



Dgroup Discussion Guide for January 24, 2016

The M&Ms of Intentional Discipleship

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 28:18-20*

What is Intentional Discipleship?

To intentionally disciple is to proactively helping the believer grow in Christ-like maturity by modeling and teaching humble obedience to all that God commands.

ALL AUTHORITY - Jesus has all authority. What does this mean? This means that we cannot just claim Jesus as Savior and not have Him as Lord of our lives because these two come hand in hand. Romans 10:9 says *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, then you will be saved.*

Now that we have established that it is necessary for us to accept Jesus as both Lord and Savior, what then is our **MISSION**: is to make disciples. What is our **METHOD**? Our method is to make disciples, discipleship.

Discipleship is a process by which we are transformed into Christ-likeness by learning and obeying the word of God. It is only when we begin to bear fruit of the Holy Spirit then we know that the Spirit is working in us. It is during the conforming into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, that we begin to show the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

How is this **MEASURED**? We can measure this is we are able to obey all of God's commands. This does not mean merely looking in and memorizing God's word instead the Bible tells us that we should have the determination and the will to obey ALL that God has commanded us.

And it is when we obey ALL then God will be with us until the end of time. The presence of God will never leave us – that is the ultimate reward for our obedience.

Sin is not only blatantly disobeying God's command, it is also a sin if we know His commands and we do not act on it. The Greek word for sin is *hamartia*, which literally means to miss the mark. It because of this that we should strive to obey ALL of His commands so that we do not miss the mark.

If we do not have the MEASURE, then we will miss the mark. If we continually miss the mark, then we will become complacent. The more complacent we are, then we become cold. . . and drift away from God. That is why it is important that we continually keep our fire of love for the Lord burning.

Sometimes the question should not be what am I doing for the Lord? But more importantly we should ask " what am I not doing for the Lord?"

King Saul made the same mistake. 1 Samuel 15 tells us of how God had commanded Saul to utterly destroy all the Amalekites (v 3). Saul did so but decided to bring back Agag, king of the Amalekites alive (v 8). In his mind he had obeyed God's commands, but he did not obey ALL His commands and argued with the prophet Samuel on this (v 20) . But the Samuel tells him in verse 22 " *Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offering and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of the rams.* So when we do not obey ALL, then we do evil in the eyes of the Lord.

Let us not be like the young man who says in Matthew 19:20 *all these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?* He missed the point. His mindset was he will obey in order to be accepted. But having a personal relationship with Jesus means that you are already accepted, and that is why you obey. If we are trying to go to heaven based on our capacity to obey all the commands all of the time, then that is works. None of us have the capacity to truly obey all of God's commands -- that is why we need GRACE.

Paul reminds us in Philippians 2:12 that we have to *work out your salvation*. This means we already have our salvation but we have to continually exercise our salvation. Our obedience to the Lord is the evidence that we have been saved, it is the by-product of the relationship that God has established with me through His Son Jesus Christ.





So how do we obey ALL? Who is our **MODEL**?

The model is Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:8 tells us *Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*. Jesus Christ obeyed ALL that God the Father asked Him to do that is why in John 17:4-5 He says *I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was*. It is because of this sacrifice that Jesus tells us that we are to be perfect, just as the Heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48).

That is why Paul encourages us in Philippians 3:12; 15-16 *I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however let us keep living by the same standard to which we have attained*. But Paul further tells us that *He who began the work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus*. (Phil 1:6)

APPLICATION:

Patently 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: List down the commands of God that you know of. List down some of the commands that you are obeying. List down the commands you are struggling with. Why are you unable to obey ALL of God's commands? What is hindering you from doing so?</p>
	<p>Family: Talk about Matthew 28:18-20 as a family. How can you improve your discipleship relationship in your family? How can you intentionally disciple each other in your family?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Have you allowed yourself to be involved in a discipleship relationship? What is preventing you from this? Is this something you have to surrender to God as well?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</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.