

# Seek First the Kingdom: 4 Weeks on Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Orenco Church (Winter 2026)

This course will spend four weeks going through what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how to make more.

**Week 1:** What is a Disciple?

**Week 2:** Come and Follow Me: The Practices of a Disciple

**Week 3:** Remain in me and I will remain in You: Maintaining a Walk with Jesus

**Week 4:** Tell Your Story

Jesus calls us to the life that's truly life, but many miss out because everything else gets in the way. This course will remind us of what really matters and how to step into the life Jesus has for us.

**Week 1:** What is a Disciple?

What does it mean to be "religious" in our day?

What does it mean to be a "Christian"?

Read Matthew 28v16-20 and write down the instructions Jesus gave after he rose from the dead?

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

**-Matthew 28v16-20**

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What is a disciple?

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, **follow me,**” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

**-Matthew 4v18-20**

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “**Follow me,**” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

**-Matthew 9v9**

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, **follow me.**”

**-Matthew 19v21**

Disciple = Apprentice

Where do we see apprentices today?

Do we approach the scriptures to **learn** from Jesus, understand how to **think** like him, **act** like him, **live** like him, and **teach** like him?

What steps could we take to become a disciple of Jesus in the same way that we might become an apprentice of an electrician?

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### **The Great Commandment:**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**-Matthew 22v37b**

### **The Great Commission:**

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

**-Matthew 28v19-20a**

**The great commandment is to love God—and love other people.**

Without God, the external observance of the commandments becomes an empty form.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.”

**-Matthew 23v25-26**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**-John 13v34-35**

**The great commission is to make disciples that teach and obey what Jesus has commanded.**

The harvest is plentiful! And a “Harvest” mentality:

- Serves the vulnerable
- Serving others
- Listens to people—and meets their needs
- Builds authentic relationships
- Practices hospitality
- Shares the Good News

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Who was it that showed you how good Jesus was?

How did you come to know Jesus?

Why did the way of Jesus seem better than the alternatives?

**The way of Jesus is better than any other way—and this is the life that he invites us into as his disciple:** Loving our neighbor, not seeking vengeance, trusting God for our provisions, giving to the poor.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**-Matthew 5v14-16**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

**-Matthew 5v43-46**

The foundation following Jesus is loving your enemy. **Do we trust Jesus enough to allow his Spirit to transform our hearts to love our enemies?**

**How can we grow in becoming like Jesus:** Spend time with Jesus, practice acting like Jesus, meditate on the Scriptures, practice the spiritual disciplines.

### **\*Homework\***

Read Mark 10v17-31 (a few times if possible) and think about what Jesus may be asking you to release to follow him. Write down the things in your inner spirit that are holding you back and pray them out loud throughout the week.