

## Jesus the Disciple Maker

### Lesson 1 Study Guide

#### Foundation of Discipleship

- Jesus is the **model for making disciples** (Mark 1:14–17).
  - Discipleship is personal—place **your name** where the disciples' names appear in Scripture.
  - Jesus' baptism marked His inauguration:
    - Water baptism fulfilled prophecy.
    - The Holy Spirit descended upon Him.
    - God affirmed Him as His Son.
  - After baptism, Jesus was **led by the Spirit into testing**.
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#### Understanding the Kingdom Message

- The **kingdom of God** and **kingdom of heaven** are distinct:
    - Kingdom of God → internal, present reality in believers.
    - Kingdom of heaven → future, visible reign of Christ.
  - Both reveal **God's authority, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit** (Romans 14:17).
  - The **church is not the kingdom**, and religious rules caused the kingdom to be neglected.
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#### The Discipleship Mandate (Mark 1:15)

1. **Fulfillment of time (Kairos)** – God's appointed moment.
  2. **The kingdom is at hand** – within reach.
  3. **Repentance is required** – turn in a new direction.
  4. **Believe the gospel** – trust Jesus, who is the Word.
- Some things we must leave behind **are not sin**, but distractions from the kingdom.

- Repentance positions us to **step into God's moment**.
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### Following Jesus

- Turning to Jesus **does not promise an easy road**, but it is the right direction.
  - To believe the gospel is to **believe Jesus Himself**.
  - Followers don't choose the call—**they are chosen**.
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### What a Disciple Is

- Disciples are **students of Jesus, the Master Teacher**.
  - We are called to **teach others what He taught us**.
  - Following Jesus means **becoming like Him**, not just walking behind Him.
  - Christlikeness carries **cost, weight, and spiritual resistance**.
  - **Distractions** are anything outside:
    - The gospel
    - Our assignment
    - God's purpose
  - Distractions may **delay but cannot deny** God's plan.
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### The Nature of True Discipleship

- Discipleship is **not optional mentorship**—it is a divine mandate.
  - Growth in Christ **never stops**.
  - Nothing replaces our responsibility to **faithful discipleship**.
  - Jesus made time for us—**we must make time for Him**.
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### Transformation Through Discipleship

- Christ is **the example for our lives**.

- Every believer is called to be a **disciple and disciple-maker**.
  - Discipleship:
    - Disrupts comfort
    - Transforms thinking
    - Aligns hearts with Christ's character
  - Our greatest obstacle is often **ourselves** and fears from the past.
  - Strength to overcome comes **through Christ** (Philippians 4:13).
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### The Mark of Those Jesus Calls

- Jesus **intentionally chose** His disciples.
  - They were **marked for His purpose** and kingdom advancement.
  - The process:
    1. Called
    2. Taught
    3. Sent (disciples become apostles)
  - They followed **His agenda, not their own**.
  - Blessing flows when we **honor the Blessor**.
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### Requirements of a Disciple

- **Submission** – placing yourself under Christ.
- **Instruction** – willingness to be taught.
- **Obedience** – living what is learned.
- Every encounter with Jesus is **training for future assignment**.
- **Preparation comes before elevation**:
  - God humbles before He raises.
  - He may disappoint before He appoints.