

DISCIPLESHIP | WEEK 1

written by Pastor Andrew Rogers

Challenge goal

Develop a plan for living as a disciple of Christ who helps make other disciples of Christ, and identify someone with whom you will share this material when you are finished.

Introduction and explanation

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are to reflect His character in every area of our lives (1 John 2:6). A disciple is a person who follows Jesus Christ (Luke 9:23). A disciple is a person whom others can recognize as having been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). Included in this matter of following Jesus Christ is the issue of having a godly purpose for living life. Jesus knew why He had come. He knew God's purposes for His coming into the world and was totally devoted to fulfilling those purposes (Luke 19:10; John 4:34-35; Philippians 2:5-9; John 17:1-4). Study the life of the apostle Paul as recorded in Scripture and you find that he, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, did not just aimlessly wander through life. He was a person who had a purpose-driven life. He knew what God wanted him to do. He knew why he was here, and he was totally devoted to fulfilling God's purposes (Philippians 1:20-21, 3:10-14; 2 Corinthians 5:9).

Paul's example is as it should be with everyone who claims to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, this is not the way it appears to be with many who call themselves Christians. As a result, they squander their lives and come to the end of their days with a life that has been wasted on things that don't really matter. This challenge is designed to help you think through what it means to have a purpose-driven life and how to actually develop the kind of life that will bring maximum glory to God and good to other people, including yourself. Follow the directions for the challenge and learn the joy of really living for Jesus Christ.

DIRECTIONS FOR WEEK 1

Secure a notebook in which you can take notes as you do the following study. Carefully read each of the following verses or passages, and record from each of these passages what God says or indicates we should not do and, if possible, the reason(s) why we shouldn't do these things.

Record from each of these passages what God says or indicates we should do and, if possible, the reasons why we should do these things. List all the promises and encouragements found in each of these verses.

Note which of these passages were most meaningful to you and why.

Matthew 6:1-6

Matthew 6:19-23

Matthew 6:24-33

Matthew 28:19-20

Luke 9:23-24

Acts 4:18-20

Romans 15:1-4

1 Corinthians 10:24

Do | Share how these passages have convicted or encouraged you this week with someone in your small group.