# the study of INCARNATION "JESUS INTHE FLESH"





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## WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE?

## **DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE has discipleship in its DNA**

Last words are important and Matthew records the last words of Jesus as this: 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. Matthew 28:19

Jesus told His followers that they needed to go and make disciples of every nation. The call is no different today than it was 2,000 years ago. Somewhere along the way we have forgotten or even ignored Jesus' call to make disciples. Discipleship should not be just a program one can join, but it should be deeply rooted in the believer and Church's culture and fabric.

## DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE does not rely on "One on One" discipleship

Greg Ogden in his book *Discipleship Essentials* says this, "The one-on-one sets up a teacher-student dynamic. The pressure is upon the discipler to be the answer person or the fountain of all wisdom and insight. When a third person is added, the dynamic shifts to a group process. The discipler can more naturally make his or her contribution in the dynamic of group interchange. Triad discipling shifts the model from hierarchical to relational. The greatest factor inhibiting those who are being discipled to disciple others (multiplication) is the dependency fostered by one-on-one relationships. The triad/quad, on the other hand, views discipleship as a come-alongside relationship of mutual journey toward maturity in Christ. The hierarchical dimension is minimized."

## DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE helps provide accelerated growth

The goal of every believer should be to become mature and help others become mature. *He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28* 

We believe that if each person really puts their best into Discipleship Culture that they will see exponential spiritual growth in their life and in the lives of others.

# **DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE provides accountability**

Accountability is taking the relational context of discipleship to another level. Accountability means giving your discipling partners authority to call you to keep the commitments you have made to one another. Accountability is rooted in realness and confessing sins to one another as well as keeping confidences within the D.C.

# **DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE multiplies**

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Il Timothy 2:2

Paul wrote this to Timothy and it actually represents four generations of disciples.

Paul ----- Timothy ----- Reliable People ----- Others

The proof of lasting discipleship is not really if I have discipled one other person. The proof of lasting discipleship is if the person I discipled has discipled another person well enough to disciple another. Has your mind been blown yet? Discipleship Culture provides a systematic way to multiply the Kingdom of God. The goal being that each person in the group would go out and disciple two to three others within a year. We believe groups of three or four work best.

## **DAILY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE**

## **Bible Study and Prayer**

Five days a week we are asking every person to spend a significant amount of time studying their Bibles and to faithfully SOAP. SOAP is an acronym that will help you get the most out of your daily Bible reading. Here is how it works.

#### S.O.A.P

**S** (scripture) • Read the Scripture assigned for that day.

Write down a verse or a passage that is the most meaningful to you.

O (observation) • Write down observations you made about the scripture you read.

A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture you read to your everyday life.

**P** (prayer) • Pray to God about the scripture you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.

It is really that simple.

## **Scripture Memory**

We believe that Scripture Memory is a spiritual discipline that is essential for accelerated growth and daily living for Christ.

Pastor Chuck Swindoll wrote, "I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture.... No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified" (Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life, p. 61).

You will be responsible for memorizing scripture every week. We memorize scripture because Psalm 119 tells us that we are to hide God's Word in our heart. The key to memorizing scripture is to review it every day and to meditate on its meaning.

#### Review

At the end of the week make sure you have reviewed your lessons and be prepared to share what you have learned with your group. Write it down. Also make sure your scripture memory is word perfect before you attend your group.

## **WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE**

Details on the next page.

## MONTHLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

Once a month all who are involved in D.C. will be getting together for a one hour meeting. This meeting will set out to accomplish three things.

- <u>1. Celebrate the Wins</u> We want to take some time every month to celebrate the victories of having a Discipleship Culture. We want to give thanks to God for forward momentum of all life change in our culture. This will also help us understand better how to make D.C. more successful.
- <u>2. Identify the Obstacles</u> We look at this first session of Discipleship Culture as a pilot program. We want to know what isn't working and what tweaks need to be made along the way to help people become more like Jesus. Disciplers and Disciples alike are invited to suggest minor adjustments that may create greater impact.
- <u>3. Gain Instruction</u> Every month we will be spending part our time sharing vision and teaching more on the culture of Discipleship.

## WEEKLY DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

If you agree to be part of Discipleship Culture you are expected to be at all 8 weeks of meetings. The meetings will last one hour and will include accountability, reciting the Scripture memory verse, discussion of daily Bible study, and prayer.

## Here is what the Weekly Discipleship Culture looks like:

- <u>1. Check In</u> [10 minutes] Start each meeting by checking in. This is the time when we are reminded to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and sharpen one another through accountability (Proverbs 27:17).
  - A. **JOY**, **ANGER**, **FEAR**, or **SADNESS**: Sometimes it is hard for us to open up, but this exercise is very effective. These four feelings seem to be the base emotions we all feel. Share with your group the core emotion you are feeling right now and why.
  - B1. Accountability Option 1: Answer three basic questions
    - 1) How are you protecting your life with purity?
    - 2) Share a win that you've had investing in the work of God? (Time, Talent, Treasure)
    - 3) How are you glorifying God in your thought life?
  - B2. Accountability Option 2: This is an extensive list that John Wesley created over 200 years ago but is still practical today. Use it to highlight areas of your life as you check in but be sensitive of time. Don't go over every question.
    - 1) Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
    - 2) Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
    - 3) Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
    - 4) Can I be trusted?
    - 5) Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
    - 6) Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
    - 7) Did the Bible live in me today?
    - 8) Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?
    - 9) Am I enjoying prayer?
    - 10) When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
    - 11) Do I pray about the money I spend?
    - 12) Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
    - 13) Do I disobey God in anything?
    - 14) Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
    - 15) Am I defeated in any part of my life?
    - 16) Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
    - 17) How do I spend my spare time?
    - 18) **Am I proud?**
    - 19) Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
    - 20) Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
    - 21) Do I grumble or complain constantly?
    - 22) Is Christ real to me?

### **2. Share Your SOAP** – [15-20 minutes]

- A. Recite memorized verse.
- B. Share observations and applications (as well as questions you may have) from the week's reading.
- <u>3. Pray</u> [15-20 minutes] Pray together. We recommend using this prayer structure: praise God, confess your sinfulness, and offer willing service to Him. Pray through what you just talked about with each other. Pray for each other, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict you and guide you. Remember, you are all just talking with your Father together! It is a holy and fun conversation!

## **WEEK ONE**

ISAIAH 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

JOSHUA 1:8-9

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

## **WEEK TWO**

MATTHEW 2:6

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

PSALM 139:15-16

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body, all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

## **WEEK THREE**

LUKE 2:11-12

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

## **WEEK FOUR**

JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

1 PETER 5:8-9

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

#### **WEEK FIVE**

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

GENESIS 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

## **WEEK SIX**

HEBREWS 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it

<b>S</b> • Read Genesis 3:14-15	WEEK 1 • DAY 1 • DATE
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Classic Scripture Memory: Joshua 1:8-9

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you qo."

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Classic Scripture Memory: Psalm 139:15-16

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body, all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

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Classic Scripture Memory: Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

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Classic Scripture Memory: Genesis 3:15

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