

ANSWERS: *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 3 Identity in Christ*

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 3: Identity in Christ (Day One) *Grace and Identity*

Definition: Grace is God’s divine power in action to undeserving people. God's grace may be displayed in, through, or to us.

Call to Action: Your mission is to **show grace to one person each day for five days, and be prepared to share one or two of those graceful acts.** Pray each morning and ask God to give you opportunities to be like Him, and show kindness and compassion (concern) to someone who does not deserve it. Also ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to act like Jesus in love and mercy. Choose to depend on the grace of God in order to show grace to others.

1. Write and share about one or two of the situations in which you acted in grace toward another:

Personal Answer: CLI Discipler, please comment and encourage appropriately as the Holy Spirit leads.

Definition: Relationship is the way in which two or more people (or groups) talk to, behave toward, and deal with each other.

We ended Lesson 2 with a few words about relationships. God's grace is sufficient to work through any battered or broken bond. However, He may want us to do some *inward* housecleaning. Before we begin this *inward* work, it is prudent to take an initial survey and see where we stand in our relationships.

Self-Awareness on Relationships

(In order to disciple others it is important that we continue to grow in all areas of our walk with the Lord. One way to do that is to become aware of areas that God would like us to grow in by asking and answering questions about specific spiritual areas. Self-awareness is knowing and understanding ourselves so that we can pray and cooperate with the Holy Spirit in becoming like Jesus.)

CLI Discipler, **Questions 2-7 will be personal answers.** Comment and offer prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Be careful not to make judgmental statements but offer support.

2. What do I need to change in relating to others?
3. How am I falling short in my relationships with family, friends and others?
4. How am I succeeding in my relationships with family, friends and others?
5. Who am I blaming for my unloving attitude or lack of friends?
6. By God's grace, what needs to change in my life and personality in order to have healthier and more realistic and loving relationships?
7. Think of one relationship that needs some work. Pray and ask God what He would like you to do or not do. Share results:

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

8. Read 2 Corinthians 10:5. We are not responsible for our thoughts. True **False** (Circle One)

(We are responsible for our thoughts. That is why we are told to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

9. Read Hebrews 4:16. God will help us have the right thoughts. **True** False (Circle One)

Definition: Identity is the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. It is the fact of being who or what a person or thing is. The condition of being the same with something described or asserted.

Definition: Identity crisis is a feeling of unhappiness and confusion caused by not being sure about what type of person you really are or knowing your true purpose in life.

Read Romans 8:15-17 and answer questions 10-13:

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:15-17 (Sonship is the relationship of son to father.)

10. Fill in the blanks (v. 15): "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to _____fear_____, but you received the Spirit of _____sonship_____."

11. What does the Holy Spirit enable us to call God (v. 15c)?_____Abba, Father_____

Definition: Abba is the Aramaic¹ word for father. Although the word does not appear in the Old Testament, its Hebrew associate ab (אב) which also means father, occurs frequently. In the New Testament, Abba is translated from the Greek word abba (ἀββᾶ).

12. What does the Spirit Himself testify with our spirit (v. 16)?_____that we are God's children._____

13. How does the truth of having God as your Father, change *your* other relationships?

Personal Answer: But should realize that we are deeply loved and cared for by our adoptive Father and heavenly family. This truth should give us confidence and assurance in relating to others. We can reach out to others in love, because we belong to God and are cherished.

Lesson 3: Identity in Christ (Day Two) *Faith in Identity*

Read Galatians 3:26-29 and answer questions 14-18:

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

14. How do you become a son of God (v. 26)?

Through faith in Christ Jesus

15. According to v. 27, how is faith explained?

Faith is being baptized into Christ and having clothed ourselves with Christ.

¹ Aramaic is a Semitic language known since the ninth century B.C. as the speech of the Aramaeans. These people inhabited Aram (modern Syria) and part of Babylonia in the 11th–8th centuries B.C. This language was adopted as customary speech by various non-Aramaean peoples including the Jews after the Babylonian exile. Semitic relates to or denoted a family of languages that includes Hebrew, Arabic, and Aramaic and certain ancient languages such as Phoenician and Akkadian, constituting the main subgroup of the Afro-Asiatic family.

16. What does it mean to be baptized into Christ (v. 27)?

At water baptism we are declaring that we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as the only way of salvation. We are trusting Jesus and professing death to our old life and *identity*. The immersion into water symbolizes death to our old life of sin.

Others may answer that it is similar to the baptism of the Holy Spirit whereby we are immersed into Christ. Either way, baptism into Christ is a way of showing the world that we are His disciples and live a life of righteousness.

17. What does it mean to be clothed with Christ?

A personal and spiritual union with Jesus.

From Lesson 3: The early church would put on white garments to signify their new life. The white clothes meant that they were taking on the clean, sinless characteristics of Christ. Thus, they were stepping into a personal and spiritual union with Jesus, *the Son*, and claiming sonship in His Name. Being clothed with Christ is referring to this same concept.²

Definition: One is simply defined as being a single unit or thing. It also means being the same in kind or quality. One can refer to a unified entity (body) of two or more parts.

18. What does the statement "you are all one in Christ Jesus" mean (v. 28)?

We share our identity with others who belong to Jesus. There are no ethnic, social or gender distinctions that would cause us to be discriminated against or separated from each other.

Definition: Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, or social status.

19. Do *you* think unkind thoughts, or treat others badly because of either race, age, sex, or social status? Explain your answer.

Personal answer. CLI Discipler: Comment and offer prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Be careful not to make judgmental statements but offer support.

20. What will you do to rid yourself of even the slightest discrimination?

Personal Answer

² Hays, Richard B., *The Letter to the Galatians*, The New Interpreter's Bible, Volume XI, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2000. p.272

21. How can your CLI Discipler pray for you so that you can resist discrimination and build loving relationships?

Personal answer. CLI Discipler, please write down your disciple's prayer request and lift up to the Lord for at least one week. Remember not to pray for anything that is not constructive, holy or biblical in nature.

22. Are you being mistreated in either actions or words? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) If yes, explain the situation and how your CLI Discipler may pray for you:

Personal answer. CLI Discipler, please write down your disciple's prayer request and lift up to the Lord for at least one week.

Definition: Envy is the painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
1 John 3:1-2

23. Ask God to speak to you as you read and meditate on 1 John 3:1-2. Share what God revealed to you:

Personal Answer

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

24. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does your identity in Christ mean for you?

Personal answer but should be connected in some way to 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Read Colossians 3:2-4 and answer questions 25-29:

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:2-4

25. What does it mean to set your minds on things above and not on earthly things (v. 2)?

To decide to live life for God and put forth effort in following His will and ways. Not interested in the world or earthly pleasures.

26. As a new creation in Christ, where is your life now hidden (v. 3)?

With Christ in God.

27. When Christ returns, will you appear with Him in glory (v. 4)? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)
Why or why not?

Personal Answer but should be yes, because as believers God word (Colossians 3:2-4) tells us that we will appear with Christ in glory.

28. For those of us who will appear with Christ in glory, what are some things that He expects of us (v. 5)?

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

29. What is another name for sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (v. 5)?

Idolatry

Definition: Idolatry is the worship of a physical object as a god. It also means excessive attachment or devotion to something. Anything or anyone that is preferred or worshipped over the one, true, living God may be considered an idol.

Lesson 3: Identity in Christ (Day Three) *Identity and Approval Rating*

30. Why do you think people care so much about what others think or say about them?

Seeking their approval. Looking to others for love, self worth and value.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

Definition: Condemnation is a statement or expression of very strong and definite criticism or disapproval. It also means the act of judicially condemning. Related to the Greek word for condemnation is the word penalty, which is defined as a punishment imposed for breaking a law, rule, or contract.

31. Read Romans 8:1-2. How does this promise set you up for success in life?

As a Christian, your identity *is* Christ. He *is* your distinguishing character or personality. You have the fullness of Christ and in Him you have a 100 percent approval rating from God. No condemnation or disapproval in the blood of the Lamb. Could be other answers.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

32. Read Colossians 2:9-10. What have you been given?

The fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In other words, we partake of His divine nature.

Read Acts 11:21 and answer questions 33-37:

The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. Acts 11:21

33. What does the expression "the Lord's hand was with them" mean?

The Lord's hand indicates or symbolizes His power. Having the Lord's hand with or upon someone marks His approval and blessing.

34. What happened because "the Lord's hand was with them?"

Since the Lord's hand was with them and not against them, God used His power to show favor, approval and blessing. Thus a great number of people believed in Jesus. God stirred hearts toward Himself and made the disciples fruitful. (If God's hand is against someone, that person may experience God's divine punishment and even His mighty wrath)

35. What does it mean that "the people believed and turned to the Lord?"

They trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior. They turned to Jesus for life and salvation; they turned away from sin.

36. Have people believed and turned to the Lord because of your testimony (telling about your faith)? Yes No (Pray for the Lord's hand to be continually with you so others believe.)

Personal Answer

Read Nehemiah 2:8 and answer questions 37-38:

And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. Nehemiah 2:8

37. Besides asking permission to go to Jerusalem, what else did Nehemiah ask for?

A letter to the keeper of the king's forest to get timber to build gates, city wall and house.

38. Why did the king grant Nehemiah's requests?

And because the gracious hand of God was upon him.

Read Nehemiah 2:18 and answer questions 40-41:

I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. Nehemiah 2:18

39. What did Nehemiah tell the Jews about God's gracious hand?

It was upon him.

40. How did they reply?

They replied, Let us start rebuilding.

41. Do you become easily discouraged when you face opposition or resistance to your faith?

Y M Sometimes (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal answer. CLI Discipler, Comment and offer prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Be careful to offer support and understanding as your disciple's answer requires.

42. Read the book of Nehemiah. What lessons did you learn and how will you apply these lessons to your life to stay encouraged even in the fact of hostilities (aggression)?

Personal answer. CLI Discipler, Comment and offer prayer as the Holy Spirit leads. Be careful to offer support and understanding as your disciple answer requires.

Lesson 3: Identity in Christ (Day Four) *Identity and good work*

And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward. Matthew 10:42

43. Read and meditate on Matthew 10:42. As a disciple, how should you treat other disciples of Christ from other denominations, ministries or backgrounds?

With kindness, help and consideration.

Meditate on 1 John 3:17-18 and answer questions 44-45:

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

44. If you know that another Christian is in financial (monetary) need, what are some ways that you could help with action and in truth?

Help him get a job. Help the person get training or education in order to get a job. Buy food, clothing or whatever the need might be. Or give the items from your own pantry or closet. Probably other ideas.

45. Pray and ask God to show you someone with a physical or financial need and how He would like you to help. Do as the Lord leads and share what happened:

Personal answer. CLI Discipled: Comment as appropriate.

Definition: Spiritual relates to, or affects the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.

46. If you know that another Christian is in spiritual need, what are some ways that you could help with action and in truth?

47. I would like to volunteer and help others with CLI Bible studies. 1. Yes 2. No 3. I am already a CLI Volunteer (Circle One of the three choices) *If your answer is yes, please fill out the "CLI Discipled and Volunteer" form on pages 23-24.*

Personal answer.

Read Matthew 13:23 and answer questions 48-49:

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:23

48. Why would you consider yourself a person having good soil in this parable (story)?

Personal answer but should include the fact that he or she hears the word and understands it. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and understanding of God's word. And he or she is producing fruit.

49. How can you cooperate with Jesus to produce a hundred times of what was sown in your life?

Trust Jesus for salvation. Then pray, read and study the Bible, obey Jesus' teaching and the Holy Spirit's leading in good works or fruitful activities.

50. Ask God the Father in Jesus' name for ten people of the same sex to disciple. Write the names the Lord places on your heart.

There should be a list of ten names or at least a few names. CLI Discipled: If ten names, pray for their hearts to be open to your Disciple and will agree to study or be disciplined. If less than ten, pray for God to reveal others so he or she has a total of ten. Whoever is listed, pray for open hearts to Jesus and to grow in discipleship.

Lesson 3: Identity in Christ (Day Five) *Identity and Recruitment*

Recruit is a word that means enroll someone as a worker or member. In relating to matters of war, men and women may enlist/sign-up in the military or armed forces. For heavenly purposes recruit means enroll someone as a worker in the Kingdom. We are recruiting to raise an army for the Lord.

Read Luke 10:1, 17-20 answer questions 51-53:

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. Luke 10:1

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17-20 (some translations note seventy workers)³

51. How many workers did Jesus send out and how many returned with joy (v. 1, 17)?

Seventy-two or seventy. All returned with joy.

52. What were they rejoicing about (v. 17)?

The demons submitted to them in Jesus' name.

53. Why did Jesus say, "do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (v. 20)?

The rejoicing comes from being saved and spending eternity with God. This is the attitude Christians should have all the time. The power to overcome Satan is short-term because Jesus has already defeated him. He is slated for eternal fire. Salvation is long-term and more important than earthly power in any form. Jesus says be glad that I know you and your name is written in heaven in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:27). The disciples are to remember this humble attitude and practice it from now on.

³ Early manuscript evidence is balanced between the two choices, seventy or seventy-two workers. We do not have to be dogmatic (rigid) about it. It may be a round number for a large group or there may be some significance of the seventy nations in Genesis 10 and Moses appointing seventy elders in Exodus 24:1.

Read Matthew 7:21-23 and answer questions 54-56:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Matthew 7:21-23

54. Will everyone who prophesies, drive out demons and perform miracles using the name of Jesus enter the kingdom of heaven when they die? Yes **No** (Circle One)

55. What name does Jesus call men and women who do not do the will of God the Father (v. 23)?

Evildoers; evil or sin is the opposite of doing God's will. Can only be a good-doer if following Jesus.

56. Which would be better, spirits submitting to you on earth or spending eternity in heaven?

Spending eternity in heaven.

Read Jude 1:20-21 and answer questions 57-58:

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 1:20-21

57. Jude, the brother of James and half brother of Jesus calls the godly to ___ **build** ___

yourselves up in your most holy ___ **faith** ___ and ___ **pray** ___ in the Holy Spirit (v. 20).

58. Jude also tells friends in Christ to ___ **keep** ___ yourselves in God's ___ **love** ___

as you wait for the mercy of our ___ **Lord** ___ Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life (v. 21).

Next: Lesson 4: Old Covenant

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CLI Discipler: The last two pages of this lesson is an application for your Discipler to become a CLI Discipler. If they did not return the form, write and ask why. If they did return the completed form, please read over carefully and contact personal references. The following questions can be asked regarding their application.

Questions for Personal References:

The questions on this page can be copied and mailed or emailed to the references. Rework the first paragraph, putting in the appropriate names, etc. If you have the telephone number, you can simple call and record your answers. Turn in your answer sheets with your recommendation to accept or not.

Introduce yourself as a volunteer with CLI and your relationship as Discipler for the person you are calling or writing about. Explain that the person has applied to disciple others and you would like to ask a few questions.

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. Would you consider the applicant to have a strong personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

3. How is the applicant a good witness for Christ?

4. How does this applicant relate to others?

5. Why would you recommend this applicant to teach and help others become a stronger Christian?

6. Is there anything you would like to share about the applicant?

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