

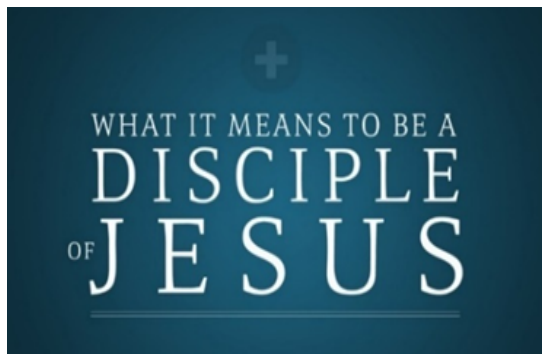


Being on a Journey and Mission With Jesus

By Bill Cullen, 2026

Contents

Disciple, Discipling, Discipleship Article.....	3
Leader's Guide.....	5
Participant's Guide.....	9
Bible Passages.....	12
Generic Bible Study Guide.....	16



Disciple, Discipling, & Discipleship

Greek Word: μαθητής Transliteration: mathētēs

Learner – Follower

At the time of the New Testament's writing, Rabbis (teachers) had disciples (students/followers). A disciple would not simply learn cognitive information from a Rabbi. A true disciple would learn to do what his or her Rabbi did, sharing the same heart, mind, and attitude of the Rabbi.

Being a disciple of Jesus means more than cognitive agreement with or belief in Jesus. It is more than having affection for Jesus. It is more than being a spectator *watching* Jesus and others in His employ engage the world (all people for whom Jesus came and died – *1 Tim 2:4; 1 Jn 2:2*). Being a disciple of Jesus is more than being an enthused fan or a cheerleader of Jesus. It involves more than piety; it requires a virtuously pure lifestyle. Being a disciple of Jesus implies activity on our part. It is more about what we DO than it is about what we DON'T DO (*Jn 13:34-35; Gal 5:6; Jas 4:17*).

To be a disciple of Jesus, a true follower, one must actually follow. To be a disciple of Christ, one must be learning to do what Jesus does and to actively follow Him as He engages in mission, on the mission field, among the lost, the hurting, and even the rebellious. A true disciple doesn't merely learn "about" Jesus. A true disciple actually DOES mission and ministry WITH and THROUGH Jesus, with the heart, sensitivity, and demeanor of Jesus (*Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:8,12,16-17*).

- ♦ A disciple is one who is learning to do and who does what his/her teacher does with the same heart, mind, and skill as that of the teacher. (*Thankfully, Jesus, through His Spirit, lives in us to live HIS love through us. Jn 15:5; Eph 3:20; Col 1:29*)
- ♦ Jesus, when He calls His disciples, tells them that they will become "fishers of men [women & children]" (*Mt 4:19*).
- ♦ To be Jesus' disciples is to be *people of mission*: following Jesus onto the mission field and ministering to those He came to seek and to save (*Mt 9:10-13; Lk 19:10*). We are not truly "followers" following Jesus if we are not with *Jesus on the mission field [be it locally or abroad] doing missional work*, be it as an invalid prayer laborer or by rolling up our sleeves for labor.

Jesus tells His disciples that the way people will know that they/we are His disciples is by their/our loving as He loves (*Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:8,12,16-17*). Actively loving people is the defining characteristic of a disciple of Jesus (*1 Cor 13:13; Gal 5:6*).

HOW DOES JESUS LOVE?

He loved by dying for sinners.



(*Ro 3:23-25; Ro 5:6-8; 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:9-10*)

He loves by coming for and helping/serving the poor, the sick, the hurting, the disenfranchised, the enslaved.



(*Mt 9:11-13; Mt 11:19; Mt 25:35-40; Lk 4:18*)

He loves by actively seeking out the lost.



(*Lk 15:1-7; Lk 19:10*)

HOW DOES JESUS LOVE THROUGH US?

***NOTE:** Two things we must emphasize. (1) Discipleship is not merit. *It flows out of Jesus' completed work of justification. It does not lead to justification.* (2) Discipleship necessitates *spending time with Jesus*. Before we can be "sent" by Jesus, we need to be with Jesus. In Mark 3:13, Mark writes, "He [Jesus] appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach...." Jesus in John 15:4-5 tells us point blank, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Jesus, **first**, is **FOR** us (justification/salvation), **second**, Jesus, through His Spirit, is **IN** us (sanctification/transformation), and **third**, Jesus, through His Spirit, is **THROUGH** us (Vocation/Mission). Our "sentness" flows out of the fact that we are already justified through Jesus' work on the cross and we are now part of His Body, the Church, through which Jesus continues to be incarnate in the world today.

- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to our families and neighbors (Mk 5:19).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – on mission adventures (Mt 10:1-8; Lk 9:1-2; Lk 10:1-3).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – into the world to be among and with hurting, needy, sin-filled people even as He was sent (Jn 1:14; Mt 9:9-13; Mt 11:19; Lk 15:1-7; Jn 17:15-18; Acts 1:8).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to bear much fruit (Jn 15:8).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to be ministers of reconciliation and His ambassadors of love in the world (2 Cor 5:17-20).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to complete what was lacking in His affliction (Col 1:24-29).
- ◆ Jesus sends His disciples – you and me – to make disciples – people who will obey Him in everything and who do what He did and now seeks to do through us (Mt 28:19-20; Jn 17:15-18; Acts 1:8).
- ◆ As His disciples, we are to live lives "worthy of our calling" (Eph 4:1,16; Col 1:10).
- ◆ Washing feet (Jn 13:12-17).
- ◆ Loving others as He has loved us [sacrificially, unconditionally without limits] (Jn 13:34-35; Mk 10:42-45; Phil 2:3-8; 1 Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 4:11-12).
- ◆ Filled with good works (Mt 5:16; Mt 25:35-40; Eph 2:8-10; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 10:24; 1 Jn 3:17-18).
- ◆ Being kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of all just as He is with us (Eph 4:32).
- ◆ Making the most of every opportunity (Eph 5:15-16; Gal 6:2,9-10; Col 4:5; Jas 4:17).
- ◆ Being His witness and giving witness, being ministers of reconciliation (Acts 1:8; Ro 10:14-15,17; 2 Cor 5:18-20; 1 Jn 1:1-4).
- ◆ Loving more and more and more (1 Th 4:9-10; 1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 Cor 16:14).
- ◆ Having as a special concern: our language (Mt 12:36-37; Eph 4:29; Col 4:6; Jas 1:19,22,26)

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(All of the passages cited above are listed in the back of this document. They are NOT listed in the order they appear in the document. They are listed in the order they are found in the Bible.)

LEADER'S GUIDE

For Groups, Classes, and Missional Communities

Purpose of This Guide

This Leader's Guide equips facilitators to lead discussions that move people:

- From *knowing about* Jesus to *doing what Jesus does*
- From passive belief to active discipleship
- From inward faith to outward mission
- From individual spirituality to shared community life

The guide draws directly from the document's core conviction:

"A true disciple would learn to do what his or her Rabbi did, sharing the same heart, mind, and attitude of the Rabbi."

1. Leader Preparation

Before Each Session

Pray for your group by name.

- Read the main document slowly, noting phrases that stand out.
- Choose 1–2 Scriptures from the list to emphasize during the session.
- Prepare one personal story of how Jesus has been forming you as a disciple.

Leader Posture

Lead with:

- Humility
- Curiosity
- Expectation
- Grace

Avoid:

- Lecturing
- Over-explaining
- Rushing

Your role is to guide discovery, not deliver a monologue.

2. Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

Opening (5 minutes)

- Welcome the group.
- Read the opening definition aloud:

"Being a disciple of Jesus implies activity on our part. It is more about what we DO than what we DON'T DO."

Invite one sentence from each person: "What word or phrase stands out to you?"

3. Discussion Sections & Leader Notes

Session 1, Section 1 Participant's Guide — What Is a Disciple?

Key idea: A disciple learns to *do* what Jesus does.

Leader Notes

- Emphasize that discipleship is imitation + participation.
- Highlight the document's distinction between cognitive belief and embodied following.

Questions

- What stands out to you in this description?
- Where do you see “learning to do what Jesus does” in your life?

Leader Tip: If the group stays abstract, ask: **“What did Jesus do this week through you?”**

Session 2, Section 2 Participant’s Guide — What Discipleship Is NOT

Key idea: Discipleship is not passive, emotional, or merely devotional.

The document states:

“Being a disciple of Jesus implies activity... more about what we DO.”

Leader Notes

- Gently challenge cultural Christianity.
- Normalize the struggle of drifting toward passivity.

Questions

- Which “lesser versions” do you drift toward?
- What helps move someone from passive to active?

Leader Tip: If people feel shame, remind them: **Jesus is FOR us, IN us, and THROUGH us — in that order.**

Session 3, Section 3 Participant’s Guide — What Discipleship IS

Key idea: Jesus continues His mission *through* His disciples.

“A true disciple actually DOES mission and ministry WITH and THROUGH Jesus.”

Leader Notes

- Stress that mission is not an optional add-on.
- Mission is not “for the gifted”; it is the identity of every disciple.

Questions

- What does it mean that Jesus continues His mission through you?
- Where is Jesus inviting you to join Him?

Session 4, Section 4 Participant’s Guide — How Jesus Loves

Key idea: Jesus loves by seeking, serving, and sacrificing.

“He loves by actively seeking out the lost... helping the poor... dying for sinners.”

Leader Notes

- Keep the focus on Jesus’ pattern, not guilt.
- Encourage concrete examples from the Gospels.

Questions

- Which expression of Jesus’ love is easiest? Hardest?
- How does His pattern challenge your rhythms?

Session 5, Section 5 Participant’s Guide — How Jesus Loves Through Us

Key idea: Jesus sends disciples into real places among real people.

“Jesus sends His disciples... to bear much fruit... to be ministers of reconciliation.”

Leader Notes

- Help participants identify their actual mission field: home, workplace, neighborhood, school, friendships.

Questions

- Which “sending” resonates with you right now?
- What does bearing fruit look like in your context?

Session 6, Section 6 Participant's Guide — Practices of a Disciple

Key idea: Discipleship is expressed in daily habits.

Practices include:

- Washing feet
- Loving sacrificially
- Doing good works
- Forgiving
- Wise speech
- Witnessing
- Growing in love

Leader Notes

- Encourage one practice to focus on for the week.
- Avoid overwhelming the group with all of them at once.

Questions

- Which practice is most natural?
- Which one is Jesus inviting you to grow in?

Session 7, Section 7 Participant's Guide — Scripture Engagement

Key idea: Scripture shapes disciples into Christlikeness.

Leader Notes

- Use the Generic Bible Study Guide prompts (page 16).
- Encourage marking passages with C, D, I, F, G, S, or E.

Questions

- What does this passage reveal about Jesus?
- What action or attitude is Jesus inviting?

Session 8, Section 8 Participant's Guide — Personal Inventory

Key idea: Honest reflection leads to transformation.

Leader Notes

- Create a safe, confidential environment.
- Silence is okay — don't rush it.

Questions

- Where am I following Jesus closely?
- What step of obedience is Jesus inviting this week?

Session 9, Section 9 Participant's Guide — Group Application

Key idea: Discipleship is communal and missional.

Leader Notes

- Shift from reflection to shared mission.
- Identify one concrete action the group will take.

Questions

- What opportunities for mission exist around us?
- Who are the lost, hurting, or rebellious Jesus is pursuing?

Session 10, Section 10 Participant's Guide — Closing Prayer Practice

Use the document's prayer frame:

"Jesus through His Spirit lives in us to live HIS love through us."

Leader Notes

- Invite short, simple prayers.
- Pray for specific people and opportunities.

4. Leader Troubleshooting Guide

- If discussion is shallow
Ask: *"Where do you see this in your actual week?"*
- If discussion is too theological
Ask: *"What would this look like in practice?"*
- If someone dominates
Say: *"Let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet."*
- If the group feels overwhelmed
Remind them: *Jesus is the vine; we are the branches. Fruit comes from abiding, not striving.*

5. Leader's Weekly Checklist

- Did we talk about Jesus?
- Did we talk about mission?
- Did we talk about obedience?
- Did we talk about love?
- Did we pray for people by name?
- Did we identify one next step?

If yes, you led well.

Disciple, Discipling, & Discipleship Discussion Participant Guide

A formation tool for groups, classes, and missional communities

1. Opening Reflection

- Read aloud the definition from the document:
- “A disciple would not simply learn cognitive information... A true disciple would learn to do what his or her Rabbi did, sharing the same heart, mind, and attitude of the Rabbi.”

Discuss

- What stands out to you in this description of a disciple?
 - How does this differ from common assumptions about being a Christian today?
 - Where do you see “learning to do what Jesus does” happening in your life right now?
-

2. What Discipleship Is NOT

- The document emphasizes that discipleship is **more than belief, affection, piety, or enthusiasm**.
“Being a disciple of Jesus implies activity on our part. It is more about what we DO than what we DON’T DO.”

Discuss

- Which “lesser versions” of discipleship do you personally drift toward?
 - Why do you think modern Christians often settle for passive discipleship?
 - What helps move a person from passive to active following?
-

3. What Discipleship IS

“A true disciple actually DOES mission and ministry WITH and THROUGH Jesus.”

Discuss

- What does it mean to you that Jesus continues His mission through His disciples?
 - How does this shape or reshape your understanding of your daily life?
 - Where do you sense Jesus inviting you to join Him in mission?
-

4. How Jesus Loves

- The document highlights three core expressions of Jesus’ love:
 - Seeking the lost
 - Serving the hurting
 - Sacrificing Himself for sinners

Discuss

- Which of these three expressions of love is easiest for you? Which is hardest?
 - How does Jesus’ pattern of love challenge your current rhythms or priorities?
 - Where do you see Jesus loving people this way in the Gospels?
-

5. How Jesus Loves Through Us

The document lists many ways Jesus sends His disciples—into homes, neighborhoods, mission fields, and the world.

“Jesus sends His disciples... to bear much fruit... to be ministers of reconciliation... to make disciples.”

Discuss

- Which of Jesus’ “sendings” resonates most with your calling right now?
 - What does “bearing much fruit” look like in your context?
 - How do you understand your role as an ambassador of reconciliation?
-

6. Practices of a Disciple

The document outlines practical expressions of discipleship:

- Washing feet
- Loving sacrificially
- Doing good works
- Forgiving
- Using wise speech
- Making the most of every opportunity
- Witnessing
- Growing in love

Discuss

- Which of these practices is most natural for you?
 - Which one do you feel Jesus is inviting you to grow in?
 - How might your group encourage one another in these practices?
-

7. Scripture Engagement

- Use the list of passages in the back as a reading plan.

For Each Passage as They Apply: Discuss

- What does this text reveal about Jesus’ mission or character?
 - What does it teach about the nature of a disciple?
 - What action or attitude is Jesus inviting His followers to embody?
 - How might this passage shape our life together as a community?
-

8. Personal Inventory

- Invite participants to reflect silently, then share as appropriate.

Discuss

- Where am I currently following Jesus closely?
 - Where am I following at a distance?
 - What step of obedience is Jesus inviting me to take this week?
 - Who in my life needs the love of Jesus expressed through me?
-

9. Group Application

- Move from reflection to shared mission.

Discuss

- What opportunities for mission exist right around us?
 - How can we, as a group, “make the most of every opportunity”?
 - Who are the “lost, hurting, and rebellious” in our community that Jesus is already pursuing?
 - What would it look like for us to join Him there?
-

10. Closing Prayer Practice

- Use this line from the document as a prayer frame:
- “Thankfully Jesus through His Spirit lives in us to live HIS love through us.”

Prayer

- Thank Jesus for His love for you.
- Ask Him to live His love through you this week.
- Pray for specific people who need His mercy.
- Pray for boldness, compassion, and attentiveness to His Spirit.

**1 John 2:1-2 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**

Verses for “Disciple, Discipling, & Discipleship

(For a deeper study, mark & discuss using the Generic study guide in the back. The passages below are listed in the order they appear in the Bible. All Scripture quotes are taken from the NIV unless otherwise noted.)

___ **Matthew 4:19** ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

___ **Matthew 9:11-13** ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

___ **Matthew 10:1-8** ¹ He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

___ **Matthew 11:19** ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions."

___ **Matthew 12:36-37** ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

___ **Matthew 25:35-40** ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

___ **Matthew 28:19-20** ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

___ **Mark 5:19** ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

___ **Mark 10:42-45** ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." freely give.

___ **Luke 4:18** ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

___ **Luke 9:1-2** ¹ When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

___ **Luke 10:1-3** ¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest,

therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

___ **Luke 15:1-7** ¹ Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

___ **Luke 19:10** ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

___ **John 1:14** ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

___ **John 13:12-17** ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

___ **John 13:34-35** ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

___ **John 15:8** ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

___ **John 17:15-18** ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

___ **Acts 1:8** ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

___ **Romans 3:23-25** ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

___ **Romans 5:6-8** ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

___ **Romans 10:14-15,17** ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ...¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

___ **1 Corinthians 13:13** ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

___ **1 Corinthians 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the

world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

___ **Galatians 5:6**⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

___ **Galatians 6:2,9-10**² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ....⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Ephesians 2:8-10**⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Ephesians 4:1,16**¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received....¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

___ **Ephesians 4:29**²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

___ **Ephesians 4:32**³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)**¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

___ **Philippians 2:3-8**³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

___ **Colossians 1:24-29**²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions,¹ for the sake of his body, which is the church.²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

___ **Colossians 4:5**⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

___ **Colossians 4:6**⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **1 Timothy 2:3-4**³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior,⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

¹ What was lacking in Christ's affliction had/has nothing to do with the work of justification. Jesus, through His suffering and death, fully completed the work of justification (Heb. 10:10). What was/is lacking is in the work of proclamation through both word and deed. Not everyone knows. That was the work of the disciples/apostles (the church) then, just as it is now.

___ **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

___ **Hebrews 10:24** ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

___ **James 1:19,22,26** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,...²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.... ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is... worthless.

___ **James 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

___ **1 John 1:1-4** ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.

___ **1 John 2:2** ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

___ **1 John 3:16** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

___ **1 John 4:9-10** ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

___ **1 John 4:9-12** ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

A Generic Bible Study Guide

*"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me;
it has hands, it lays hold of me." – Martin Luther*



"Speak Lord, Your Servant Is Listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

Underline or highlight words you find particularly significant in the passages.

As they apply, complete the sentence stems below: (feel free to be selective)

1. The audience addressed & the context of the passage(s), both historically and within the chapter, suggest...
2. A common denominator that seems to run through many of the passages is....
3. A related or some related Scripture passage(s) that come to mind are....
4. These passages seem to align or not align with the historical teaching of the church in...
5. These passages seem to align or not align with contemporary society's thinking of or in...
6. These passages would have me understand my vocation of loving my neighbor to mean....
7. A new or renewed thought for me is....
8. In at least one verse, something I found to be unique, surprising, and/or challenging is....
9. As I reflect upon these passages, a question I have is....
10. If God is serious here and means for me to take these passages seriously,....
11. In light of these passages, "living a life worthy of my calling/vocation/mission" means....
12. In the light of what God is telling/showing me in these passages I think, feel, and/or believe....
13. In and by the empowering grace of God I will....

If through a passage, you feel God... (explain).

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| i. convicting you, ----- | mark it "C." |
| ii. disturbing you, ----- | mark it "D." |
| iii. inspiring or challenging you, ----- | mark it "I." |
| iv. forgiving and/or comforting you, ----- | mark it "F." |
| v. guiding you, giving you direction, ----- | mark it "G." |
| vi. sending or commissioning you for mission or service, ----- | mark it "S." |
| • To/for whom or what are you being sent _____ | |
| vii. empowering you, ----- | mark it "E." |
| viii. The passage that is the most meaningful for you today----- | mark it *. |

God Seeks to Make a CASE

Through Scripture God Seeks to... (2 Tim 3:15-17)

(make/birth—teach—rebuke—correct—train)

CASE = **C**onvict us of our sin

Assure us of His grace and forgiveness

Stretch us for growth (transformation)

Empower us for action

Bill Cullen's Goals in and for Bible study:

1. Participants experience the presence and touch of God.
2. Participants leave wanting to return.
3. Participants leave wanting to respond to God's touch.
4. Participants experience being a part of the Body of Christ.
5. Participants gain some sort of Biblical knowledge and/or insight.

Remember the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture!