

What is a Disciple?

Jesus invites you to be one of His disciples

In the New Testament, a disciple is one that Jesus invites to follow Him. When Jesus saw Peter, James, and John in their fishing boat, Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him” Matthew 4:19, 20.

Jesus is still calling disciples today - men, women, and children who will follow Him in every area of their lives.

What is a disciple? In this Bible study you will learn ten characteristics of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.



1. A disciple **forsakes all** in order to follow Jesus.

Luke 5:9-11, 27, 28 - Example of Peter, James, John and Matthew.

Mark 10:21, 22 - A young man called to be a disciple, but was not willing to forsake all.

Luke 14:33 - “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 18:28-30 - A disciple manifests both sacrifice and commitment in leaving all to follow Jesus.

2. A disciple **learns** from Jesus the Teacher.

Matthew 10:24 - A disciple seeks instruction from Jesus the Teacher.

Luke 6:40 - A disciple when perfectly trained will be like Jesus.

3. A disciple **imitates** the example of Christ.

John 13:15 - We are to do as He did.

1 Peter 2:21 - We walk in His steps.

4. A disciple **studies and obeys** the Scriptures.

John 8:31, 32 - A disciple abides in God's Word.

John 14:23 - A disciple keeps God's Word because of his or her love for Jesus.

5. A disciple **denies self** in order to follow Christ.

Matthew 16:24 - A disciple denies the sinful flesh and takes up his or her cross to follow Jesus.

Luke 9:23 - This denial of self must happen daily.

6. A disciple **bears spiritual fruit** in his/her life.

John 15:8 - Fruit-bearing is a sign that we are disciples.

John 15:16 - Jesus designed for us to bear fruit.

7. A disciple **loves** both God and mankind.

John 13:35 - Love for others proves we are a disciple.

1 John 4:20, 21 - Love for God leads to love for others.

8. A disciple chooses to be **baptised**.

Matthew 28:19 - A disciple declares his/her love and commitment to Christ by being baptised.

9. A disciple **goes out** to minister God's grace to others and make other disciples.

Matthew 14:19 - Jesus ministers to others through His disciples.

Mark 3:13-15 - Disciples spend time with Jesus so they can minister to others.

Matthew 28:19, 20 - Disciples are to go and make disciples of others.

10. A disciple **endures persecution** because of his/her love for Christ.

John 15:18-20 - A disciple can expect to be treated no differently than Jesus was treated.

Luke 6:22, 23 - A disciple will rejoice even when suffering for Jesus' sake knowing there is a reward.