

F A Qs

(Frequently Asked Questions)

About BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

1. **How is biblical discipleship different from other counseling?**

All believers within the body of Christ are called to be both a disciple and a discipler (based on *Matthew 28:18-20*, *Romans 15:14*, *Galatians 6:1-5*, *II Timothy 2:2*). Biblical discipleship is based on the Scriptures as the only authoritative standard for faith and conduct (*II Timothy 3:16-17*). Harvest Winter Garden is committed not only to helping you overcome your current problem but to training you to live all your life in a manner that leads to increasing maturity in the Lord (*Psalms 119:165*; *Proverbs 2:6-12a*; *Galatians 6:1-5*; *I Timothy 4:7-8*; *I John 5:1-5*). The goal of biblical discipleship is that you walk in God's way even in the midst of the most serious problems.

2. **How is a biblical discipler going to help me more than some other form of counseling?**

Rather than focusing on your problem, a biblical discipler will focus on finding solutions from God's Word. By making a biblical inquiry into your problem, we will help you **see your situation from God's perspective**. We will then show you through God's promises **how there is hope** and how God can use any situation for your good if you are willing to do things His way. Next, we help you **identify specific patterns of living that you can change** which will bear fruit in your life and please the Lord. Finally, biblical disciplers will show you how to **develop a plan of action to make these significant changes**. God has designed this discipleship process to bring you into conformity to His will for your life and to give you His blessing and peace despite the difficulty of your circumstances.

3. **What training does a biblical discipler have?**

Biblical disciplers are trained in the use of the scriptures and the principles of biblical discipleship. We do not base our discipleship knowledge on our own or other's opinions, experience, or concepts of behavior (*Isaiah 55:8-11*). Instead, we seek to marshal the full range of biblical truth to bear on a disciple's problem (*Hebrew 4:12*). In discipleship sessions, we will bring to bear the essential truths of Scripture without particular theological emphasis on any practice not specifically advocated in the Scriptures (*Titus 2:1*).

4. **What problems can a biblical discipler help me work through?**

Biblical disciplers deal with a comprehensive range of problems. Biblical disciplers have successfully disciplined adults and children dealing with grief, divorce, pornography and sexual addiction, abuse, poor parent-child relationships, suicide, depression, alcohol and drug abuse, anorexia, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHS), tension, turmoil, anxiety, fear, and worry to name only a few. Biblical discipleship is applicable to nearly any problem resulting in spiritual, mental, emotional and physical distress.

5. **What about confidentiality – will anyone know I am getting help?**

A commitment to trustworthiness is an important quality of biblical disciplers. Although your discipler may consult with other disciplers about a particular situation, you may be confident that the discussions will be restricted to what is necessary to help you biblically overcome your problems (based on *Proverbs 10:18-21*, *15:28*, *18:8*, *25:11*, *I Corinthians 4:2*).

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6. **Is there a fee for biblical discipleship?**

Biblical disciplers provide their time, energy, and spiritual gifts as a service to God and a labor of love (based on *Thessalonians 2:7-8, 1 Timothy 1:5*). Therefore, **Harvest Winter Garden does not charge a fee**, actual or implied for discipleship. **The only financial commitment to you may be the purchase of books or pamphlets, which will enhance the application of Scriptural teaching you are receiving.** If this cost is a burden, please discuss a scholarship with your discipler.

7. **Who will be the discipler for my particular case?**

You may have an individual discipler or a discipleship team assigned to your case (*Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 18:17, 20:18, 24:5, Matthew 18:16*). **Since we are a training facility, it is likely that someone in training to be a biblical discipler will be sitting in during your appointments to observe or assist.** Teams have one discipler responsible for leading the team and one or two others assisting. You are also a vital member of the team as you seek to overcome the problems in your life. The most important member of the team, however, is the Lord Himself, in the Person of the Holy Spirit. It is He who will provide hope, power, and wisdom (through God's Word) for you to handle your problems (*John 14:26, Romans 5:3-5, 8:26-27, Ephesians 3:16*). In addition, your pastor, deacon, or elder from your church are welcome if you desire.

8. **What am I agreeing to when I schedule a discipleship appointment?**

Effective discipleship requires consistency and faithfulness in your applying God's principles. Thus it is important that you make your discipleship appointments a priority. Discipleship is a commitment you are making to the Lord and as such should be the highest of priorities (based on *Luke 14:27-33, Matthew 22:37-40*). Due to the nature of our ministry, we have a backlog of people seeking discipleship. When we reserve an appointment for you, we are unable to schedule others. **If you have a conflict and must miss a scheduled appointment, please notify the Harvest Winter Garden office as soon as you become aware of the conflict or at least 24 hours before hand** to allow someone else to have an opportunity to take the appointment. In the event of a true last moment emergency such as an accident or illness, please call the Harvest Winter Garden office before 5:00 PM the day of your appointment. *If a pattern of missed/cancelled appointments develops or you simply do not show up for an appointment, we reserve the right to discontinue discipleship.*

9. **How long does the discipleship usually last?**

Normally, people have eight to ten sessions, which last approximately one hour each. If you respond quickly to biblical discipleship, the number of sessions may be decreased. However, if the discipler does not observe definite change in the first few sessions, they will seek to identify the cause of failure, discuss it with you and help you correct it.

10. **What should I bring to my discipleship session?**

Be sure to bring your Bible and a notebook to all sessions, including the first. Come with high expectations. You will find hope and encouragement even during your first session. From then on, with your cooperation, we are confident that you will find trustworthy answers for the difficulty that prompted you to contact us.