

MULTIPLY

SO YOU CALL YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN
KEY SCRIPTURE | Matthew 28:18–20

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

DISCUSSION GUIDE

We are in week two of *Multiply*, our message series about discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple? What does it mean to be a Christian? These terms are used a lot but what do they actually mean? Does it mean you are a believer? Well, James 2:19 says, even “demons believe and tremble in terror.” So, clearly, it’s not enough just to believe. James 1:22 gives us more insight: “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says.” Being a disciple means obeying Jesus out of our great love for God. Christians are disciples. Disciples are obedient.

QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: When you were in elementary school, what did you dream of being when you grew up?

1. Read Matthew 9:9 together as a group. How does this passage help us understand discipleship?
2. In the message we talked about the idea of converts vs. disciples. How would you explain the difference? What were your thoughts on this?
3. Read Matthew 28:18–20. How does this passage describe the process of making disciples? What does it mean to “teach them to observe all I have commanded them”?
4. Read Matthew 22:37–39. Jesus summarizes the law, but also summarizes what it means to be a disciple. What should the life of a disciple look like according to this passage?
5. Read 1 John 2:3–11. According to John, how do we know if someone is a Christian or a disciple of Jesus?
6. How is God asking you to respond to this message?



NOTES

Pastor Neal's definition of discipleship—Disciples of Jesus study the teachings of Jesus so they can think like Jesus, act like Jesus, and then get on with the mission of Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER

“Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

“The activity of discipleship is involved with ‘teaching’...the emphasis is not simply on acquiring knowledge; the distinguishing feature is always that disciples are to obey or conform their lives to the teaching. Obedience was the hallmark of Jesus’ disciples... Jesus’ life, whether in word or in deed, fulfills God’s will in the Old Testament, and as His disciples teach other disciples to obey His commands, their lives will reflect the transforming will of God in their own every word and deed... Love summarizes all that Jesus said and did. Thus, in the expression ‘teaching them to obey all I have commanded you,’ the context of ‘commanded’ is the complete expression of all that Jesus said and did.”

—Wilkins, Michael J. *The NIV Application Commentary: Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004. 956-57