

one
to
one

One-to-one ministry is; *“one Christian taking the initiative with another individual to help them know Christ better and obey him more fully, through studying the Scriptures, prayer (for and with them) and sharing one’s life with them – and leaving the results to God.”*

•IDM•
Intentional Disciple Making



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JIM TURRENT

•IDM•
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Central Baptist Church

Syllabus

The following studies are designed to prompt discussion that will develop our understanding of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are part of what we are calling the IDM (Intentional Disciple Making) approach. As you go through these studies you will find that they are set quite deliberately within the life of the church. This is because we believe that following Jesus – although deeply personal - is not a solo exercise but a shared one. We hope that you will find the prompts and questions helpful.

One-to-one ministry is; “one Christian taking the initiative with another individual to help them know Christ better and obey him more fully, through studying the Scriptures, prayer (for and with them) and sharing one’s life with them – and leaving the results to God.” One-to-One is . . .¹

Intentional – it is something we commit to.

Purpose driven – the goal is growth in Christ.

Biblical – with the Scriptures being core.

Accountable – there is third party support.

Voluntary – this will not be for everyone.

Time limited – minimum 12 months – maximum 18 months.

The basic agreement is as follows, to;

- Meet together on a regular (monthly?) basis for 30-45 minutes.
- Agree specific goals. (Where is growth needed?)
- Use the syllabus as a basis for discussion.
- Respect confidences.
- Refer if necessary to the One-to-One oversight.

Once the partnership term has concluded, this does not mean the end of the friendship! We would hope that friendships would continue quite naturally. Do remember this process is what the writer Jerry Bridges calls a 'dependent responsibility'.² Growth is commanded in the Bible, but we make progress only with the help of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your openness to walk this path. May God bless and deepen you in your walk with him.

¹ de Witt, Sophie, *Authentic Media*, Milton Keynes, 2003


² Bridges, Jerry, *The Transforming Power of the Gospel*, NavPress, (Colorado Springs, CO), 2012, p16

Worshipping with God's people

At the centre of our understanding of communal worship is an understanding of God and of what he has done for us in Christ. When we understand what God has done for us in the death and resurrection of Christ, we also come to understand that we are not only brought together with God through faith in Christ, but that at the same time we are also brought together in the fellowship of the church with all those who also trust in Christ.

Read Hebrews 10 v 19-25

- 1 The writer to the Hebrews begins with a reference to the confidence we have in drawing near to God in worship (v19). Share your testimonies (the way God has worked to bring you to himself) with each other.
- 2 God has brought us to himself and to each other through the cross of Christ. This is called the atonement. Talk about your own understanding of the cross and what it means to you. (v19-22)
- 3 What is the difference between assurance and over-confidence? (v22)
- 4 Why do you think verses 23-25 link faithfulness with meeting together?
- 5 Is there anything new that has struck you from Hebrews 10 that you would want to note and to apply to your life?

 What are your main goals for One-to-One?

Pray together. (If you have never done this before then read a verse of Scripture or a verse of hymn that means a lot to you.)

Take Notes Worshipping with God's people


A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

Reading the Bible

Following Christ is directly related to the Bible. It is through his word (that Christ promised to bring through his apostles - John 14v26)) that we come to know him. Put very simply, the Old Testament points to Christ (Luke 24) and the New Testament explains him, and so if we want to get to know Christ and follow him it is to the word of Christ – the Bible - that we go.

Read 2 Timothy 3v10-17

- 1 In Paul’s message to Timothy we see that the Bible is not just to be a head-knowledge but a prompt to action (v10) – and sometimes at great cost. Discuss what it means – or what it might mean for you - to be submitted to God’s word. Give examples of challenges you face/may face?
- 2 Paul talks about Scripture as being ‘God-breathed’. Different writers wrote with different styles, but they had a common author, the Holy Spirit. (Sometimes because they are so closely related the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ.) Are there any questions about the Bible that you have?
- 3 Think of some people who have been good examples of the ‘word lived out’ in your life. What was it about them that made an impact on you?
- 4 Read v17 again. What are your gifts? And what steps might you need to take to be better equipped for serving Jesus?

 Return to your goals. How are you progressing?

Pray together. (Remember – a verse of the Bible/hymn if you’re nervous!)

Wayne Grudem’s book of Christian Doctrines is a great summary of teaching and could help you go a little deeper.)

Take Notes Reading the Bible

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Praying continually

Read Luke 11v1-4

I imagine that this request from one of the disciples was prompted by seeing the intimacy that Jesus enjoyed with his Father. The astonishing truth is that by his death Jesus has opened up for all who believe in him the opportunity for intimacy in prayer with God. Prayer is a mystery. But it is also an incredible gift opened up for us at an astonishing cost. (Hebrews 9; 1 Timothy 2v5)

- 1 Why do you think when teaching his disciples to pray that Jesus began 'Our Father, hallowed be your name'?
- 2 Talk about what patterns of prayer you have and any different ideas that might help. (Are you a morning person? Or a night owl?)
- 3 What answers to prayer have you had recently?
- 4 Some people use the acronym ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) in prayer. Might this help you?
- 5 Jesus teaching on prayer reminds us that God is interested in the great things of our lives 'your kingdom come' and in the detail 'our daily bread'. What big things and small things concern you just now?

 How are the One-to-One 'goals' doing?

Pray about your goals and the 'great things' and 'details' that concern you just now.



Take Notes Praying continually

A large rectangular area with a blue border, containing horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

Serving one another

A sense of vocation is something that is fast disappearing in our culture. But every believer has been given a call to serve and must explore what their calling or vocation will be. It really doesn't matter what form our service takes. What does matter is the way in which we view it and engage in it. What an incredible example Jesus gives to us in the following passage.

Read John 13v1-17

- 1 Our consumer culture puts the emphasis upon *self*. Do we sometimes find this tendency in church? In ourselves?
 - 2 Everyone in that Upper Room knew that there was a menial task to be done – but no-one was prepared to do it. Jesus serves the disciples here in the face of pride and betrayal. How does Christ's example affect you?
 - 3 How do you deal with criticism or opposition?
 - 4 Can you think of some good examples of Christian service? What were the key elements that stood out?
 - 5 What task is there – perhaps menial, perhaps not – that you could do for the Lord?
-  How are the 'goals' coming along?
-  What steps in service will you determine to take?

Take Notes Serving one another

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Giving to God's work

The church at large has had a bad press in the area of money. TV evangelists making manipulative appeals, misappropriation of funds etc. These things are an utter disgrace. In Central Baptist – like the vast majority of well-run churches – we have properly audited accounts and accountability. Yet the misuse of money should not blind us to its importance. Money - and our attitude to it - is an acid test of our commitment to the Lord. The New Testament promotes giving. 2 Corinthians 9:7 talks about generously and proportionately,, 2 Corinthians 8:12 encourages giving what you can afford, 1 Timothy 5:17–18 exhorts supporting the financial needs of Christian workers, Acts 11:29 promotes feeding the hungry wherever they may be and James 1:27 states that the reality of our faith is seen – in part – in helping those in need. People in the OT were obliged to tithe (give a tenth of their income). Many Christians today use this as a guide to their giving.

Read Mark 10v17-31

- 1 It is noticeable that Jesus doesn't get *mad* – just *sad* about this young man! In essence what Jesus does is to expose his idolatry. He had not kept the commandments as he thought – especially number one! Do you think we are more attached to money, possessions than we may think?
- 2 This young man thought that he held his money – but his money held him – and held him back from Jesus. In what ways can a love of money hold us back from Jesus?
- 3 Jesus stunned his disciples which his 'eye of the needle' comment. But he can free us from our materialism and save us from whatever holds us.

? Is your giving to God's work realistic? Need to pray/think about this?

? How are your IDM goals progressing?

Take Notes Giving to God's work


Lined area for taking notes, containing 20 horizontal dotted lines.


Witnessing about God's love

Read Matthew 28v16-20

The thrust of Jesus command is not to press for *decisions* – but to *make disciples*. It is by lip and by life that we declare Christ. Both aspects of witness - living it out and speaking it out - are important. We have not been faithful in sharing Christ until we have spoken about him. Our culture is one in which we are asked to accept that everyone's message is equally valid. But our authority is not our culture – but Christ (v18) and he said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14v6)

- 1 How do you feel about sharing your faith in Christ? Don't you think it's amazing that some disciples doubted even in the physical presence of the risen Lord?
- 2 Are you confident in the *core* truths of the Gospel?
- 3 What is there in your life that might be a block to people seeing Jesus in you? Is dealing with this one of your goals? Should it be?
- 4 Just now – or for next time – practice speaking (without using clichés!) how you became a Christian and what it means to you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Hone it down to one minute – it *can* be done!
- 5 Baptism is our declaration of allegiance to Christ. If you have been baptised share what that meant to you. If you have not been baptised then speak to one of the pastors or elders!!

 Ask God to open up an opportunity for you to share your faith with someone this week.

 Are you progressing on the 'goals'? Be encouraged.

Take Notes Witnessing about God's love

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Living a holy life

We have all heard the stories of people who have been put off Christianity by Christians! The truth we hold to must be held lovingly and with integrity. A life that is truly lived for God will be authentic and attractive to others. In the Old Testament there were items that were set apart for the worship of God. In a similar way Christians are set apart, sanctified (means set apart) for that purpose too. Our lives are no longer to be lived for self – but to please our holy and loving God.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4v1-8

- 1 How does Paul's teaching to the Thessalonians differ from the general world-view of people today?
- 2 Can you say – hand on heart – that you are living to please God?
- 3 What things about Christians would have put you off following Jesus? Do you see these tendencies in others now? Or in yourself?
- 4 Paul makes it clear that – particularly in a sexually promiscuous culture – that holiness is not just an option – but an order (v8)! Are there areas of life that you need to think through in the light of this teaching?

 How are the 'goals' coming along?

Take a moment of quietness to reflect on areas of your life that need to change and then pray that God would empower you to do so.


Take Notes Living a holy life


Dotted lines for taking notes.


Review Meeting

We trust that you have enjoyed and benefitted from these studies. But discipleship doesn't end here. In fact – it doesn't end until we see Christ face to face! So keep on moving forward! These are the themes we have studied;

- 1 Worshipping with God's people.
- 2 Reading the Bible.
- 3 Praying continually.
- 4 Belonging to a small group.
- 5 Discerning God's will.
- 6 Serving one another.
- 7 Giving to God's work.
- 8 Witnessing about God's love.
- 9 Living a holy life.

 Which of the above themes have made the biggest impact?

 Which themes need further attention?

 What are your forward goals for growth in Christ?

It is a great thing to have someone come alongside us for part of the journey. But we need to remember that – although we are helped along the way by other Christians – that it is Christ we follow. Encourage each other as you read these words from Hebrews 12;

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Bibliography

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Bridges, Jerry, *The Transforming Power of the Gospel*, NavPress, (Colorado Springs, CO), 2012, p16