

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. There is a lot of talk in the church about the word discipleship, but what, exactly, do *you* think it means? (6-9)

2. Read Matthew 28:18-20. The only imperative or command given here by Jesus is to ***make disciples***. What part does each of the following play in the process of making disciples? (6-9)
 - a. Go –

 - b. Baptism –

 - c. Teaching –

 - d. Jesus' authority –

 - e. Jesus' ongoing presence –

3. How are discipleship and salvation the same? How are they different? (9-11)

4. When does discipleship begin: before or after a person gets saved? (11-13)

5. What part does the Holy Spirit play in our discipleship process? (12-13)

6. Read Colossians 3:5-17. What part do you play in growing as a disciple? (13-14)

7. Hopefully, having already answered all the above questions, you can answer this: What is the distinction between evangelism and discipleship? (14-16)

8. What part does the *Gospel* play in the discipleship process? (16-20)

9. Can discipleship take place outside the Church? (21-22)

10. When a church takes disciplining its people seriously, where should it begin? (22-23)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

Personal – How well are you currently growing as a disciple of Jesus? Where are you on the following line?

UNSAVED INDIVIDUAL		SAVED INDIVIDUAL				
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Unsaved and outside of the church with no interest in spiritual things	Being nurtured and is very interested in spiritual things	Believing: A new Christian, immature and needing mentoring	Growing: Those actively growing personally. Beginning to get involved in ministry	Becoming: Spiritually maturing. Needs to be trained to disciple new believers	Serving: Spiritually mature. Should be trained to disciple A-E	Leading: Spiritually mature. Should be trained to lead and disciple the church

What plan can you make to move further along in your walk with Jesus? Why not make that plan *now* while it is on your mind?

APPLICATION

Church – Steve gives a number of helpful ideas at the end of the study. (26-29) If you are an elder, why not get your session to meet and discuss your overall strategy for discipleship. If you are a teacher or small group leader, ask your group how well they feel they are being disciple, and see what you can do as a group to move people along.

For Further Study

The Walk, Stephen Smallman. P&R Publishing, 2009.

Beginnings: Understanding How We Experience the New Birth, Stephen Smallman. P&R, 2015.

As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship, Howard and William Hendricks. Moody, 1995.

Find this and more at www.pcabookstore.com.