

Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 5 More Love Covenants

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.*

Lesson 5: More Love Covenants (Day One) Recruitment

Lesson 4 ended with practical questions about making disciples. These questions were designed to get you to think about who God is calling you to disciple and how this process is to work. Making disciples is a recruitment method. You will be recruiting people to join God's army and willingly come under the command of the Lord Jesus.

You were to think through the person's proximity (nearness) to you and your ability to meet. Perhaps there *are* restrictions where you reside about meeting together. This may seem like an insurmountable problem; however, nothing is impossible with God. Before becoming discouraged and marking candidates off your list, pray that God would provide a way for you to disciple no matter what your circumstance or situation.

Five Steps to Recruiting or Making Disciples: (Christian Leadership Study or Disciple of Christ Study)

I. Pray

a. At this point in time, the CLI Leadership Study is the first study we use prior to the Disciple of Christ Study. However, either during or after, *you* completed *your* CLI Leadership Study, you may have had the opportunity to lead others through it. These saints may now be ready for discipleship through the Disciple of Christ Study. Therefore, decide which study each recruit will need.

b. Ask the Lord who He has prepared for you to recruit and for the Holy Spirit to move both you and this person for a successful encounter. You have been praying about this for the last few weeks and honing (polishing) your list.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles. Luke 6:12-13

1. Read Luke 6:12-13. What did Jesus do before He called the twelve, whom he designated apostles?

****See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

II. Recruit to a Vision

Read Matthew 4:19 and answer questions 2-4:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

- 2.. What reason did Jesus give to his potential disciples for following Him?
3. What does the expression "fishers of men" mean?
4. When you recruit, who will you tell those people to follow?

Certainly, we recruit others to follow Christ. But we need to be careful that we are following Christ ourselves so that we can tell others to follow our example (1 Corinthians 11:1). Christianity is not attractive without Christ!

Jesus was not only recruiting for service in God's army, He was recruiting for relationship. He spent three years in fellowship with them. He loved them with a pure and holy love and wanted the best for them.

His vision for them was a heavenly, supernatural one. He wanted them to know the fullness of God on a personal level and be capable of showing others the way. Knowing God is truth that must be shared.

No longer would these men be catching earthly, fleeting and smelly fish but heavenly, lasting and fragrant souls. Our vision is the same as Jesus'. We want the lost to be saved in order for them to have a personal love relationship with God and serve Him in fullness, freedom and joy.

III. Actively Seek and Ask

Read Matthew 4:21-22 and answer questions 5-7:

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them,²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Matthew 4:21-22

5. What did Jesus do after He called or recruited Peter and Andrew?
6. What were James and John doing when Jesus invited or called them into discipleship?
7. Did Jesus sit back and wait for His team to come and volunteer for service?

Jesus was confident and active in rounding up the disciples that God the Father had shown Him in prayer. We should follow His example by stepping out in faith and recruiting in confidence. If someone declines your offer, trust God to bring another He has chosen.

Faith expresses itself in intentional action. Jesus was purposeful and determined in recruiting the disciples. He specifically went to their place of business to issue the call.

The call was not a sad or desperate plea. He did not whine or whimper. He did not harass or badger. He did not use guilt or bribery. He summoned them with strength and clarity.

Also notice that He did not give them an excuse. He did not say, "Take your time, finish fishing and we will meet later tonight." He did not say, "Your father needs you in the fishing business, perhaps some other time or next year." And He did not say, "If you refuse my offer, you are a jerk and I will never speak to you again."

As with any situation or circumstance, take care to use common sense. Certainly when you are recruiting a person, he or she may want to pray and consider you and your offer. This is a good practice for "counting the cost" and taking the offer seriously.

Not everyone who had the opportunity, followed Jesus. Just think of the religious leaders of his day. And not everyone will be responsive to your invitation. Jesus did not give up, and you will not give up either! Be encouraged, God will provide and match you up with the right people. Pray, seek and ask: the workers will be recruited and the harvest will be plentiful!

IV. Have a Clear Process with Necessary Materials

Read Nehemiah 4:16-17 and answer questions 8-10:

From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other. Nehemiah 4:16-17

- 8.** Nehemiah faced opposition in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. What process or method did he employ to assure the work would continue?
- 9.** Did the people have materials to use in rebuilding the wall? Yes No (Circle One)

Nehemiah always depended on God. He prayed and then with the Lord's leading, developed a course of action. He had a clear process for protecting the people and building the wall of Jerusalem.

In the same way, you need to think about how you and your learner or disciple will meet and work together plus any other details that might affect your particular situation. You also need to have the materials that you plan to use. If Nehemiah's workers did not have limestone or other kinds of stone material, the wall could not have been built.

The Christian Leadership Study and Disciple of Christ Study materials are on our website: ChristianLibraryInternational.org. They may be printed and used freely by anyone. If you do not

have access to the Internet, including email, we will mail the materials to you free of charge. You will be able to indicate the study needed to disciple in the answer section of this lesson.

Special Giving Opportunity: Please consider giving gifts of money or stamps to CLI. Your donations help to make our ministry strong so that we can provide more discipleship and the needed materials to the imprisoned. This may be an opportunity for you to grow in the spiritual gift of giving. Thank you.

Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.
Philippians 4:17

V. Trust God for Success

You, dear children, are from God (born again or born of God) and have overcome them (false prophets), because the one (Jesus) who is in you is greater than the one (Satan) who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (Author inserted parentheses for clarification.)

10. Read 1 John 4:4. Why will you succeed in recruiting for God?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7

11. Read Proverbs 3:5-7. We are commanded to _____ in the LORD with all our _____ and lean _____ on our own _____; in all our ways _____ Him and He will make our paths _____. We are not to be _____ in our _____ eyes; fear the _____ and shun evil.

Recruitment is Continuous

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6b (Great Commission of the Old Testament)

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
(Great Commission)

Jesus did not say make one disciple and then you are finished. Nor did He say make disciples for a couple of years and then you are finished. We are in the recruitment business for life! In other words, you will always be about your Heavenly Father's business. There is no greater or worthier mission.

Prayerfully review your list of potential disciples. Put a check by those names you feel God leading you to disciple. Pray God would open their hearts to your invitation.

Next, write next to their name your plan of discipleship. You will write either the CLI Leadership Study or the Disciple of Christ Study (for those who have completed the Leadership Study). Think and pray about how you will approach each person on your list and what you will say.

It is a good idea to start with friendly conversation and then share how you have been involved with the CLI. You might say that you've enjoyed your studies and have grown in your relationship with God; now you would like to share the CLI studies with him or her. Use your own words but explain how the lessons work and how you would meet, etc. They would first complete their lesson and meet with you to review and discuss. If you cannot meet, you will write helpful comments and return the lessons one at a time as they are completed. However, it is most important to rely on the Holy Spirit to lead you and the person you are asking to join you.

Note: Please see the answer sheets for questions 12-15 regarding your disciples. While you are waiting for answers from your potential learners, let us continue with the Mosaic Covenant that we began in Lesson 4, First Covenants.

Lesson 5: More Love Covenants (Day Two) *Mosaic Covenant Continued*

Three Main Parts of the Mosaic (law) Covenant

I. The Ten Commandments

16. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21 in your Bible. List briefly the ten ways that God expected the Israelites to obey and follow Him:

17. Are we expected to follow these today? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain answer:

These instructions are known to us as the Ten Commandments. Moses received these instructions directly from God who wrote them on a stone tablet (Deuteronomy 9:10-11). Moses was with God for 40 days and 40 nights and the people became sinfully restless. They turned from God, their Savior, and made a golden calf to worship. So begins the history of Israel turning to idols instead of God. The people continually broke their part of the covenant by not obeying and seeking the LORD.

II. Moral and Social Regulations

God provided many wise and compassionate laws (instruction and direction) through Moses. Read Exodus 20-23 for a good summary of these rules. Of course you can read Exodus through Deuteronomy for a more complete understanding. However, for our purposes we are just going to look at one example of one particular instruction from the LORD.

Read Exodus 22:21-23 and answer questions 18-19:

"Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt."²² "Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan."²³ If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry." Exodus 22:21-23

Definition: The type of alien mentioned here is not a creature from outer space. In the context above, an alien is an outsider or a newcomer. He or she would be considered a foreigner (stranger) to the Israelites.

18. When God tells the Israelites not to mistreat or oppress aliens, why do you think He says for (because) you were aliens in Egypt?

19. How do you think Jesus would affirm (establish) this particular teaching regarding those who are not only aliens from another country, but for those who do not belong to your particular group, gang or social club? (See Luke 6:27-35)

I hope that you are beginning to see that God's laws and commands are good for you and for others. At times you or your family members may be aliens, widows or orphans. You would not like to be mistreated, nor would you like those you care about to be mistreated. *Do to others as you would want others to do to you* (Luke 6:31-32 and Matthew 7:11).

As Christians, we are under grace. Being under grace means that God's Spirit is in you, instructing and stirring your heart towards righteousness. These Exodus verses should be written into your heart of flesh so that you desire to help people, whether they look or act like you or not. You want to treat the weak and the helpless, such as widows and orphans, with kindness, compassion and mercy because these characteristics are a reflection of God's character.

III. Levitical (Levi) Priesthood

Levi was one of the sons of Jacob, and his descendants are identified as the tribe of Levi. Moses and his brother, Aaron, were both from the tribe of Levi. God chose Aaron to be the high priest when He initiated the Mosaic Covenant with its animal sacrifices for sin. The position of the high priest was hereditary and passed on through Aaron's sons. Only a Levi could be a formal priest with Temple duties and responsibilities. However, not all men from the tribe of Levi were priests.

Read Exodus 19: 5-6 and answer questions 20-21:

"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." Exodus 19:5-6

20. Although the Levites were chosen as formal priests to serve in the Temple, what did God desire of all the people (Israelites)?

21. What does God desire of you as a Christian (1 Peter 2:9)?

Definition: A priest in the context of Exodus 19:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:9 would be a spiritual leader, teacher and worshipper who serves God fully and declares His praises. Today, a priest in this

sense is a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ, our high priest. He has made atonement for our sins and lives to intercede for us.

A high priest was in charge of the Temple worship. He was to be holy and consecrated to God. As such he was the only one allowed in the holy of holies to make atonement for sin.

Definition: Atonement is a word that means “at one.” “Ment” is a suffix (ending) that takes the act or process of the word and gives the result or state of a particular action. Atonement means that because Jesus was the atoning (paid for sins) sacrifice for our sin, Christians are one with God. We are reconciled; we are back in healthy and loving relationship.

“Reconciliation was associated with sacrificial offerings to remove the effects of sin and in the New Testament, refers specifically to the reconciliation between God and humanity effected by the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Primarily in the Old Testament, atonement refers to the process God established whereby humans could make an offering to God to restore fellowship with God. Such offerings, including both live and dead animals, incense, and money, were required to remove the bad effects of human sin.

The Day of Atonement was the only day of the year that the high priest entered the Holy of Holies¹ to make sin offerings for himself, his family, and the ‘assembly of Israel.’ After making these offerings, the nation's sins were symbolically laid on the scapegoat 'Azazel' that was released into the wilderness to die.”²

Read Leviticus 5:5-6 and answer questions 22-25:

“When anyone is guilty in any of these ways, he must confess in what way he has sinned⁶ and, as a penalty for the sin he has committed, he must bring to the LORD a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.”

Leviticus 5:5-6

22. In the New Testament, who is the Lamb of God (John 1:29 and Revelation 7:17)?

23. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God (John 1:29 and 1 Peter 2:24)?

24. How did Jesus fulfill (complete) the Mosaic Law and not abolish (stop, eliminate) it (Matthew 5:17-18 and Galatians 3:10-13)?

25. When *you* are guilty of sin, what do *you* do (Hebrews 7:23-27 and 1 John 1:9)?

¹ The Holy of Holies is also named the Most Holy Place. It was the inner most part of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem separated by a curtain or veil from the outer chamber. Entering into this part of the Temple meant that one was entering into the very presence of God. The curtain separated a holy God from sinful mankind. It was here that the Ark of the Covenant was kept with its holy contents of manna, Aaron’s staff that bloomed and the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.

² Holman Bible Dictionary, p.128.

No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel. Leviticus 16:17

26. Read Leviticus 16:17. Where does Jesus, our High Priest serve (Hebrews 8:1-13)?

Read Hebrews 9:14-15 and answer questions 27-30:

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance-- now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:14-15

Definition: Conscience is a person's inner feeling and awareness of moral conduct. When one does wrong or evil, he feels guilty and ashamed.

27. What has the blood of Christ done for you (v. 14)?

Christ cleanses our inner self so that we want to do what is good and right. He helps us to choose the right and perfect path each day. Jesus also washes away all guilt and bad feelings over the wrong and evil we have done in the past.

Definition: Guilt has two meanings. First, guilt is defined as being responsible for a crime or for doing something that violates (goes against) a moral standard. Second, guilt is a bad feeling caused by knowing or thinking that you have done something bad or wrong.

Without Jesus, everyone should feel guilty because all have sinned (violated God's moral standard) and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23-24). With Jesus, Christians should feel guilty if they *willingly* disobey God and break His moral standard. Both the non-Christian and the Christian have the same remedy for guilt over bad actions: confession through the blood of Jesus.

Satan and his followers want us to feel guilty over past sins that have been confessed and forgiven. He tempts us to focus our thoughts on ourselves so that we are not thinking about God and others. If Satan succeeds in drenching us in guilt, we will be sad and miserable. We will feel sorry for ourselves (self-pity) and accomplish nothing worthwhile. We will completely miss the grace of God and the joyful life of discipleship.

28. Are you struggling with a sin that seems to have you in bondage (controlled)? If you feel led by God, please share briefly. Your CLI Discipler will pray and offer words of encouragement.

Definitions: A mediator is an individual who attempts to make those people involved in conflict come to an agreement; a go-between or intermediary. Mediate is to intervene between people in a dispute in order to bring about an agreement or reconciliation.

29. Who is the mediator of a new covenant (pact, treaty, promise) v.15?

30. Why has the Levitical priesthood become obsolete (no longer in use)? (Hebrews 9:24-10:7)

Jesus descended through the line of Judah, not Levi. However, Jesus is our High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, which precedes (comes before) the Levitical priesthood (Genesis 14:18 and Hebrews 7:1-28). Jesus is our High Priest forever because God made it so by an oath (pledge, vow) (Hebrews 7:20-22).

By now you should be realizing that God's loving covenants are connected. They are connected or interconnected in God's objective to bring us back into holy relationship with Him. With each new pact or promise, God progressively brings us closer to His plan of reconciliation through His Son Jesus Christ. Covenants are affirmed, developed and extended so we can understand God's plan for us and all humanity.

God is a God of covenant. He uses earthly language and illustrations to point the way to spiritual reality and everlasting life in Christ Jesus. The final resting place in heaven is yet to come, but his final and New Covenant is a reality. The next Old Testament covenant is the "crowning" point of God's intention for a reconciled world. God promises an everlasting King to rule in perfect peace and righteousness.

Lesson 5: More Love Covenants (Day Three) *Everlasting King*

Sixth Covenant: Davidic (David) Covenant

David was established as the king of Israel with a royal palace when he had the desire to build a temple for the LORD. He felt rather guilty living in a fine palace of cedar while the ark of God remained in a tent.

The "ark of God" and the "ark of the Lord" are synonymous (identical) with the "ark of the covenant." The Hebrew word for ark, aron (אָרוֹן), means ark, chest, coffin or box; it is simply a word for a container. However, when attached to the holy name of our Lord, it refers to the seat of Yahweh among His people.

The ark was built under Moses' leadership and God's directions into a rectangular shape, approximately four feet long, two and one half feet wide, and two and one half feet deep. This holy ark was not only a symbol of God's presence among His people but was the actual place that He caused His glory to shine forth. The ark was built for mobility so that the people could visually see the Lord leading and guiding them at all times, even in battle (Numbers 10:33, 25-36). Remember, no one could actually see God and live (Exodus 33:20) so the ark of the covenant was a perfect design by God to reveal Himself, present and holy, to the Israelites.

31. Think or ponder about the name "ark of the covenant." Share your thoughts:

When David told Nathan the prophet of his plan to build a permanent house for God, Nathan told him to go ahead because God was with him. However, that night the LORD told Nathan that David was not to build His house (temple). Instead, God would establish a house for David.

Read 2 Samuel 7:7-16 and answer questions 32-34:

Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"⁸ "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel.⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth.¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.' "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men.¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'" 2 Samuel 7:7-16

32. With the First Edenic Covenant (Genesis 2:16-17), God told Adam and Eve to increase in number and rule over the earth. Why did God take David from the pasture (v. 8)?

33. With the Adamic Covenant (Genesis 3:14-15), the LORD promises a Savior from their sin and the dire (terrible) consequences of that sin. What is God saying to David to confirm His promise and take it closer to fulfillment (vs. 12-14)?

Nathan's prophecy to David was fulfilled both with Solomon physically building the temple and Jesus Christ physically and spiritually building and fulfilling the everlasting house (temple in heaven). In verse 14 when God talks about His offspring doing wrong it does not mean that the Messiah will sin, because we know that He was perfect and never sinned. The sin can either be applied to David's offspring (Solomon and successors) or to the fact Jesus accepted the iniquity of mankind into His body (Isaiah 53:6 and 1 Peter 24-25). In this way, Christ became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

34. Review the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:2-3) and list the similar language, concepts and promises (vs. 8-11; 12-14)?

God's promise of earthly land for Abraham's descendants approached its fulfillment during David's reign. His kingdom was within most of the boundaries that God had given to Abraham (Genesis 15:18). We know that after David's death, other kings were not so faithful to God's covenants. Therefore the land was divided and eventually lost to other nations.

God's unconditional promise to David and the House of Israel does not mean that individual kings or persons will not be disciplined and even excluded from God's promises. It means that no one can thwart or stop God's promise of bringing a Savior and King through David's lineage. Indeed Jesus, our King, has been born of a virgin through the house of David. Jesus lived on earth, died for our sins and has been resurrected from the dead. We are now waiting for His return with the final battle and the establishment of His millennial reign.³

*After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*²³ *"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised."* Acts 13:22-23

35. Read Acts 13:22. How did God keep His covenant with David?

*I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*³ *You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant,"*⁴ *"I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations."* Psalm 89:2-4

Psalm 89:2-4 was written by Ethan the Ezrahite. This and other Scripture reveals that not only did King David believe in God's promises, but others in Israel did as well. They accepted David as their God-appointed king and believed that his line would be established forever through the Messiah. Even now in the nation of Israel (reestablished in 1948), there are Israelis who are looking toward God's covenant promises.

Although there are Jews who have accepted Jesus as Yeshua⁴, their Messiah, most have not. They are blinded and cannot see how God's promises have been fulfilled to date and that we are now under the New Covenant. Nevertheless, God is using them for His holy purposes.

For example, we are told in 2 Thessalonians 2 that Jesus will not return until the man of lawlessness (antichrist) is revealed and sets himself up in God's temple proclaiming to be God. There is a place in Israel called the Temple Institute where the furnishings or contents of the sanctuary have been faithfully and fatefully (predetermined) crafted and reproduced according to biblical specifications. The only item they have not reproduced is the Ark of the Covenant.

They have the specifications and could reproduce the Ark of the Covenant but have not. They believe the original Ark has been hidden and will be found. The actual time that the Ark

³ "The word millennium comes from the Latin word mille, meaning one thousand, and annum, meaning year. The Greek work "chilias", also meaning one thousand, appears six times in Revelation 20, defining the duration of Christ's kingdom before the destruction of the old heaven and old earth. The millennium therefore refers to 1000 years of Christ's future reign on earth, which will immediately precede eternity [and starting at the second coming Christ which will bring to an end Tribulation]. During the millennium, Christ will reign in time and space. It is his time of manifestation and his time of revelation. Christ, in all of His glory, will institute His reign of righteousness and peace. During the millennium, the unveiled glory of Christ will shine forth in all of its fullness." The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy <http://www.arelivinginthelastdays.com/article/mReign/mReign.htm>

⁴ In English, the name *Yeshua* is extensively used by followers of Messianic Judaism as well as other Christian Denominations who wish to use what they consider to be Jesus' Hebrew or Aramaic name. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeshua_\(name\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yeshua_(name))

disappeared is not known. Some scholars believe that it was captured or destroyed in 587 B.C. by the Babylonians. “A Jewish legend in 2 Maccabees 2:4-8 indicates that Jeremiah hid the ark in a cave on Mount Sinai until the final restoration of Israel.”⁵

My husband, Anders, and I traveled to Israel in 2012 and had the privilege of touring the Temple Institute. The docent (guide) shared that she and others believed the contents (manna, Aaron’s staff that budded and the Ten Commandments) will be inside the Ark when it is located. Speaking for the Institute, she also said that these contents are important to the Temple restoration.⁶

Whether or not this docent was correct in her statements, I do not know. However, in 959 B.C., the Bible states there was nothing in the ark except the two tablets (2 Chronicles 5:10). Perhaps the manna and Aaron's staff were lost during its Philistine captivity.

Lesson 5: More Love Covenants (Day Four) *The Temple*

The second Temple was built after the Babylonian exile but it was also destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans. It has not been rebuilt since that time. Recall, Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed. The physical or land location where the Temple was located was taken over by Muslims about 689 A.D. Soon after, they built a worship structure known as the Dome of the Rock.

We look with interest to see how God will reclaim this land and allow the Israelis to rebuild the Temple. Of course we and Israeli believers understand that we are the living temples of God. His Spirit lives in us by our Savior Jesus Christ who died for our sins so that we might be His priests serving Him at all times and in all places. We are true worshippers in spirit and truth.

In the book of Revelation, after the seventh and last trumpet is sounded, loud voices in heaven proclaim that the Lord and His Christ are taking over the world and will reign for ever and ever. God’s wrath has come and He will be judging the dead and rewarding His servants and saints who reverence His name (Revelation 11:15-18). Recall the Mosaic covenant with its blessings for faithfulness and curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28-30).

Read Revelation 11:19 and answer questions 36-38:

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm. Revelation 11:19

⁵ Gaebelein, Frank E. “The Expositor’s Bible Commentary” Volume 12 (Hebrews-Revelation), Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 510.

⁶ According to 1 Kings 8:9 and 2 Chronicles 5:10 only the two tablets Moses had placed in the Ark remained. Some scholars believe the manna and staff were taken by the Philistines when they captured the Ark and had it in their possession (1 Samuel 5:1).

36. When God's temple in heaven was opened after the seventh trumpet was sounded, what was seen within His temple?

37. What do you think is the significance of God's temple in heaven being opened and revealing the ark of His covenant (Revelation 11:1-19)?

Understanding God's covenants is a major part of knowing God. He is a covenant-making and covenant-keeping God. God reminds us of this fact in the last book of the Bible when the door of eternity is swung open. The ark represented God's presence that heretofore was only open to the high priest. Now with His Kingdom fully come, His presence is open for all believers.

Recall the ark contained the Ten Commandments, the rules of His treaty (covenant) with Israel: *He would be their God and they would be His people.* God expects obedience. David was not perfect but he was obedient to the covenant. When he was not and especially when he broke the sixth commandment (do not commit adultery⁷), he feared God and confessed. He showed true godly sorrow when Nathan, the prophet, brought it up.

For those who have not obeyed or feared God, judgment is coming. However, for those who have followed the Lamb, reward is coming. God is taking over all the nations ruled by Satan and evil. There truly will be one nation, under God. This revelation (disclosure) to John would have brought great comfort to the disciples of Christ who were suffering and undergoing persecution in the first century for their faith.

God's redemptive covenant has come to fruition. All symbols, copies and signs are made manifest (clear, known) in heaven as God's presence is revealed and His righteous judgment is pronounced. The world begins and ends with God. Following any other course, especially the temptations of Satan, leads to death and destruction.

38. The awesome power and majesty of God is portrayed by lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, earthquake and hail (Exodus 19:16-19). As a disciple of Jesus Christ, does this give you encouragement of God's faithfulness or fear of His holy wrath? Please explain your answer.

39. Memorize Revelation 11:19 and write without looking at the Scripture:

But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children--¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.¹⁹ The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.²⁰ Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.²¹ Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.²² Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Psalm 103:17-22

40. Read David's words in Psalm 103:17-22. Who is a Son of David and of God, who not only kept the Mosaic covenant and the law perfectly, but fulfilled it (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 7:23-27 and 1 John 1:9)?

⁷ Adultery is sexual relations between a married person and anyone else other than his or her spouse.

Lesson 5: More Love Covenants (Day Four) Encouragement for Recruiting

In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free.⁶ The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 118:5

41. Read Psalm 118:5. What are two reasons that we should recruit for God?

Read Acts 26:16-18 and answer questions 42-45:

'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Acts 26:16-18

42. Jesus tells the apostle Paul to get up and _____ on your _____ (v16).

43. Why did Jesus appear to Paul (v.16)?

44. Name the people to whom Jesus is sending Paul (v.17).

45. Why is Jesus sending Paul to the Gentiles (vs. 18-19)?

God does not need you and me to serve in His army. He does not *need* anyone. With His powerful word alone, He can do anything and everything that He desires. Recall, God created the world in this way. However, since the creation of Adam and Eve, God has chosen to accomplish His purposes and work through us (Genesis 1:28).

In the *CLI Christian Leadership Study*, we took Jesus as our model, the one we are to emulate (imitate). Jesus is God and when He walked the earth, He also could have done everything that needed to be done by Himself. He could have walked alone through Nazareth, Samaria, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee performing miracle after miracle, dying on the cross and simply returning to heaven. Jesus did not need His disciples to accomplish His work.

Nevertheless, Christ did choose to work with, and through, other people. He specifically recruited his twelve disciples and others in joining God's army. In a real sense, Jesus was on a recruiting mission. He wanted to sign up everyone to be on God's team but not all were willing. This is a good lesson to remember when you reach out to another and he or she is not willing to serve the King.

Read 1 Kings 8:23 and answer questions 46-47:

"O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below-- you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.

1 Kings 8:23

46. Solomon is praying to the LORD and confirms that God will keep His covenant of love to His servants who:

47. Give an example of how you see God's love and promises working in your own life:

48. How has the study of the Old Testament covenants helped to grow your love for God?

49. How will this study of the Old Testament covenants encourage you to stand firm and disciple others?

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 5

CLI Disciple of Christ Study: More Love Covenants

Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review. Include your own personal letter and comments with your answers. The Disciple of Christ ministry is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Letters or short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: _____ Number _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

1. Read Luke 6:12-13. What did Jesus do before He called the twelve, whom he designated apostles? _____

2.. What reason did Jesus give to his potential disciples for following Him? _____

3. What does the expression "fishers of men" mean? _____

4. When you recruit, who will you tell those people to follow? _____

5. What did Jesus do after He called or recruited Peter and Andrew? _____

6. What were James and John doing when Jesus invited or called them into discipleship?

7. Did Jesus sit back and wait for His team to come and volunteer for service? _____

13. Do you, your chaplain, or anyone who has accepted your offer of discipleship, have the ability to print the lessons from our website, using the Internet? Yes No (Circle One) If yes,

please list the names: _____

14. Do you, your chaplain, or anyone who has accepted your offer of discipleship, have the ability to copy lessons free of charge from one hard copy? Yes No (Circle One) If yes, please

list the names: _____

15. List the names of those who have agreed to study with you and the CLI study you will be using. We will need to know if he or she needs a hard copy of the lessons and the name and address where it should be mailed. If you will be handing out the copies to your learners, we can mail a packet to you. Please indicate how your CLI Discippler should proceed:

Name & Number: CLI Study: Mail to this address: Mail to my address (I handout lessons)

16. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21 in your Bible. List briefly the ten ways that God expected the Israelites to obey and follow Him:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

17. Are we expected to follow these today? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One) Explain answer:

18. When God tells the Israelites not to mistreat or oppress aliens, why do you think He says for (because) you were aliens in Egypt? _____

19. How do you think Jesus would affirm (confirm) this particular teaching regarding those who are not only aliens from another country but for those who do not belong to your particular group, gang or social club? (See Luke 6:27-35)_____

20. Although the Levites were chosen as formal priests to serve in the Temple, what did God desire of all the people (Israelites)? _____

21. What does God desire of you as a Christian (1 Peter 2:9)?_____

22. In the New Testament, who is the Lamb of God (John 1:29 and Revelation 7:17)?_____

23. Why is Jesus called the Lamb of God (John 1:29 and 1 Peter 2:24)? _____

24. How did Jesus fulfill (complete) the Mosaic Law and not abolish (stop, eliminate) it (Matthew 5:17-18 and Galatians 3:10-13)? _____

25. When *you* are guilty of sin, what do *you* do (Hebrews 7:23-27 and 1 John 1:9)?

26. Read Leviticus 16:17. Where does Jesus, our High Priest serve (Hebrews 8:1-13)?

27. What has the blood of Christ done for you (v. 14)? _____

28. Are you struggling with a sin that seems to have you in bondage (controlled)? If you feel led by God, please share briefly. Your CLI Discippler will pray and offer words of encouragement.

29. Who is the mediator of a new covenant (pact, treaty, promise) v.15? _____

30. Why has the Levitical priesthood become obsolete (no longer in use)? (Hebrews 9:24-10:7)

31. Think or ponder about the name “ark of the covenant.” Share your thoughts:

32. With the First Edenic Covenant (Genesis 2:16-17), God told Adam and Eve to increase in number and rule over the earth. Why did God take David from the pasture (v. 8)?

33. With the Adamic Covenant (Genesis 3:14-15), the LORD promises a Savior from their sin and the dire (terrible) consequences of that sin. What is God saying to David to confirm His promise and take it closer to fulfillment (vs. 12-14)?

34. Review the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:2-3) and list the similar language, concepts and promises (vs. 8-11; 12-14)? (1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(4)

35. Read Acts 13:22. How did God keep His covenant with David?

36. When God's temple in heaven was opened after the seventh trumpet was sounded, what was seen within His temple?

37. What do you think is the significance of God's temple in heaven being opened and revealing the ark of His covenant (Revelation 11:1-19)?

38. The awesome power and majesty of God is portrayed by lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, earthquake and hail (Exodus 19:16-19). As a disciple of Jesus Christ, does this give you encouragement of God's faithfulness or fear of His holy wrath? Please explain your answer.

39. Memorize Revelation 11:19 and write here without looking at the Scripture:

40. Read David's words in Psalm 103:17-22. Who is a Son of David and of God, who not only kept the Mosaic covenant and the law perfectly, but fulfilled it (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 7:23-27 and 1 John 1:9)? _____

41. Read Psalm 118:5. What are two reasons that we should recruit for God?

42. Jesus tells the apostle Paul to get up and _____ on your _____ (v16).

43. Why did Jesus appear to Paul (v.16)? _____

44. Name the people to whom Jesus is sending Paul (v.17): _____

45. Why is Jesus sending Paul to the Gentiles (vs. 18-19)? _____

46. Solomon is praying to the LORD and confirms that God will keep His covenant of love to His servants who: _____

47. Give an example of how you see God's love and promises working in your own life:

48. How has the study of the Old Testament covenants helped to grow your love for God?

49. How will this study of the Old Testament covenants encourage you to stand firm and disciple others?

Note: Please make sure you have talked to your potential "disciples" and filled out questions 12-15 before returning your lesson to your CLI Discipler. Thank you!

Next: Lesson 6: The New Covenant

Rev 6/25/2015

