

Providence Baptist Church

Discipleship Class - Disciplines of a Godly Man

Lesson 1: Introduction

Lesson Objectives:

- Setting the context and purpose of study.
- Understanding meaning of disciple, godliness, training, and spiritual discipline.
- Brainstorming hindrances and intimidations to becoming a more disciplined man of God.

1. The main focus of this class is discipline for godliness. What role does **personal** discipline play in developing godliness?
 - a. What thoughts do the word “discipline” bring to your mind? (positive or negative)
2. 1 Timothy 4: 7,8 (“train yourself to be godly”)... What is the literal meaning of “train” here? Practically, step by step, what does this mean you should do?
 - a. Step 1
 - b. Step 2
 - c. Step 3
 - d. Step 4
 - e. Step 5
3. What is the difference between “training” and “spiritual sweat” or is there a difference? Look at 1 Corinthians 9: 25-27.
4. What is Legalism? How can spiritual discipline become a form of legalism?
5. What personal concerns do you have for paying the price to become a more disciplined man of God?

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Lesson 2: Relationship (Part 1) Discipline of Purity

4. Considering the prevalent immorality of our culture, how can we possibly hope to keep our thoughts and behavior pure and not follow David's example. Use the following areas for discussion (share any scripture references).
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Memorization
 - d. Mind
 - e. Hedges
 - f. Reality
 - g. Divine awareness

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Lesson 3: Relationship (Part 2) Discipline of Marriage

Lesson Objectives:

- Understanding the meaning of a Christian marriage.
 - Discuss the 3 disciplines of marital love.
 - Reflect on the disciplines necessary to fulfill the encompassing call to love wives as Christ loved the Church.
1. Read Ephesians 5: 22-23. Write a few paragraphs on the spiritual meaning of Christian marriage. Be prepared to share with the class.

 2. Discuss the **first** discipline of marital love and what it entails giving practical examples.
 - a. Sacrificial Love
 - i. Death

 - ii. Suffering

 - iii. Intercession

 3. Discuss the **second** discipline of marital love and what it entails giving practical examples.
 - a. Sanctifying Love (use Ephesian 5: 26-27 as reference)
 - i. On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing in this area?

 4. Discuss the **third** discipline of marital love and what it entails giving practical examples.
 - a. Self Love
 - i. Physical Incarnation

 - ii. Emotional Incarnation

 - iii. Social Incarnation

 5. The all-encompassing call to love our wives as Christ loved the Church demand specific disciplines. What are they? Sweating any lately on either one of these?

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Lesson 4: Relationship (Part 3) Discipline of Fatherhood

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the disciplines necessary to fulfill the “dos” and “do nots” of fatherhood.
1. Ephesians 6: 4 provides an outline for the “Dos” and “Do nots” of a disciplined father.
 - a. List and discuss the Dos.
 - b. List and discuss the Do Nots.
 - c. How are you measuring up?
 2. What does Proverbs 22: 6 teach about parenting? Does this principle of Scripture still work in today’s world?
 3. List some of the attributes of your Heavenly Father, as described in the Bible. Which of these should be emulated by you as an earthly father? What area(s) causes the most sweat for you?
 4. What did you expect or wanted from your father? Was/Were your expectation(s) met? How did the expectation(s) affect your parenting (positively or negatively)?

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Lesson 5: Relationship (Part 4) Discipline of Friendship

- Reflect on Christ's teaching and example of friendship.
 - Review the 5 disciplines of friendship.
 - Discuss hindrances to practicing biblical friendship for men.
1. Statistics say that 10% of men never have any real friends. Make a list of some of the reasons men do not value friendship.
 2. What can we learn about friendship from Christ's statement about us being His friends? (John 15: 13-15)
 3. What truths of Christian friendship are evident in the relationship between David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 14-18)?
 - a. List as many as you can.
 - b. Anything about David and Jonathan's friendship intimidates you as a *mano* (man)?
 - c. Is such friendship (between David and Jonathan) possible today?
 4. Read 2 Corinthians 7: 6,7.
 - a. What is the Titus touch?
 - b. Why would the Titus touch intimidate you as a *mano* (man)?
 5. Time permitting, list and discuss the 5 disciplines of friendship. How are you doing with each discipline?

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Lesson 6: Soul (Part 1) Discipline of the Mind and Devotion

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the discipline of ordering the mind and devotion on Christian principles.
- 1. Review Proverbs 4:3 and discuss how these scriptures are telling us that input determines output. Give specific and practical examples.
- 2. What does Philippians 4:8 say about our thought life? Make a list.
 - a. Then... what are some of the things we as Christian men need to put out of our minds to become a deeper person and a better Christian? Make a list.
- 3. Read Isaiah 6:5. When you are aware that God knows all about the things you think and do and say, do you feel “ruined”? Why or Why not?
- 4. Why do so many men fail personal devotions and prayer?
- 5. Discuss the following areas of discipline (not exhaustive) that help us better discipline our minds and devotional life.
 - a. Meditation
 - b. Confession
 - c. Adoration
 - d. Submission

On a scale of 1-10, how are you doing in each area?

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Lesson 7: Soul (Part 2) Discipline of prayer

Lesson objectives:

- Reflect on the discipline of ordering your prayer life on Christian principles.
1. Ephesians 6:18 says, “and pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kind of prayers ad request, with this mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” We are charged with elements necessary to fully experience the power to prayer. List at least five and list practical ways of being effective in each area. Be specific.
 2. What do Romans 8:26. 27, and Jude 20 say to you about the Holy Spirit and prayer?
 3. Why is the image of warfare an appropriate one for a consideration of the discipline of prayer (See Ephesians 6:18). Apply this to your own victories and defeats regarding prayer.
 4. Review the pray portrayed in the story of Moses in Exodus 17. Practically speaking, what are some things we can do to help one another persist in prayer?
 5. Using a 3x5 card provided by the facilitator, take a few minutes to begin a prayer list to assist you in praying more frequently for specific situations, circumstances and persons.

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Lesson 7: Soul (Part 3) Discipline of Worship

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the discipline of ordering your worship on Christian principles.
1. List several reasons why we worship?
 - a. Is worship the ultimate priority in your life?
 - b. What are some of the practices that get in the way of true worship corporately and individually?
 2. What are some ways we should prepare ourselves for Sunday worship? How are you doing in these areas?
 3. Why is it so important to know God's truth when we attempt to worship him?
 4. What type of worship is identified in Romans 12:1? How long as it been since you have done what this verse says to do?
 5. What does God's Presence have to do with our worshipping Him (see Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20)?

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Lesson 8: Character (Part 1) Discipline of integrity

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the meaning of biblical integrity
- Discuss the benefits on integrity .. individually and corporately in the Body of Christ

1. Define Integrity

- a. The author says “significantly the bulk of the blame for declining ethics reside with men”. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

2. What role does modern subjectivism and moral relativism play in the colossal slide of integrity in our culture (masculine culture)?

3. Read through Psalm 15.

- a. Make a list of every mentioned character trait that relates to integrity, truth, and honesty.

- b. Review the list and indicate how you are doing on each point (poor, fair, varies, consistently obedient)

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Lesson 8: Character (Part 1) Discipline of integrity

4. Discuss the 5 benefits of integrity and give examples of how each would be carried out.
 - a. Which benefits causes major sweat for you?

5. Reviewing the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Act 5, what does this account teach us today?

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Lesson 9: Character (Part 2) Discipline of Tongue

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on Godly and Ungodly Use of the Tongue.
 - Understanding the steps for sanctification of the tongue.
1. Read James 3:1-12. What does James mean when he says we commit “spiritual arson” with misuses of the tongue?

 2. The author gives 5 examples of “verbal cyanide”. What are they? Which one(s) causes you the most sweat?

 3. Make a list of steps to take in sanctifying and developing a disciplined tongue.

 4. What exhortation concerning our words do we find in James 4:11? Identify your motives for such talk and the proper replacement(s).

 5. Is it possible to even sin during prayer (see Luke 18:11) Do you ever do this?

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Lesson 10: Character (Part 3) Discipline of work

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand work ethics that is informed by God's word
 - Reflect on "work matters to God"
1. Does the statement that Christian men miserably fall in their work ethics either because of sloth or overwork or both a true statement? Why or why not?

 2. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-10. What does work look like apart from God?
 - a. Contrast Ecclesiastes 2:4-10 with Ephesians 2:10. What does work look like with God?

 3. List the 4 aspects of Christian work ethic. How are you doing in each area?

 4. Men, if we are deficient in any area of our work ethic, list 3 things we should do.

 5. What is the relationship between a healthy work ethic and wholeheartedness? (See Ephesians 6:5-8)

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Lesson 11: Character (Part 4) Discipline of Perseverance.

Lesson Objective:

- Understand the true meaning of biblical perseverance.
1. Contrast the meaning of “biblical perseverance” with “perseverance” in our modern culture.

 2. Read Hebrews 12:1. What is the verse telling us to do in order to “finish well” in the faith?
 - a. What are “besetting sins” as they relate to finishing well?

 3. Look again at Hebrews 12:1. What does the scripture tell us about “running” and what does it look like?

 4. Does the “cloud of witnesses” mentioned in Hebrews 12:1 encourage or discourage you? Why or why not?

 5. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 again. 1) Note every detail given about Christ. 2) then list how well or poorly you are doing with each.

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Lesson 12: Ministry (Part 1) Discipline of Church

Lesson Objectives:

- Discuss strengths and weaknesses in the church and how to be a part of making changes.
 - Reflect on the “great doctrine of the Church”
1. What is “McChristian”?
 - a. What is the visible church?

 - b. What is the invisible church?
 2. Statistics indicate that men are far less committed to the church than women – inevitably producing a shriveled leadership. 1) Do you agree? 2) What makes these statistics true?
 3. What should the truth that “we are the church” mean to us? See Hebrews 12:22-24.
 4. Men, at the end of the twentieth century, both the church and lost world need men who practice the discipline of church. The author has suggested several practices. What are they? How are you doing in each area?
 5. List as many strengths and weaknesses as you see in your church. Now write down the ways you personally are contributing to each of these, and also specific ways you can be part of making changes.
 - a. Strengths

 - b. Weaknesses

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Lesson 13: Ministry (Part 2) Discipline or leadership

Lesson Objectives:

- Understanding the meaning of biblical leadership
 - Uncover qualities for effective spiritual leadership.
1. What is “your” definition of leadership? Contrast secular leadership with biblical leadership.

 2. Discuss the following qualities for spiritual leadership. Men, what can you do to allow God to develop these in you more fully?
 - a. Prayer

 - b. Vision

 - c. Devotion

 - d. Magnanimity

 - e. Faith

 - f. The Spirit

 - g. Expendability

 3. Men, look at the life of Joshua, preparation for leadership tells us that if we sincerely want to improve our leadership capacities, what are some of the things we must sweat for? Make a list.

 4. Now that we understand the qualities for biblical leadership, identify the area(s) where you are weak in your performance as a leader and what you will do to grow stronger in those areas.

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Lesson 14: Ministry (Part 3) Discipline of Giving

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on mental and volitional discipline in the grace of giving
- Understand how to grow into spiritual maturity through grace of giving

1. What is “grace giving”?
 - a. There is some confusion today about what God requires for His people in the area of giving. What is your understanding of the tithes as opposed to grace giving?
2. How does the lack of grace giving in your life hinder you from becoming all that you should or could do as a Godly man?
3. Men, what does it mean to be “rich towards God” (refer to Luke 12:21).
4. In the matter of grace giving,
 - a. What is mental discipline?
 - b. What is volitional discipline?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9. List as many principles of giving as you can, then rate yourself on each one.

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Lesson 15: Ministry (Part 4) Discipline of Witness

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the discipline of witnessing
 - Study Andrew, Jesus' disciple, approach to witnessing and his effectiveness
1. Analyze the example of Andrew and his witness for the Christ in Matthew 10; Luke 6; John 1; 6 and 12.
 - a. What made his witness more effective?
 - b. Why did he witness?
 - c. What was his message?
 - d. What kind of heart did Andrew exhibit?
 2. Read John 1:36. Why do the people you know need to hear the message of John the Baptist?
 3. For the purpose of witnessing, list practical ways we can invest in relationship.
 4. When studying the lesson on prayer, we made a list of those we committed to prayer, are you willing to add to your list individuals that need to know Jesus Christ as their lord and savior and witnessing to them when the opportunity presents itself.
 5. Why is it more difficult to witness to family members and relatives? How can we be more effective in this area?

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Lesson 16: Ministry (part 5) Discipline of ministry

Lesson Objectives:

- Reflect on the cost of discipleship
1. Do you have a **little heart** or a **ministering heart**, as the author described the two? Describe in your own words, those two hearts.

 2. Read John 4. Why did Jesus reach out to the Samaritan woman given she was a Samaritan? What kind of prejudice did Jesus overcome? Conversely, what kind of prejudices prevents you from ministering this way.

 3. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:9 and 2 Corinthians 11:27. List distractions and hardship Paul faced in his ministry. Look back at the list, would any of these interfere with effective Christian ministry for you.

 4. How can Psalms 37:23 encourage you to see divine appointments of ministry in your life?

 5. What might serving God and reaching out to others might cost you?

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Lesson 17: Grace of Discipline

Lesson Objectives:

- Recapping and understanding biblical discipline

_____ Discipline of Purity

_____ Discipline of Marriage

_____ Discipline of Fatherhood

_____ Discipline of Friendship

_____ Discipline of Mind

_____ Discipline of Devotion

_____ Discipline of Prayer

_____ Discipline of Worship

_____ Discipline of Integrity

_____ Discipline of Tongue

_____ Discipline of Work

_____ Discipline of Perseverance

_____ Discipline of Church

_____ Discipline of Leadership

_____ Discipline of Giving

_____ Discipline of Witness

_____ Discipline of Ministry

On a scale of 5 with 5 being the highest, rate how well you are doing in each particular discipline. The discipline where you ranked yourself the lowest, make a list from the previous lessons ways to improve that discipline.

