

ANSWERS: *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 1, Position in the Kingdom*

Purpose of study: *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

CLI Discipler: Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in reading, commenting and writing to your disciple. May God always be glorified. Thank you for serving, Kathleen

Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom (Day One) *Share in Jesus' Suffering*

1. Share a time when you felt unnoticed and unappreciated?

Personal Answer: Discipler, make appropriate comment.

2. Would you like to have a position of authority and respect? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer

Read Matthew 20:20-28 and Mark 10:32-34 (Your disciple will have to read from Bible but am listing verses her for your convenience)

^{NIV} **Matthew 20:20-28** Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. ²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." ²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

^{NIV} **Mark 10:32-34** They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

3. At this point in your Christian life, how well do you think you are living out Kingdom values and serving others? Rate yourself, with 1 being just beginning and 10 as living perfectly by Kingdom values and attitudes. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Circle One) Explain your rating:

Personal Answer

Jesus teaches us *three principles* about attaining position in God's Kingdom:

I. Position in God's Kingdom requires us to share in Jesus' suffering.

4. Are you willing to suffer, experience pain, and be rejected by other people because Jesus?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer

5. If you have suffered because of your relationship with Jesus, please share what happened:

Personal Answer

6. Even though Tara was not a professed Christian, how is she an example of sharing in Jesus' suffering?

Personal Answer: but here is one way to look at it. Even though Tara had been cruelly beaten by her father and brother for her interest in Christianity, she did not blame God nor turn away from Him. She sought God for direction and told God she would follow Him. In this sense, she was willing to suffer for the sake of Christ and the gospel.

Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom (Day Two) *Putting God's Plans First*

7. Write Luke 9:23 from memory without referring to notes:

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

8. List three Bible references that counsel us to put God and His plans first:

There are at least 55 references in the Bible about putting God first. Here are a few you can reference; however, you can look up the others that your disciple lists: Proverbs 16:3; Matthew 6:24,33, 19-21; Luke 14:26; John 3:30; Romans 8:5; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4.

9. Write John 19:11a from memory without referring to notes:

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above."

II. Position in God's Kingdom is not about dominating others.

Definition: Dominate is a verb meaning to have control, power or authority over somebody or something. It is also defined as having a commanding influence over someone.

10. If you were the pastor when Joanne's mother had asked for help, how would *you* have handled the situation as a disciple of Christ?

Personal Answer but hopefully, a caring consideration for Joanne's mother and family ensuring their safety and counseling for the father (and family). Joanne's mother was actually using the biblical way of handling the situation (Matthew 18:15-18). She took her problem to the pastor, who should have talked to the husband. If the husband had not listened to the pastor, then he should have taken another person to talk to him and eventually before the church. The main concern should have been the protection of this family even if it meant separating them, at least for a time to give the husband a time to repent.

11. Prayerfully consider and answer: Do you have a dominating or domineering spirit?

Personal Answer

12. What will you do to develop a more humble, modest and gentle spirit?

Personal Answer: Ideas - prayer, reading Bible, accountability partner, doing humble things.

Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom (Day Three) *Service to Others*

III. Position in God's Kingdom calls for compassionate, obedient service to others.

13. How difficult is it for you to put your own needs aside and serve others?

Personal Answer

14. Do you think it was difficult for Jesus to put aside His earthly needs and serve others?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Please explain your answer:

Personal Answer: Personally, I think it was difficult because Jesus was fully man and was tempted in the flesh (Matthew 4:1-11). Although it was difficult (Garden of Gethsemane), Jesus put aside His earthly nature and served others.

15. Put your own interests aside and serve someone in love today. Write the circumstances of your service and what you learned:

Personal Answer; CLI Discipled, please comment appropriately on your disciple's service and encourage him or her. Thank you, Kathleen

Definition: Legalism (legalistic) is an over-emphasis on discipline usually implying misguided strictness, pride, and superficiality (without depth of character) to the neglect of mercy and the grace of God. It overemphasizes the letter of law at the expense of the spirit.¹

16. How will *you* guard against a legalistic attitude in *your* service to others?

Personal Answer: but some ideas are prayer, studying Jesus' attitude and deeds in the gospels, putting others first and seeking to love others.

17. Write Matthew 20:25-28 from memory without referring to notes:

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave--²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom (Day Four) *Making Disciples*

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and answer questions 18-22:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ 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,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

18. Who was Jesus talking to? (see vs. 16-17 in Bible)?

All disciples.

In verse 17 when Jesus was speaking, the text says that the 11 disciples (apostles) were there but it also says that some worshipped but some doubted. We know the 11 didn't doubt anymore, therefore there must have been a larger crowd with other true disciples and others who were not.

19. Are you and I included in this command? Why?

Yes, because we are disciples in union with Christ and the command is still active for us.

The world (harvest field) still has people waiting to hear, learn and actively become disciples of Christ. We must still obey the command. (μαθητεύσατε verb imperative aorist active 2nd person plural [UBS] μαθητεύω trans. make a disciple of; intrans. (or pass.) be a disciple)

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_\(theology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_(theology))

20. What would have happened if the first disciples had not obeyed and acted?

The good news of Christ's death and resurrection would not have spread. The future of Christianity and our relationship with God was at stake. They would not have made disciples and with no true followers, the message would have been lost or severely distorted. We might not be saved today.

21. What will happen if you and I do not obey and act?

There may be people who might not hear the good news both in our generation and succeeding ones. If we don't make disciples, there will be no one coming after us to continue with the gospel and Jesus' teachings. In other words, by not making disciples we are short-circuiting the whole godly process.

22. What does Jesus say (vs. 18, 20) that gives *you* confidence to carry out His directive (order)?

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth and He is with us forever.

23. Write Matthew 28:18-20 from memory without referring to notes:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ 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,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Lesson 1: Position in the Kingdom (Day Five) *Doctrine of Prayer*

Definition: Christian doctrine is a principle, policy or rule of faith that is derived (obtained) from the pages of the entire Bible. Sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ is important to life and discipleship (1 Timothy 6:3; 2 Timothy 1:13-14).

Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD. Genesis 4:26

24. Do you regularly call on the name of the Lord? Why or Why not?

Personal Answer

25. Are there any areas of your life that you are not trusting God or need more faith? What will you do about it?

Personal Answer

26. Please list your immediate family members noting relationship and how your CLI Disciplex may pray for them. Write and ask your CLI Disciplex for a similar list so you may pray.

Disciple lists family members and prayer requests. CLI Disciplex, please make a copy or make a note and pray as indicated.

Read John 17:1-25 from your Bible and answer questions 27-29:

^{NIV} **John 17:1-25** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

27. How did Christ pray for Himself (vs. 1-5)?

1. Asks to be glorified so that He may glorify God the Father (v.1)
2. Reminds God of His authority and prepares for the cross in giving eternal life (v.2-3)
3. Reminds God that He has completed the work to this point (v. 4). The crucifixion remains.
4. Acknowledges that He shared the Father's glory before the world began (v.5). He is God.

28. How did Christ pray for His disciples (vs. 9-17)?

1. Acknowledges His disciples to God and that He is lifting them up in prayer (v 9).
2. Protection to remain in God's will, love and purposes and against the devil's schemes to make them fall into sin (v 11c, 15).
3. They may have the full measure of joy with in them (v. 13).
4. Sets them apart to know God's Word and to obey it (v. 17).
5. Jesus consecrates Himself as High Priest and consecrates the disciples for mission (v.17). We have been saved in order to be set apart and commissioned for God's service.

29. How did Christ pray for all disciples including future ones (vs. 21-26)?

1. Unity with God so the world may know of God's redemptive plan in Christ (v 21-23a).
2. Complete unity with all disciples so that through Christ the world may know God's love (v. 23b). Think John 3:16 also and the need to tell the story of Christ's death and resurrection.
3. Asks that His disciples may see His glory and be with Him in eternity (v.24).
4. Jesus will continue to make the Father known to all His disciples in order that God's love for Jesus will be in His disciples and that Jesus Himself will be in them (v.26).

30. Pray for your CLI Discipler using (John 17:6-26) as a guide. Write and tell your CLI Discipler that you are praying for him or her based on Jesus' prayers for His disciples. Include anything that the Holy Spirit impresses upon you as you pray.

CLI Discipler, Your disciple will write and tell you they are praying for you as Jesus prayed for His disciples Please pray for your disciple using the above answer as a guide and write and tell him or her that you are praying in the same way.

31. Which prayer of Jesus is the most well known? List chapter and verses.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.*¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13-14

32. Read John 14:13-14. What is the reason Jesus gives for doing whatever a disciple asks?

So that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

33. How does God the Son bring glory to God the Father? (Read the following verses for your answer: John 11:4, 14:10-11, 15:8, 17:4-5; Romans 16:25-27; 1 Peter 4:11; Philippians 4:13; Revelation 5:11-13.)

Jesus brought God the Father glory by completing the work of coming to earth as a man and fulfilling prophecy. He brought God glory by teaching, healing and performing miracles and signs about God. Jesus did all of this to glorify God and in order to fully repair our relationship with God, He suffered, was crucified, buried and resurrected from the dead.

Jesus continues to bring God glory when we do works that reveal Christ and the truth of the gospel is established. When we depend on Christ, Christ brings glory to the Father.

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."^{NIV} John 11:4

Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.^{NIV} John 14:10-11

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.^{NIV} John 15:8

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.^{NIV} John 17:4-5

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him--²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.^{NIV} Romans 16:25-27

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.^{NIV} 1 Peter 4:11

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. ^{NIV} Philippians 4:13

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" ¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" ^{NIV} Revelation 5:11-13

Read John 15:7-8 and answer questions 34-36:

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.* John 15:7-8

34. What condition does Jesus place on disciples for giving us whatever we wish (v. 7)?

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. John 15:7

35. How are *you* remaining in Jesus and how are His words remaining in you?

Personal Answer: but studying and applying God's word, prayer, confessing sin, obeying out of love, sacrifice and service.

CLI Discipeler: Make sure your disciple knows what it means to remain or abide in Jesus and what it means for His words to remain in your disciple. Here is some help from The Bible Exposition Commentary, Volume 1 by Warren W. Wiersbe, p.355:

“The key word is *abide*; it is used eleven times in John 15:1-11 (‘continue’ in John 15:9 and ‘remain’ in John 15:11). What does it mean to ‘abide’? It means to keep in fellowship with Christ so that His life can work in and through us to produce fruit. This certainly involves the Word of God and the confession of sin so that nothing hinders our communion with Him (John 15:3). It also involves obeying Him because we love Him (John 15:9-10).

How can we tell when we are ‘abiding in Christ’? Is there a special feeling? No, but there are special evidences that appear and they are unmistakably clear. For one thing, when you are abiding in Christ, you produce fruit (John 15:2).” Also, you experience the Father’s ‘pruning’ so that you will bear more fruit (John 15:2). The believer who is abiding in Christ has his prayers answered (John 15:7) and experiences a deepening love for Christ and for other believers (John 15:9, 12-13). He also experiences joy (John 15:11). The abiding relationship is natural to the branch and the vine, but it must be cultivated in the Christian life. It is not automatic. Abiding in Christ demands worship, meditation on God’s Word, prayer, sacrifice, and service – but what a joyful experience it is! Once you have begin to cultivate this deeper communion with Christ, you have no desire to return to the shallow life of the careless Christian.”

36. Bearing much fruit brings God the Father glory and shows that we are disciples of Christ (v. 8). With this knowledge, what will *you* ask God for in Jesus' name?

Personal Answer

Read John 15:16 and answer questions 37-38:

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. John 15:16-17 (See also: John 14:13-14, 16:23-24, 26-27)

37. Who chose you and appointed you to go and bear lasting fruit (v. 16)?

Jesus

38. When we are bearing lasting fruit in Jesus, what will the Father do when we pray?

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in Jesus' name.

Studying the prayers in the Bible will also help you become a stronger disciple and confident of your position in God's Kingdom. Here are a few famous prayers to get you started: **Ezra** - Ezra 9:6-15, **Solomon** - 2 Chronicles 6:4-11, 14-42, **Jehoshaphat** - 2 Chronicles 20:5-12, and **Daniel** - Daniel 2:20-23. Study also how God worked in the New Testament in response to His disciples' prayers: Acts 9:11-20, 11:5-30, 12:12-17, 16:25-40, 22:17-30.

39. Read some or all of the prayers that were listed above. Think about the purposes or reasons for the prayers and why they have been recorded for us. Answer the following questions.

CLI Disciplex: We are not printing out all of the Scripture for these prayers so you may need to read the prayer that your disciple lists below in his or her answer.

a. What are the two most meaningful things that you learned? List the book(s) and verse(s) where you received these meaningful insights.

1. **Personal Answer**

2. **Personal Answer**

b. Give two ways that you will incorporate these meaningful insights or into your prayer life?

1. **Personal Answer**

2. **Personal Answer**

Next: Lesson 2: Prayer and Grace; Christian Maturity Worksheet

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