



Dgroup Discussion Guide for March 29, 2015

The Results Are In!

SCRIPTURE:

Barriers to Discipleship:

1. Resources
2. Complacency
3. Mastery of Scripture
4. Commitment
5. Time

What does the Bible tell us about what you consider hindrances?

Resources

- John 14:26
- 2 Peter 1:2-3
- Luke 12:11-12

More often we feel uncertain of the resources we have – but this uncertainty stems from what the source of our resources – we look at ourselves, at our capabilities forgetting that we have been given the greatest resource available – the Holy Spirit. We limit ourselves to what we are capable of, forgetting that it is not what we are capable of doing that God chose us – God chose us because of what He is capable of doing in us and through us. We forget that the Holy Spirit is in every follower of Christ forever, and it is through His power that we will be able to do what God wants us to do. It is His divine power that grants us *everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and excellence.*

It is when we continue to focus on ourselves and not realize the truth of what the Bible is telling us that we become fearful and uncertain. The Bible teaches us to stop focusing on ourselves but rather keep our eyes focused on God. When we do this, the Holy Spirit will equip with knowledge and skills that we do not even know we have. God has seen to it that whatever we lack God will supply. God has promised us that his mercies are new every morning – this not only pertains to the food we need, the shelter we require, but His mercies for all aspects of our life are made new each day.

Complacency

- 1 Corinthians 10:12
- Hebrews 5:12-13

Many of us think that we know enough, that we know many things – this is pride. . . and this can be a hindrance not only to our ability to disciple but a hindrance to our spiritual growth as well. This is why the Bible warns us to take heed otherwise we will fall. We all start out as baby Christians – but like babies we need to grow, we cannot be content to remain babies in the faith. We have to continue in the process of growing and transforming into Christlike-ness. Complacency is a barrier that we often fall prey to because we become content with where we are and what we are – not wanting to be shaken out of our comfort zones. The bible tells us that as we grow and mature in faith our food should progress from milk to solid food.

We all have much to learn, there should always be room for improvement. It is only through discipleship and the practice of our faith that we will become better followers of Christ.

Mastery of Scripture

- John 5:39
- Acts 4:13

We are constantly reminded to know the Word of God. But Jesus Christ reminds us that our salvation cannot be attained by merely knowing the Word of God. Our salvation is attained when we received Jesus Christ as our salvation. The Bible is written to lead us to the One who will save us, Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Bible is to teach us about Jesus. It is not necessary to master the Bible, what is more important is that we OBEY God's word. It is not in our going to church that makes us followers of Christ. It is when we **follow** the footsteps of Christ that we become His followers.

The disciples themselves were uneducated and untrained but this did not deter them from sharing the Good News. It was their knowledge of Jesus, their being with Jesus and their obedience to His command that equipped them and gave them courage to go out and speak. We do not have to know a lot, but the little that we know should be manifested and practiced in our life.

Commitment

- Luke 9:59-61

When Jesus calls to us “Come, follow Me” – how do we respond? Do we like those in the passage still have excuses that we prioritize above Jesus’ invitation? Jesus Christ asks only for our commitment, and He will supply the rest. These barriers are merely our excuses much like the ones Jesus called upon to follow Him. Moses in Exodus 3 and 4, likewise continued to make excuses why he could not go and free the Israelites. . . in the end he even tried to wiggle out of the mission God was giving him and this angered God. Are we trying to wiggle out what God is asking us to do?

Time

- John 9:4

We all have the same amount of time in each day, in each month, in each year – but there are those that can accomplish much while others remain where they started from. This really boils down to priorities and how we manage our time. What do we prioritize in our life? What are priorities are will point us to how we make use of our time? Do we spend much time on social media? When we say God we don’t have time – what we are telling God is: God I don’t want to make time.

All these boil down to just one thing – LACK OF LOVE.

Lack of love for God. Lack of love for others. The Bible teaches us in Matthew 22:36-40. We are taught to love God with all our heart, our soul, our mind and all our might. . . and to love others more than we love ourselves. If we truly love God . . . then we should seek to please Him. Pleasing Him means to obey His commands, because obedience is God’s love language. God commands us to go and make disciples. . . to teach others how to obey the commandments – this is discipleship. In John 21:15-17, we see that Jesus asking Peter –do you love me more than these? Jesus asks Peter three times because He wanted to know where Peter was coming from. Jesus was actually asking Peter if he *agape* (unconditional love) Him – but Peter could only answer yes Lord I *phileo* You. This shows that God comes down to our level. He can still use us wherever we are. Even when we fail Him, God can still use us because *perfect love casts out all fears*. God has promised us that He will never leave us or forsake us – why then do we hang on to our excuses?





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. How much do we truly love God?
3. Do we really love God to stop giving excuses on why we cannot disciple others and lead them to Christlikeness?

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: What is your biggest hindrance or barrier to disciple or be discipled? What is the first step you can do to overcome this hindrance? Are we lacking in our love for God?</p>
	<p>Family: Are there are any hindrances or barriers to discipleship in the family? What have you decided to do about it? What is the first step that your family can take to overcome this barrier?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do people around you see the love of Jesus? How do you share or emulate the love of Jesus to others? By looking at your life – your words and actions, can they tell you are a follower of Jesus?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.