

# DISCIPLE

## THE JOURNEY OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Bridge City  
CHURCH

Part 1: Let's Define The Relationship

April 14, 2026



CONVERSATION GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

We're starting a new series called *Disciple*, where we want to clearly understand what it truly means to follow Jesus. In a context where it's easy to identify as a believer but harder to live as a disciple, this conversation invites us to define the relationship we have with Him. It's not just about what we believe about Jesus, but how we respond to His call in our daily lives.

In **Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)**, Jesus gives a clear instruction to His followers: make disciples. This goes far beyond an initial decision of faith; it describes an ongoing process of transformation where we learn to obey, to live according to His teachings, and to reflect His character. In light of this, we understand that salvation begins a relationship with God, but discipleship is the path where that relationship grows, matures, and becomes visible in every area of our lives.

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

**Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)**



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. In **Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)**, Jesus doesn't just call us to believe, but to make disciples and teach obedience; what does this reveal about what it truly means to follow Him beyond an initial decision?
2. In **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)**, we see that we are being progressively transformed into the image of Jesus; as you look at your own life, in which areas can you recognize that process of change, and where is it harder to see?

3. Thinking about your current reality, what is holding you back from taking a more intentional step toward a discipleship relationship with Jesus instead of staying in a comfortable or superficial faith?

## Salvation is instant; discipleship is progressive.



### MAKE IT PRACTICAL

Sympathizer vs. Disciple:

1. **A sympathizer admires. A disciple follows.** Identify a specific teaching of Jesus that you know but are not applying. This week, take a concrete step to live it out, even if it's something small.
2. **A sympathizer feels. A disciple changes.** Reflect on an attitude or habit you know needs transformation. Choose a practical step to work on it, such as asking for help or setting a clear boundary.
3. **A sympathizer believes. A disciple obeys.** Think of an instruction from God that you've been postponing. Decide to obey in one specific area today, remembering that growth begins with simple, consistent actions.



### PRAYER

"Lord, thank You for calling us into a relationship with You, not just a superficial belief. Thank You because through Jesus You gave us access to a new life and a clear purpose. Help me grow as a disciple, to obey Your teachings and reflect Your character in my daily life. This week, I want to take real steps toward a deeper relationship with You."



### TIPS

- Faith is not defined only by what you believe, but by the decisions you make each day in response to Jesus.
- You don't need to change everything at once; focus on one concrete and consistent step this week.
- Keep in mind that discipleship is not an event, but a process where God shapes your life from the inside out.



## CHILD DEDICATION

<https://bridgcitymd.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1400589>

