



# HOW IS DISCIPLESHIP?

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”  
– 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

## DISCIPLESHIP AND CURRICULUM

In part 1 of our conversation about discipleship (see the Door of Hope Leadership Podcast: What is Discipleship?), we defined it as *the holistic process of becoming a disciple of Jesus and becoming like Him, through the person of the Spirit, by the guidance of God’s Word, with one another*. Discipling, then, is any activity of the church or an individual aimed toward helping facilitate that process in someone else. Defined this broadly, the process/curriculum a Christian uses to disciple another Christian might look very different from one person to the next. Studying the bible, praying, learning and practicing the spiritual disciplines, reading and discussing good books, evangelizing together, listening to and discussing good podcasts or lectures—all of these can be effective tools for spurring on another disciple of Jesus. So, instead of another short paper on discipleship theory, below is simply a list of resources or curriculum from the associated audio conversation that Cameron and Tom mentioned as being especially useful. Hopefully you’ll find some of them useful, too.

## BIBLICAL PASSAGES

**Acts 2** – Peter’s sermon is a great text to work through for understanding what God has done for us, what our response ought to be, and the nature of what we receive by trusting in Christ. It’s a great text to clarify and confirm the gospel.

**The Gospel of John + a synoptic Gospel** – Cameron mentioned the value of working through a New Testament gospel with someone, specifically the Gospel of John with its markedly theological discussion of Jesus’s life and ministry (not that the other gospels aren’t properly theological, of course). Then, later working through one of the other three gospels to not only learn more about Jesus, but also learn about biblical authorship, etc.

**Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:11** (the primary spiritual gifts passages) – Tom mentioned the benefit of helping a believer understand what the spiritual gifts are and the reality that each believer has been gifted by God to serve the church. These passages would make an excellent Bible study together.

**Ephesians** – A great book for helping people understand their identity in Christ that has been supplied to us through the gospel.

**Job** – Especially helpful when you’re working with someone dealing with substantial suffering.

**Romans** – An incredibly dense, theologically rich book with the gospel right at the heart.

**1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus** (the pastoral epistles) – These are extended looks at Christian leadership, particularly the office of elder/pastor. Study them back-to-back to dive into what spiritual maturity looks like for anyone.

## ON HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

**A Guide to Inductive Bible Study** by Precept Ministries International – A three-page document walking you through the inductive Bible study method (also known as “observe, interpret, apply”).  
[[https://drive.google.com/open?id=10yGWSJRVzEzO7ryUyTCWjs3\\_TqLsOubj](https://drive.google.com/open?id=10yGWSJRVzEzO7ryUyTCWjs3_TqLsOubj)]

**The Bible Project** website and app – The Bible Project has exploded into a go-to resource with informational videos on the structure of individual books of the Bible, biblical-theological theme videos, word studies, blogs, podcasts, and more. [<https://thebibleproject.com/>]

**How We Got the Bible** book by John Sailhamer – A brief overview of how the Bible came into existence looking at issues of composition (how and when was it written?), transmission (how did it get passed down through the ages?), canonization (how did these particular books end up in it?), and translation (how did it make its way into modern English?).

### ON PRAYER

**Jesus and Paul on Prayer** handout – A simple copy-and-paste of many of the key teachings on prayer and examples of prayer from both Jesus and Paul in the New Testament.

[<https://drive.google.com/open?id=16N3BTeNQfjFy1KPAPlrH7M46-sSo0ab6>]

**Prayer... for the Purpose of Godliness** chapter by Donald Whitney – Whitney's primary chapter on prayer from his book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. [[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Pti-n0kLdAT7xdQ7zjXXx4KgK3YoTfZ\\_](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Pti-n0kLdAT7xdQ7zjXXx4KgK3YoTfZ_)]

**Prayer** book by Tim Keller – Keller set out to write a book on prayer that was fully theological, devotional, AND practical, and he succeeded greatly. A wonderful resource.

### GENERAL BOOKS

**Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life** by Donald Whitney – One of our favorite books on the spiritual disciplines similar to the more widely-known (and also very good) *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster. Whitney discusses Bible intake, prayer, worship, evangelism, serving, stewardship, fasting, silence/solitude, journaling, and learning.

**Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God** by Gary Thomas – Thomas breaks down nine different spiritual temperaments and the biblical characters that embodied them. He encourages the reader to both understand themselves and how they best connect Jesus and pushes the reader to explore disciplining themselves in the other areas, as well.

**Jesus Outside the Lines** by Scott Sauls – This book helps the believer understand the simple binary categories that our culture often wants to work with in light of the category-smashing uniqueness of the gospel. It calls us to greater faithfulness to Jesus outside of the typical roles and responses we so easily fall into. Visit the below link for a sample chapter titled "Personal Faith or Institutional Church?"  
[<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MeCjz6UwjhXhW-qGFPjOWYAT1VOAry4>]

**Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God** by J.I. Packer – A short little treatment on how God's sovereignty interacts with our responsibility to evangelize from a thoroughly Reformed perspective. It's also a helpful case-study in how to work through theological tensions we find in the Bible.

**Bible Doctrine** by Wayne Grudem – This is a condensed version of Grudem's gigantic (and also very good) *Systematic Theology*. There is also an even more condensed version called *Christian Beliefs: Twenty Basics Every Christian Should Know*. They are all great avenues to dive into systematic theology with someone.

**The Reason for God** small group discussion series by Tim Keller – Keller not only gives powerful arguments for the truth of Christianity, but also models how to engage non-believers with sensitivity, wisdom, and grace.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Door of Hope Discipleship Resources** Google Drive folder – This is a growing collection of documents that the leadership of Door of Hope has found useful for helping others grow in discipleship relationships, organized according to stage of spiritual development. It includes original material, gathered articles, book excerpts, etc. Email one of the pastors if you have something you'd like to contribute!  
[[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v7dKgd\\_1PWAn16PLN9tph7qIHgY3W10l?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1v7dKgd_1PWAn16PLN9tph7qIHgY3W10l?usp=sharing)]