



Disciples of Jesus

This week Pastor Jacob began a new series of messages sharing what it means to be among the disciples of Jesus. This series will instruct or remind us of the call to discipleship even (especially) in the world and time we and ourselves in. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group go to www.prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this prayer together:

God, we are called to be followers of your son Jesus Christ. We are not always good at being followers. Remind us of who we are and whose we are in these days of confusing allegiance and motivation. Give us pure hearts for the cause of Christ. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: MATTHEW 28.16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ 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."

- The eleven disciples who remained after Jesus' resurrection received the instruction to go and make more disciples--to multiply--to be fruitful. To keep Jesus to ourselves would be counter to everything Jesus is about. He poured into his disciples so they could pour into others. What are some of the good gifts you have received from God? How are you pouring those same gifts into others? How are you sharing Jesus?
- *Pray for a mindset of loving others because you are loved.*

TUESDAY: 1 JOHN 3.1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

- These words from 1 John are a call to engage with God's primary way of relating to God's children. "Seeing" or "knowing" or "comprehending" God's lavish love for us is not a task to be completed but a constantly expanding awareness of something that can't fully be taken in. The constant awe of God's love for us and God's desire that we would see ourselves as children of God keeps us right where we need to be--loved and loving. Do you spend much time considering God's love for you? What causes you to stop and pay attention to God's love?
- *Pray that you would never tire of considering God's love for you.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 JOHN 3.16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

- We have so many images of love around us. Many of them are contorted and contrite. Does a Valentine say "love"? Is love best expressed with a diamond? John expands on his beautiful teaching about God's great love with this image of Jesus laying his life down for us--sacrificing life so that we might have life. There is no greater love. Where are you being called to lay down your life as an outflow of love? Is someone laying down their life for you? How do you receive that kind of love?
- *Pray that God would restore your image of what true love looks like, and that you would grow in your willingness to lay down your own life for your brothers and sisters.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 13.34

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- The way we live our lives reveals who or what we are following. We have many "authorities" demanding that we follow them, and everyone becomes identified with those whom they follow.. Again it is John who records this vitally crucial teaching on the identity of a disciple of Jesus. People will know that you follow Jesus when you love one another--as Jesus has loved you. They'll see the love of Jesus in your love for others. Judging from the ways others identify you, who do they think you follow? When or where do you find it most natural to love others?
- *Pray for a growing ability to love others as Jesus loves you.*

FRIDAY: COLOSSIANS 3.12

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- This idea that we are chosen, holy and dearly loved by God is almost too much to take in. It IS too much to take in. Yet it's the truth, and it is our starting point to being able to live out compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Do you ever find it difficult to believe that God calls you chosen, holy and beloved? Do you make it a practice to remind others that they are God's beloved?
- *Pray these words throughout the day, "I am God's beloved."*

SATURDAY: LAMENTATIONS 3.22-24

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

²³ *They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

²⁴ *I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."*

- God's love is not just a fluffy, good feeling. As we discovered earlier in the week, it looks like a laid-down life. These words from Lamentations serve as a reminder that God's great love can keep us from being consumed by so many things. And every morning brings the assurance that God's compassion and mercy are always with us. When you read the words, "we are not consumed", what comes to mind? What are the things that are threatening to consume you? What practices help you to "wait for him" and to consider his great love for you?
 - *Pray for daily mercy and love from God, and that you would find strength in God's faithfulness.*
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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jacob shared about a young woman who was baptised this weekend at Providence. She had experienced God's overwhelming love for her while worshiping online this year. What are some surprising places you have experienced God's great love for you?
- Have you ever tried to show love out of your own strength? Have you ever found it difficult to muster up love on your own? How are you able to connect the love you receive with the love you give?