the study of Ruth & Esther





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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 12 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!

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

WEEK ONE:

RUTH 1:16 - But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

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 TWO:

RUTH 3:9 - "I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer."

I 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.

WEEK THREE:

RUTH 4:17 - The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

JOHN 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

WEEK FIVE:

ESTHER 2:20 - Esther continued to keep her family background and nationality a secret. She was still following Mordecai's directions, just as she did when she lived in his home.

COLOSSIANS 1:27-28 - To them
God has chosen to make known
among the Gentiles the glorious
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He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that
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WEEK SIX:

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MATTHEW 28:19-20 - 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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PSALM 46:10 - He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

WEEK NINE:

ESTHER 7:3 - Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared.

ACTS 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

WEEK TEN:

ESTHER 9:2 - The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the king's provinces to attack anyone who tried to harm them. But no one could make a stand against them, for everyone was afraid of them.

EPHESIANS 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

WEEK ELEVEN:

ESTHER 9:25-26 - But when Esther came before the king, he issued a decree causing Haman's evil plot to backfire, and Haman and his sons were impaled on a sharpened pole. That is why this celebration is called Purim, because it is the ancient word for casting lots.

II CHRONICLES 7:14 - If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hearfrom heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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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: I Corinthians 10:13

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Classic Scripture Memory: John 10:10

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WEEK TWO: Ruth 3:9 I Corinthians 10:13

> WEEK THREE: Ruth 4:17 John 10:10

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Classic Scripture Memory: Colossians 1:27-28

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

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WEEK FIVE: Esther 2:20 Colossians 1:27-28

WEEK SIX: Esther 3:8 Matthew 28:19-20

> WEEK SEVEN: Esther 4:14 Psalm 46:10

S • Read Esther 6: 4-9 WEEK 8 • DAY 4 • DATE	DAILY RUNDOWN:
	S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.
O	O (observation) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.
A	A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.
PRAY	P (prayer) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.
S • Read Esther 6: 10-11 WEEK 8 • DAY 5 • DATE	Review Scripture Memory from Weeks 5-7
O	WEEK FIVE: Esther 2:20 Colossians 1:27-28
A	WEEK SIX: Esther 3:8 Matthew 28:19-20
PRAY	
	WEEK SEVEN: Esther 4:14
Summarize what you would like to share with your group	Psalm 46:10
	-

S • Read Esther 6: 12-14	WEEK 9 • DAY 1 • DATE
0	
A	
PRAY	
S • Read Esther 7: 1-4	WEEK 9 • DAY 2 • DATE
O.	
A	
PRAY	
S • Read Esther 7: 5-7	WEEK 9 • DAY 3 • DATE
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PRAY	

S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

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

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

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

WEEK NINE

Scripture Memory: Esther 7:3

Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared."

Classic Scripture Memory: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

WEEK 9 • DAY 4 • DATE
WEEK 9 • DAY 5 • DATE
t you would like to share with your group
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A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.

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

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Classic Scripture Memory: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

S • Read Esther 8: 3-6	WEEK 10 • DAY 1 • DATE
O .	
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PRAY	
S • Read Esther 8: 7-10	WEEK 10 • DAY 2 • DATE
o	
O	
A .	
PRAY	
S • Read Esther 8: 11-14	WEEK 40 DAYS DATE
	WEEK 10 • DAY 3 • DATE
O	
A	
PRAY	

S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

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

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

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

WEEK TEN

Scripture Memory: Esther 9:2

The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the king's provinces to attack anyone who tried to harm them. But no one could make a stand against them, for everyone was afraid of them.

Classic Scripture Memory: Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

• Read Esther 8: 15-17	WEEK 10 • DAY 4 • DATE
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PRAY	
5 • Read Esther 9: 1-4	WEEK 10 • DAY 5 • DATE
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A	
PRAY	
Summarize wh	at you would like to share with your group

S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

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

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

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

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For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

S • Read Esther 9: 5-12	WEEK 11 • DAY 1 • DATE	DAILY RUI
		Scripture. W
		ODSCI VALIOI
_		howyou ca
		P (praver)
	WEEK 11 • DAY 2 • DATE	WEEK Scripture M Esther 9:25-
O ·		before the sued a de Haman's
A		backfire, and his s paled on pole. The
PRAY		ebration because word for
S • Read Esther 9: 20-22	WEEK 11 • DAY 3 • DATE	Classic Scrip
O		if my pec called by humble t and pray
A		face and
PRAY		will heal

re) • Read the assigned rite down the verse hat is the most to you.

ration) • Write down is about the scripture

ition) • Write down n apply the scripture ryday life.

 Pray to God about passage you focused thing else you want to

ELEVEN

emory: 26

n Esther came ne king, he isecree causing evil plot to and Haman ons were ima sharpened at is why this celis called Purim, it is the ancient casting lots.

oture Memory: s 7:14

pple, who are my name, will themselves and seek my turn from their vays, then I will n heaven, and I ive their sin and their land.

S • Read Esther 9:23-26(a) WEEK 11 • DAY 4 • DATE	DAILY RUNDOWN:
	S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.
O	O (observation) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.
A	how you can apply the scripture
PRAY	P (prayer) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.
S • Read Esther 9: 26(b) -28 WEEK 11 • DAY 5 • DATE	WEEK ELEVEN Scripture Memory: Esther 9:25-26
O	But when Esther came before the king, he issued a decree causing Haman's evil plot to backfire, and Haman
A	and his sons were im- paled on a sharpened pole. That is why this cel- ebration is called Purim,
PRAY	because it is the ancient word for casting lots.
Summarize what you would like to share with your group	Classic Scripture Memory: _ II Chronicles 7:14
	if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hearfrom heaven, and I will forgive their sin and

S .	Read Esther 9: 29-32 WEEK 12 • DAY 1 • DATE
0 .	
A .	
PR	AY
S .	Read Esther 10: 1-3 WEEK 12 • DAY 2 • DATE
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PR	AY
S . read	From Free Resources on Bible Gateway, "All the Women of the Bible, Esther" WEEK 12 • DAY 3 • DATE
O .	
A .	
PR	PAY

S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.

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

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

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

WEEK TWELVE

Review Scripture Memory from weeks 9-11

WEEK NINE: Esther 7:3 Acts 1:8

WEEK TEN: Esther 9:2 Ephesians 6:12

WEEK ELEVEN: Esther 9:25-26 II Chronicles 7:14

S • From Free Resources on Bible Gateway,	DAILY RUNDOWN:
read "All the Men of the Bible, Mordecai" WEEK 12 • DAY 4 • DATE	S (scripture) • Read the assigned Scripture. Write down the verse or passage that is the most meaningful to you.
O	O (observation) • Write down observations about the scripture you read.
A	A (application) • Write down how you can apply the scripture to your everyday life.
PRAY	P (prayer) • Pray to God about the verse or passage you focused on and anything else you want to lift up to Him.
S • From Free Resources on Bible Gateway, read "All the Women of the Bible, Ruth" WEEK 12 • DAY 5 • DATE	WEEK TWELVE Review Scripture Memory from weeks 9-11
O	WEEK NINE: Esther 7:3 Acts 1:8
A	WEEK TEN: Esther 9:2 Ephesians 6:12
PRAY	WEEK ELEVEN: Esther 9:25-26 II Chronicles 7:14
Summarize what you would like to share with your group	_ _ _
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