

WMU of Texas
Missional Disciple-Making Bible Study



READ THE BIBLE AND APPLY IT

The Power of God's Word

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WMU of Texas

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This resource is made possible by your gifts to the
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Teri Ussery is a wife, mom, and “Gigi” to five grandchildren. Teri has a passion for sharing the transformative power of God’s Word. Her heart for discipling others has led her to teach Bible studies and speak at women’s events and conferences for over four decades. Teri holds a Master’s in Theology from Dallas Baptist University and serves as the Adult and Young Adult Strategist for WMU of Texas in Dallas, Texas.



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INTRODUCTION

What is Your Mission in Life?

How has God called you to live as a Christ-follower? What is His challenge for your life's journey?

Some question why God doesn't immediately dispatch us to heaven when we become a Christ-follower. Why would He leave us here on this fallen earth to endure the hardships and trials this life brings?

Jesus provides the answer as He tells His disciples, who are being left behind, that they are to bring the Gospel message to the lost. What we call the **Great Commission**.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20

We are commissioned to make disciples of Jesus. He leaves us with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task of bringing others into a saving faith, and then discipling them in how to live out the Christ-life.

To learn more about WMU of Texas and national WMU's missions disciple-making curriculum for all ages, visit wmutx.org/resources.

To download our mentoring resources and missional disciple-making Bible studies, visit wmutx.org/mentoring.

The Principles of Missional Disciple-Making

WMU of Texas has created Bible studies to help you on your disciple-making journey. We hope to equip you in the following ways to accomplish the task for which God has called you.

Consider the following four foundational principles as you begin your disciple-making experience.

MISSION

Luke shares the departing words of Jesus before He ascended to the Father, leaving His followers to consider His mandate.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Jesus assured His followers that the power coming of the indwelling Holy Spirit would surely compel them to be His Witness. He instructed all Christ-followers to be on mission to share the Gospel locally, regionally, and to the ends of the earth.

MENTORING

While the mandate to share the Gospel with the whole world seems overwhelming, we are also given instructions for how we are to fulfill such a great command. The writer of Proverbs gives us a hint.

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

Proverbs 27:17

This Proverb refocuses our disciple-making. Here, we are encouraged to build relationships one by one. We are instructed to sharpen each other as we invest in missional relationships through mentoring. So the question becomes, ***whose life are you pouring into? Who are you discipling?***

METAMORPHOSIS

What is the purpose of disciple-making? Paul tells us that our goal in disciple-making is to equip and encourage another to realize the heart-transformation God longs to bring.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2

The purpose of our investment in others is to bring about transformation. We derive the word “metamorphosis” from the Greek word for transformation, which is best seen in the life cycle of the caterpillar. Metamorphosis allows realization of the full potential within the caterpillar to become a butterfly.

Our goal of investing in the lives of others through mentoring relationships is to lead them to experience a true transformation, becoming the person God has created them to be.

MULTIPLICATION

The result of the transformation we experience is the need to share our transformation with others. The Great Commission tells us clearly:

“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 28:18-20

Much like His departing words in Acts 1:8, Matthew records Jesus' command that, as we are going about our daily lives, we are to be about His business of disciple-making. He empowers and equips, but we become the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus to invest in disciple-making. We are to teach others to obey His commands and baptize others into His Kingdom, until the very end of the age.

May you find Christ and His purpose for YOU as you walk this missional disciple-making journey.

Getting Started

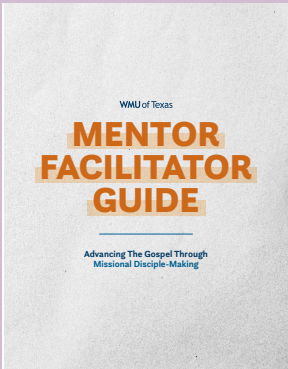
As you begin your journey, either solo, with another person, or in a small group, here are some next steps to help you get started.

You will find five missional disciple-making resources that will help you on your disciple-making journey at wmutx.org/mentoring. You may start with any of the five. There is no anticipated order to the studies. You will find that they all equip you in specific ways to be a missional disciple-maker.

As you embark on your study, consider that God may want you to invite someone else to join you. Feel free to study on your own, but allow space for God to show you others whom you could encourage through the study as well.



Scan to
download the
Mentoring Guide
for Leaders.



MISSIONAL DISCIPLE-MAKING BIBLE STUDIES

Here is an overview of the five spiritual practices you will experience in each Bible study to equip you as a missional disciple-maker.

Each Bible study includes a Bible passage, a short commentary, and a practical tool to help you practice what you have learned. Download at wmutx.org/mentoring

Bible Study	Goal	Application
SURRENDERED PRAYER <i>Matthew 6:9-13,</i> <i>Luke 11:1-4</i>	To deepen intimacy with God and submit every aspect of life to His will.	Learning to use God’s Word to pray.
READ THE BIBLE & APPLY IT <i>2 Timothy 3:16-17,</i> <i>James 1:22</i>	To renew one’s mind and gain wisdom for living in His truth.	To study God’s Word and put it into practice.
PRAYING FOR OTHERS <i>1 Timothy 2:1-4,</i> <i>Colossians 4:2-4</i>	To partner with God in intercession, asking for His work in the lives of others.	Identify people to pray for and include them in your daily prayer time.
SHARE YOUR FAITH <i>Matthew 28:19-20,</i> <i>Romans 10:14-15</i>	To boldly and lovingly proclaim the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.	Practice sharing your testimony and the Gospel with others.
GATHER IN COMMUNITY <i>Hebrews 10:24-25,</i> <i>Acts 2:42-47</i>	To grow as disciples within the Body of Christ and be equipped for missional living.	Gathering with other believers for worship, study, fellowship, and service.

How To Use This Study

As you step into each of these Bible studies, you will implement a method of study easily remembered by its acronym: SOAP.

SOAP OVERVIEW

Sometimes studying God's Word can be overwhelming and intimidating at best. However, Jesus tells us in **John 14:26** that the "Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

As a Christ-follower, you have the Holy Spirit teacher within you to help you understand and apply God's Word. Sometimes it just helps for us to have a structure within which to work.

There are a number of different study methods. The method we will use is the SOAP Method. It provides a framework to read the scripture, observe what the text says, apply the scripture personally, and pray for God to speak through His Word.



SCRIPTURE

Read the passage out loud or write it down. Read it slowly and thoroughly for context.



OBSERVE

What does the passage say?

Read the passage again, focusing on observation. You might ask the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions as you observe. Note key details like repeated words, people involved, locations, and major events. Journal your observations.



APPLY

What does the passage mean to me?

Read the passage again and consider how it applies to your life. This step answers, ***"How does this passage apply to my life?"*** As you journal, ask yourself if any of the things you see in the passage apply to a current situation or struggle in your life.



PRAY

Ask God to speak clearly through His Word and guide you as you seek to live out the truths you learned from the passage.

A Note on Bible Study Translations

The Bible, originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, has been translated into English many times. This study will primarily use the English Standard Version (ESV). But reading the same passage of Scripture from more than one translation can be a helpful study tool. You can find a variety of translations on a Bible app or websites such as biblegateway.com.

BIBLE STUDY

ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17



SCRIPTURE

READ THE BIBLE AND APPLY IT

The Power of God's Word

By: Teri Ussery

In the beginning ... God.

Recently, God has compelled me to follow a read through the Bible in a year plan. As I embarked on another year-long journey through His Word, I was again reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit as we take in His Word.

As I read the first chapter of Genesis, I slowed down and prayed. I asked God to let me read this very familiar passage with fresh eyes – to help me see things I've not seen before. The result is that I saw how personally involved He was with every aspect of creation.

I observed that God spoke light into being. He spoke the separation of heaven and earth. He separated the land from the sea with a word. He spoke the fish and birds, livestock and wild animals, and things that crawled on the ground into being.

He saw that what He was creating was good. He created mankind in the image of the Triune God. The word used here in Hebrew is *bara*, meaning to create, to shape, to form, and to fill. In other words, God was personally, intimately, and intentionally involved in the creation of all that is.

Given that God is that personally involved with creation, **do you believe He is that personally involved in your life?**

I believe He is.

God uses His written Word to reveal His nature and character to mankind. His Word is the perfect guidance system, revealing His plan and purpose for our lives.

As we seek to know Him more deeply, walk with Him more intentionally, and determine His purpose and plan for our lives more specifically, then spending time in His Word is key.

Now let's practice with passages from 2 Timothy and 1 Peter, and see what connections we can make.



**365-DAY
BIBLE
READING
PLANS**



Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What does this passage reveal about the source of the Scriptures?

2. This passage says scripture is useful for what four things?

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for _____ ,
for _____ , for _____ ,
and for _____ in _____ .*

3. How would you define these four things?

Action	Personal Definition

4. What is the impact of God's Word in the life of the believer?



APPLY

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

1. What is the good work you personally are being equipped to perform?
2. Are any of the key words in this passage particularly meaningful to you?



PRAY

Ask God to show you insights or applications of the scripture you have just read. What does God want to teach you? Is there any correction he is making through this passage? Is there an instruction He is giving you? Listen as you pray.

BIBLE STUDY

A LIVING STONE AND A HOLY PEOPLE

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”^[a]

⁸ and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 PETER 2:4-10



SCRIPTURE

READ THE BIBLE AND APPLY IT

The Power of God's Word



Read 1 Peter 2:4-10



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. Write down any key words. Often, you can identify these because they are repeated often in the passage.
2. Read the passage again and make a note of what you learn about each of the key words.

Keyword	Reflection

Sample Key words: living stone, chosen, precious, spiritual house, holy priesthood, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's special possession, chosen race, and darkness/light



APPLY

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

1. Read the passage again and record anything in the passage you believe God is teaching you personally.
2. What is the overarching truth that God has revealed to you in the passage?
3. How can you apply this passage to your life today?



PRAY

Ask God to show you how to live out this passage in everyday life.

Missional disciple-making must be founded upon scripture. The word itself implies that the disciple is learning every aspect of the one who is being followed. The disciple learns about the leader, understands the teachings, and digs deep into the purpose of being a disciple.

Being a missional disciple-maker begins with Jesus. In order to understand the purpose, one must understand the Person. The greatest source in becoming a disciple is found in the Word of God.

To grow as a disciple-maker, we must grow as a disciple. A consistent, deepening understanding of God's Word is integral to our growth as disciples and disciple-makers.

NEXT STEPS

Now that you have practiced studying God's Word, pray. Ask God to help you find another person who would benefit from your journey through scripture.

God never intends for us to keep Him to ourselves. He longs for us to share our spiritual journey with others. Whether you have experienced this study alone or with one or two others, ask God to show you others with whom you can share.

The goal of studying the Bible is not just for you to gain knowledge, but for you to grow in your relationship with the Lord and share the Truth of God's Word with others.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDIES & RESOURCES



Ready to continue your disciple-making journey? Explore our other Bible studies and mentoring resources available at wmutx.org/mentoring. These resources provide valuable guidance and support for deepening your faith and helping others grow in theirs.

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Scan for Bible
Reading Plans

BIBLE READING PLAN

There are many read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plans. Feel free to choose one that works best for you. One recommendation would be to visit this [link](#) and choose a plan that looks appealing to you.

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