and the Gentiles.

So LIGHT=LIFE to all of us.

So if we are not FOLLOWING Jesus in making disciples then it is impossible for us to SHINE the LIGHT into other peoples lives.

So here is our part. We are those who SHINE this light. We do not hide it, we do the opposite. We bring LIFE who is JESUS to the world.

Three things we discover that Jesus taught us about our role.

- 1. Stop Hiding Jesus (the Light) from people.**
- 2. Show People Jesus Boldly**
- 3. Get Brighter every day**

So lets start with the first one.

I. STOP HIDING JESUS (the LIGHT) FROM PEOPLE

Jesus thought this directive towards us was so important He decided to say it Himself. We read His words in Matthew chapter 5.

Matthew 5:14 (NASB95)

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14 *“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;*

Not only are we not to hide Jesus but if we are the light of the world we can never be hidden. People are going to see us shining. Jesus describes the proper place for us. On a lampstand so we can give off light!

Matthew 5:15 (NASB95)

15 *nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

Then again in Luke we see His words again,

Luke 8:16 (NASB95)

16 *“Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light.*

Luke 11:33 (NASB95)

33 *“No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.*

This next verse is simply amazing.

Matthew 6:22 (NASB95)

22 *“The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.*

You see, if our eye is only focused on Jesus who is the light and life of the world. Then our eye is clear and fixed on Him. In this way our whole body will be full of light. That is the kind of light we want to have. That is the kind of light we want to shine.

So instead of hiding Jesus we now must;

II. SHOW PEOPLE JESUS BOLDLY

Jesus not only directs us to stop hiding Him from others but to do the opposite. He tells us instead to get out and let our light who is Jesus SHINE before men. Matthew chapter 5 says this,

Matthew 5:16 (NASB95)

16 *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

This verse could have simply stated to let our light shine so we can glorify our Father. What we see is a great phrase added to the verse.

Let your LIGHT SHINE in **“such a way”**.

That means do it so **intentionally**, so **boldly**, so **courageously** that people will glorify our Father in heaven.

Read the following verses for more insight...

2 Cor. 4:4, Rom 2:19, Matt 5:16, Matt 9:36-38, John 3:19, Acts 26:23, John 1:7-8.

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Discipleship Worksheet 1.3

There are all kinds of reasons people may want to hide Jesus from people. What are some of the reasons we keep our faith and the gospel hidden from others we meet? Circle the words that speak to you and possible reasons why we do not share Christ with others as much as we could.

Fear Doubt Not Equipped Shy Embarrassed
Not Worthy Not Interested Self Esteem
Don't Speak Well Unsure of Myself Not Very Social
Not My Gift Don't Have Time Confused About Jesus

Can you think of some others? If so, write them below.

Our goal as a child of God is to illuminate the very brightest we can. So our last step in our calling as a disciple of Jesus is simply this;

III. GET BRIGHTER

Proverbs 4:18 (NASB95)

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18 ***But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.***

We are to get brighter and brighter each and every day we are following Jesus. We are to become masters at sharing the gospel, bringing people to Christ, and discipling them to do the same.

Consider what Daniel says in chapter 12.

Daniel 12:3 (NASB95)

3 ***“Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”***

The phrase “those who lead the many to righteousness” is a very clear message that to shine BRIGHTLY is to lead many to Jesus. Not only that but Daniel declares that those who do this are like the “stars forever and ever”.

The work that we put into making disciples and bringing people to Jesus will have a lasting impact—forever and ever. Our lights will shine for all eternity. To me that is simply amazing!

To me that is motivation to get brighter and brighter as a light for Jesus. Here is Luke chapter 11.

Luke 11: 36 (NASB95)

36 ***“If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it will be wholly illumined, as when the lamp illumines you with its rays.”***

So the illustration is this,

Our lives are the lamps that will be used to illuminate others.

The Light is Jesus Christ that fills our entire lives with light.

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So in order to SHINE we must allow our whole body to be FULL of LIGHT, full of Jesus Christ, so full that the “rays” of light illuminating from us light up darkness wherever we go.

Our ultimate goal is to fulfill our calling to be lights and SHINE in this world.

We can see Jesus heart clearly and plainly in Matthew chapter 9 verses 36-38,

Matthew 9:36-38 (NASB95)

- 36** *Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.*
- 37** *Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*
- 38** *“Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”*

The words “send out” is harsher than it sounds. It is the word “ekbale” and it means to “drive out, expel, cast out, throw out”.

Jesus was saying to pray to the Lord of the harvest to “expel” or “push us out” into His harvest.

If Jesus was willing to pray that we be thrown out into the harvest you know that He means business.

Jesus is the lamp that was lit. We have the responsibility to place that on a lampstand for everyone to see.

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SUPPORT VERSES:

John 1:7 (NASB95)

7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

John 1:8 (NASB95)

8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

John 3:19 (NASB95)

19 *“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*

John 3:21 (NASB95)

21 *“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”*

Romans 2:19 (NASB95)

19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Romans 13:12 (NASB95)

12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB95)

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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You have successfully completed the **LFS Discipleship Training – Foundations** that will help guide you, your church, or ministries to begin making disciples and multiplying the Kingdom.

You should now have everything you need to begin making disciples and pass this model on to those disciples.

We pray that you will LEAVE everything, FOLLOW Christ, and SHINE brightly in this world.