



DISCIPLESHIP

collective

THIS IS YOUR
SAMPLE LESSON



SNEAK PEEK

Here's a sneak peek at what our Discipleship Collective lessons look like. Here you will find Lesson 2 which is focused on the topic of "Listen." Every month we take one topic that is essential to our walk with God and dive deeper, so the discipler is reminded of its importance in their own life and is equipped to teach her disciplee more about that topic.

EACH LESSON INCLUDES FOUR RESOURCES:

 THE *guide*

 THE *challenge*

 THE *podcast*

 THE *activity*

The Guide and The Podcast are for the discipler and The Activity and The Challenge are to be used together (both the discipler and the disciplee).

In the context of your church group, you will hand out these monthly lessons to the disciplers and you will also be given monthly discussion questions to help you facilitate conversations with your disciplers. Your role is to help them feel empowered, encouraged, and equipped for discipleship!

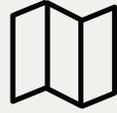


THE *podcast*

Check out the podcast episode for Lesson 2 featuring Jess Connolly! Each month we feature a different guest who speaks to her own experience with discipleship. The guests range from moms to grandmothers to church staff and to professional counselors.

Listen to episode 2 to hear what each conversation is like!





THE *guide*

LESSON 02

LISTEN

What does it look like to listen to God's voice? Why is that important? How do you teach someone else how to discern His voice, and why is listening so powerful in a discipleship relationship? We are going to dig into all these questions in this lesson.

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THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

A disciple is first and foremost a *listener*, or one who hears the voice of Jesus and runs after it. When Jesus came to His disciples and said, “Follow me,” they listened. This wasn’t a passive listening, a hearing-and-not-doing kind of listening, an I’ll-get-it-that-later sort of listening. Instead, the disciples dropped everything, left it all behind, and chased after Jesus. The sound of His voice had changed everything.

The voice of Jesus had captured their hearts. It had caused something to stir in them, something that said, “This man is worth sacrificing for. This man is worth risking for. This man is worth dying for.” This voice pulled them out of their former life and brought them into a new one— into a position at the feet of the King. And they did not want to leave. They hung on His every word. They asked questions when they didn’t understand, which was often. Sometimes Jesus’ words got through, and sometimes they didn’t. But that voice had won them over. The disciples had become listeners.

After Jesus had offended many who were listening to His teaching, He said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? *You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:67– 68, emphasis added). Peter didn’t want to listen to anyone else, because no one else had words that could change everything.

Disciples are marked by their eagerness to listen, and the twelve were not the only ones who did so. When Martha was hustling and bustling about, trying to serve Jesus but ignoring His voice, Jesus said that Mary



had chosen the better portion (Luke 10:42). Mary had opted to sit at His feet and open her ears. She had cast every care aside to get more of His words. Mary knew she could not live without them, that nothing could sustain her quite like the voice of her Lord. Her heart echoed the words of the prophet Jeremiah, who said, “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16).

Jesus’ words were unlike any other teachers’ at the time because they had authority. They had purpose. They had power. With His words, Jesus healed the sick. He comforted the hurting. He set the captives, the condemned, and the cast-out free. Some who heard His words believed. Others doubted. Others hated. But Jesus’ words were to be reckoned with, for they had all of heaven to back them up (Luke 9:35, John 12:49).

Praise be to God that Jesus’ words are still calling out to us today! They still say, “Follow Me, and I will cause everything to change.” As a disciple of Jesus, there’s no more time for I’ll-get-to-that-later kind of listening. Now is the time for attuned ears and eager hearts. Now is the time for choosing the better portion and getting more of Jesus.

RESPONSE:

When was the first time you knew Jesus was calling you? How has Jesus led you into a different life since then?

THE VOICE OF GOD

A poem

His voice is sustaining all creation. (*Hebrews 1:3*)

It is shouting from the stars. (*Psalms 19:1*)

It is singing over His beloved. (*Zephaniah 3:17*)



It is coming in a whisper. *(1 Kings 19:11-13)*

It's burning like a fire. *(Jeremiah 23:29)*

It is telling of a coming King. *(Genesis 3:15)*

His voice is in a Baby's cry. *(Luke 2:12)*

It's in a Child's inquiry. *(Luke 2:46)*

It's in the call for repentance. *(Mark 1:15)*

It is trembling in the garden. *(Luke 22:44)*

It is crying from the cross. *(Matthew 27:46)*

It's declaring once and for all, "It is finished." *(John 19:30)*

His voice gives life where there was death. *(John 5:24)*

It brings out of darkness and into light. *(1 Peter 2:9)*

It says, "Follow Me, and I will change everything." *(Matthew 4:19)*

His voice sustains spirit. *(Matthew 4:4)*

It penetrates soul. *(Hebrews 4:12)*

It transforms life. *(John 17:17)*

One day, it will lead us home. *(John 10:27-28)*

As disciples of Jesus, God's voice must matter to us. It is the sovereign voice. The eternal voice. The voice of grace and joy and love. Those who listen to this voice are changed, and they then turn around and change the world.

RESPONSE:

God's voice was there at creation and it will last through all eternity. Why is it important to meditate on the magnitude of God's voice? What aspect of God's voice in this poem did you need to be reminded of today?



LOTS OF VOICES

Even as disciples, Jesus' voice is not the only one we know, and it's not the only one vying for our attention. In fact, there are many voices competing for our ears. They are shouting at us about politics, health, fashion, society, marriage, parenting, and religion. They said, "Listen to me! I have the answers. Come this way! I will make you happy." They tell us if we don't listen up, we will miss out. Friends follow one voice. Family follows another. Some say, "You shouldn't listen to that voice. It's dangerous."

The issue is not the plethora of voices. It's not even whether these voices are right or wrong. Even right voices can get too loud. Even wrong voices can teach us to think. The issue is when these voices start *drowning out the voice of God*.

As disciples of Jesus, we must remember that there is only one voice that gives life. One voice determines history. It holds all things together, and it shapes our futures. *So let's turn the dial down on any voice that is talking over God's.*

After all,

Some voices may be wise, but God's voice is wiser.

Some voices may be strong, but God's voice is stronger.

Some voices may be true, but God's voice is truer.

And,

Some voices may be harsh, but God's voice is gentle.

Some voices may condemn, but God's voice sets free.

Some voices may demand, but God's voice always gives.



Let's stop letting other voices overwhelm us. Let's put them in their rightful place. Let's attune our ears again to Jesus. Let's be disciples, listeners, and chasers after His words. Let's make His voice the one that drowns the others out.

RESPONSE:

Are any voices currently drowning out the voice of God in your life? Why do you think that's the case?

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

Both the Old Testament and New Testaments remind us of the same thing: “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts in the rebellion” (Hebrew 3:7 – 8). So how do we hear the voice of God today? How do we know when He is speaking to us?

The Bible tells us God speaks to us through His Spirit and His Word.

Jesus promised before He left earth to give us the Holy Spirit. This Spirit lives inside all who trust in Jesus, reminding us that true joy and peace are found in Him. The Spirit brings to mind the things Jesus has taught us, He convicts us of sin, and He points us to the will of God (John 14:26, John 16:13). In fact, the Holy Spirit will never speak contrary to what Scripture says, as He is the one who inspired every word recorded there.



“We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*” (2 Peter 1:19–20, emphasis added).

The Spirit residing in us speaks. He speaks aligned with the Word of God and always champions the Lordship of Jesus and the glory of God (John 16:14, 1 John 4:2). This Spirit who speaks will also strengthen us, comfort us, pray for us, prompt us to obedience, and give us the words to say when we need them most.*

God’s Spirit is speaking, and His Word is speaking. The question is, are we actually listening? Do we even want to listen? Do we have time to listen? Do we have space to listen?

If we had to, many of us would admit that we’d sometimes *rather* spend time listening to other voices than God’s. Sometimes God’s voice is hard to hear. Sometimes we’d prefer to ignore that conviction, hold onto our stubbornness, or act as if God wouldn’t dare ask *that* of us. Sometimes we know if we obey, it will hurt too much. Sometimes we’re just too tired.

This is why Jesus said what He did in John 14:23. “If you love me, you will keep my word” (paraphrase).

Jesus reminds us that we don’t listen to God’s voice out of duty, but out of love. We don’t listen to His voice because it’s harsh or demanding, but because it’s tender and kind. The voice of Jesus is not one of condemnation, but of grace. There has never been any voice so true, so humble. His voice is the light cutting through the darkness. It is the hope for our sin. The mercy in our failures. The delight of our lives. The better portion. Forever.

So we must listen. Then we will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24–27). Then we will be like the good soil whose seed grew into a harvest (Matthew 13:23). Then we will be like the sheep who follow after their shepherd (John 10:27). Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will not be afraid, for He is with us, leading us in the way everlasting (Psalm 23).



We listen to Jesus' words so we can obey Him, and we obey Him because we love Him. This is a disciple: *a listener*. This is disciple: *one who loves and obeys Jesus*.

*Additional scriptures on the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 3:16, Romans 8:26, Galatians 5:16, Luke 12:12

WE LEAD THROUGH LISTENING

Not only are we careful and intentional to listen to what God is saying to us through His Word and His Spirit, but we are also to lead others with a listening ear (James 1:19). There is power in sitting in front of those we are discipling and simply listening before we ever speak a word. Allow the space for them to speak. Create a safe space for their honesty. Walls can be broken when we allow each other the room to process. So often we earn the ability to be trusted and heard when we first stop and listen. Just as we can take any emotion, fear, and question to God, let us offer that freedom to those we are discipling. Listen with grace. Lead with wisdom.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Experiencing God by Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude V. King

Knowing God by J.I. Packer

Follow Me by David Platt

Discerning the Voice of God by Priscilla Shirer



THE

activity

ME + GOD INVENTORY

As Christians, our mission in life is to know & to love God with all of our hearts, minds, and souls. Knowing and loving God means that we have the opportunity to have a relationship with Him. The Christian life is not a checklist. It's a dynamic journey of growth. In His kindness, God gives us things here on earth to help us know and love Him—His Word, prayer, community, and purposes to fulfill. As you get to know one another, we want to challenge you to take inventory of these Christ-centered things in your life. There is no right answer!

PLEASE ANSWER THESE 14 QUESTIONS AND
GATHER TOGETHER TO DISCUSS.

1. Use 5 words to describe your relationship with God:

Why did you choose these words?



2. Do you love God?

_____ Yes, I love Him.

_____ No, but I am curious about Him.

_____ Other:

Why?

3. How often to do you talk to God? Circle the answer that describes you.

Just starting out // Occasionally // Every few days // Every day // Every Hour // Other: _____



4. Which characteristics of God you most relate to? Circle these.

Which characteristics of God are the most foreign to you? Put a square around these.

| CHARACTERISTIC ¹ | DEFINITION |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SPIRITUALITY | Exists as a being |
| INVISIBILITY | God in total essence has never be seen |
| OMNISCIENCE | God is all knowing |
| WISDOM | God chooses the best goals and best means to those goals |
| TRUTHFULNESS | all His words and knowledge are true |
| FAITHFULNESS | He is the final standard of truth, never deceitful |
| GOODNESS | God is the final standard of Good |
| LOVE | God eternally gives himself to others |
| HOLINESS | Separated from sin |
| RIGHTEOUSNESS | Final standard on what is right |
| JEALOUSY | Protects his own honor |
| WRATH | Hates sin |
| WILL | Determines action for necessary existence and activity |
| OMNIPOTENCE | All powerful |
| PERFECTION | Complete |
| BLESSEDNESS | Delights fully in himself |
| BEAUTY | Sum of all desirable qualities |

¹Characteristics are the communicable attributes of God found in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*.



5. Do you give thanks to God for things in your life?

_____ Yes, I do.

_____ No, but I am curious about this.

_____ Other:

Describe the last time that you felt thankful to God for something, someone, or some situation in your life.

6. Use 5 words to describe your view of the Bible:

Why did you choose these words?



7. If you read the Bible, what are some of your favorite stories, books, people, etc?

8. What do you want to learn about God in His Scriptures?

9. When it comes to making an important decision in your life, what influence does what the Bible says have in your decision? Check the one that describes you most.

_____ I haven't really considered it in the past but I am curious what the Bible says about situations in my life.

_____ I feel more comfortable listening to sermons, podcasts, or other people.

_____ I'll often consider it, and I'd like to grow in understanding of how affects more areas of my life.

_____ It's the primary influence in my life.

_____ Other:

Give an example.

10. What's an area of your life you'd like to see God work?



11. Use 5 words to describe your view of the church:

Why did you choose these words?

12. How would you describe your participation in your local church? *Circle all that apply.*

I'm not currently attending a local church.

I attend occasionally.

I'm a regular attendee.

I'm involved in a Bible study.

I volunteer at my local church.

I lead a ministry at the church.

I'm a part of the church leadership or staff.

13. What are you passionate about? Are you currently serving or desiring to serve your community in any way? What does that look like?



14. How would you define your purpose in life?

DEVELOP INTIMACY WITH GOD IN YOUR EVERYDAY.

We have created a journaling challenge that will give you the opportunity to be vulnerable with God. Watch your love and knowledge grow as you go to His Word to speak to what it is that you're feeling, thinking, and experiencing.

Try the challenge and report back what you learned.





THE *challenge*

7-DAY JOURNALING CHALLENGE

To truly discover what voices we're listening to and how to be more aware of the voice of God and the truth He's given us, let's spend 7 days journaling. It's simple and easy, and you'll find the results to be profound. When we intentionally recognize truth over our own personal narratives or lies we've learned to believe, it will change the way we live.

Let's get started.

FOR 7 DAYS, WE CHALLENGE YOU TO BEGIN OR END YOUR DAY CREATING ROOM TO HEAR FROM YOUR FATHER.

STEP 1: Grab a journal or notepad.

STEP 2: Each day, you will fill out this question: *Today, the loudest voice in my life is telling me ...*

STEP 3: Follow it up with this response: *God says the truth about me and/or my situation is ...*

STEP 4: After 7 days, go back and read through your whole week. What patterns did you see? What truths did you constantly need to refer to?

STEP 5: Which truths do you need to hang up somewhere or put on Post-it notes? Place them around your house, save them on your phone, write them on mirror. Whatever it takes!



Feel a little lost as you get started? Here are some of the most common lies we believe that have been matched up with the truth we need to remember. Start here if you need to!

LIES WE BELIEVE AND TRUTHS TO COMBAT

LIE: God only puts up with you.

TRUTH: God delights in you! He sings over you! He loved you even before you were a Christian. Nothing can separate you from His great love. (Zephaniah 3:17, Romans 5:8, Romans 8:38-39)

LIE: You will never be happy.

TRUTH: In God's presence there is fullness of joy, so joy is the result of a heart that rests in God. Your circumstances might not be great, but joy is not dependent on circumstances. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 16:11, Psalm 17:15, John 16:33, Galatians 5:22)

LIE: You will never have influence.

TRUTH: God is the one in charge of the world. He determined the time and place where you would live. By the power of His Spirit, you can have godly influence right where you are, with the people around in, in your places. (Acts 17:26, Matthew 5:16)

LIE: You're worthless in the kingdom until you have your life figured out.

TRUTH: God is the one who has your life figured out. Your plans are good, but the Lord's plans are best. God says to be faithful today and trust His plan for tomorrow. (Proverbs 16:9, James 4:13-15)

LIE: You're worthless in the kingdom until you can beat your sin.

TRUTH: God is in the business of using sinful people to bring Him glory—people like Jacob, Samson, Rahab, Peter, and Paul to name a few. We boast in our weakness, because when we are weak, He makes us strong and gets more glory. (2 Corinthians 12:9-11, Romans 7:15-25).



LIE: So many women are better at [insert spiritual gift] than you are.

TRUTH: God has distributed the spiritual gifts. To resent others for their gifts is to resent God. Instead of spending your time comparing, ask yourself, “What are my gifts? How is God asking me to use the gifts He has given me?” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

LIE: Other people are your biggest problem.

TRUTH: You are actually your biggest problem. Jesus said not to take a speck out of someone’s eye when you have a plank in your own. He said that out of the overflow of your heart—not others’ actions—your mouth speaks. (Matthew 7:1-5, Luke 6:45)

LIE: People don’t really care about you.

TRUTH: God cares about you so much that He left the glories of heaven, took on flesh, and suffered and died for you. In Christ, you will always and forever have the approval of God, so the approval of people is not necessary. Being like Christ means caring for others even if they are not caring for us. (Romans 5:8-9, Luke 6:27-36)

LIE: People won’t believe you when you talk about Jesus because of your past, or your current sin.

TRUTH: Christians talk about Jesus because we still need Him. We didn’t just need Jesus once as our ticket to heaven. We need Him every day, precisely because we are still struggling with sin and still being sanctified. Be honest with people about your continual need for Jesus. (Psalm 121:1-2, Hebrews 12:1-3, 2 Corinthians 3:18)



THE
DISCIPLESHIP *collective*



CHURCH MEDIA KIT

THE MEDIA KIT INCLUDES:

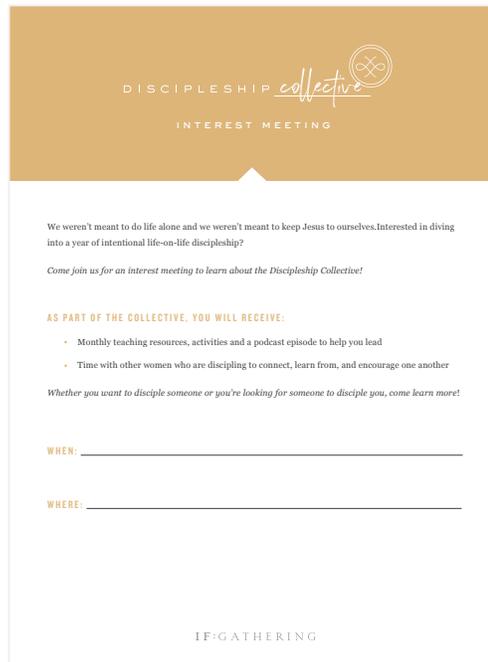
Social Media Posts | Slides, Bulletin Inserts, and Fliers | Promotional Videos | Assets to use in meetings like binder materials, and contact sheets | Printable Signage



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



BINDER MATERIALS



FLIERS

