



# **Spiritual Boot Camp**

## *Discipleship Lessons*

### *Introductory Guide*



## **Vision for the Lessons**

These seven discipleship lessons are a tool for disciple-makers for laying a Biblical and reproducible foundation of faith in a new or ungrounded disciple.

## **Purpose of the Lessons**

- Lesson One:** **Assurance of Salvation** To review the gospel message, find assurance of salvation, and equip the disciple in knowing and sharing the Gospel and their testimony.
- Lesson Two:** **Devotional Life** To equip the disciple to pray, to read and obey the Bible, and to begin a devotional life.
- Lesson Three:** **The Church** To explain God's purpose for the church and to encourage active participation.
- Lesson Four:** **The Father Heart of God** To encounter and embrace the perfect, Father heart of God.
- Lesson Five:** **The Holy Spirit** To introduce the disciple to the person, work, and indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.
- Lesson Six:** **Growing Christ-Like** To lay a foundation for ongoing Christ-like growth through love, obedience, and victory over sin.
- Lesson Seven:** **The Great Commission** To motivate the disciple to life-long participation in the Great Commission.

## **The Process**

- Life on Life:** These lessons are designed to be used in one-on-one or small group conversation. Look at this as a discussion guide, not as a workbook. Consider these three ingredients necessary to produce maturity in Christ:
1. *Relational vulnerability* means real, open, honest, self-disclosing, and confessional relationships that give the Holy Spirit permission to remake us.
  2. *Centrality of truth* is emphasized when people open their lives to one another around the truth of God's Word, and the Lord begins to rebuild their lives from the inside out.
  3. *Mutual accountability* is authority given to others to hold us accountable to mutually agreeable standards, in other words, "iron sharpening iron."
- Self-Discovery:** The idea is to let the Scriptures teach the disciple. Let the disciple seek on their own to understand and communicate what the Scripture says. The discipler's role is to clarify and teach as needed to ensure accurate understanding.
- Reproducing:** Cast the vision from the outset that the Lord wants the disciple to train someone else as soon as He sends them someone. They will need to take notes in a way that will help them to remember and reproduce the lesson.
- Obedience:** At the end of each lesson the discipler and the disciple must decide on how to apply the truths they studied. Discuss how they can measure the application to be sure it was completed. Be more specific than, "I want to have a devotion time." Decide on the details for the devotion time, place, and what that time will cover.
- Accountability:** At the beginning of each lesson, discuss their success with applying the truths from the previous week. Be sure that you have done so also. You can always improve on something, no matter how mature you are in the Lord! The disciple can learn by seeing what you do.

## Keep in Mind

- Some lessons may challenge their beliefs. Have them explain in their own words. Give instruction if needed and see if there is any need for clarification.
- If you have a good illustration of your own experience, share it to help them understand the concept of the lesson.
- Remember the Lord is the teacher/discipler. Keep Him in charge through prayer and through faith in His promise to lead and guide us in all truth (John 16:13,14) by His Spirit.
- Each week there is a verse(s) to memorize. Teaching the disciple to “hide God’s Word in his/her heart” will be integral to what God desires to do in the disciple, but also in the disciple’s being able to tell God’s story (sharing the Good News of the Gospel). Ensure that you commit to memorizing these verses along with the disciple.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is the purpose of these lessons?***

These lessons are intended to lay a firm foundation in the life of a new believer as well as to provide a simple, reproducible tool for disciple-makers. The first lesson is a review of the Gospel. Some may discover that they are not a believer. We hope that everyone will be equipped to use the simple steps to sharing the Gospel and to sharing their testimony in the process of leading someone to the Lord. We also hope that the strength of the disciple’s faith and the foundations for their belief will be built through these lessons.

### ***Taking someone through a lesson is not really my style. Do I have to use this format?***

Everyone is encouraged to use these lessons, even if it is not your normal style. There are tremendous benefits in having a simple, reproducible tool. The mark of true discipleship is personal growth *and* helping generations of others to grow. Use the lesson format as the template, but incorporate your own style in leading and discussing.

### ***What do I do if someone I meet with does not want to do them?***

Simply move on to someone who is interested and open. Not everyone will be responsive to the Lord (see Luke 8, the story of the seed and the sower). A good disciple is someone who is faithful, available, and teachable.

### ***Am I supposed to teach these lessons or let the person just work through it on their own?***

The interpersonal relationship you develop with someone as you take them through the lessons is absolutely essential for this discipleship to work. That is why we ask each person to go through this series with a discipler. We don’t want anyone to go through this series alone. The goal is to help the disciple learn how to do more and more self-discovery from the Scriptures.

### ***The lessons seem pretty basic. Does everyone have to go through them? Do I have to do it with someone else?***

Successful discipleship is not just knowing the material for yourself, but being able to pass it along to someone else. 2 Timothy 2:2 says, “*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*” This is why everyone is asked to go through the lessons. More of the truths will be absorbed into your own heart as you teach and clarify them for others.

### ***I notice that there is a lot of accountability required in the lessons. Why?***

Head knowledge without application and heart change is unprofitable. Accountability assures that the lessons are being absorbed and causing the change that the Word of God can bring (see 2 Timothy 3:16,17). Having someone who cares, prays, and encourages throughout the process is vital!

### ***I feel uncomfortable with the idea that I know more than the person whom I am supposed to disciple. How do I take a friend or peer through these lessons?***

Even though discipling someone who has been a believer for a while may seem awkward, the focus of this type of relationship is learning how to use the tool for discipling—learning the reproducible process by observation and participation. The lessons can be helpful review and a chance to learn in a deeper way. Paul said in Philippians 3:13 that even he had not arrived, yet pressed on toward the goal for which Christ called him. If you are meeting with someone you consider a peer in the Lord, relate with them as a friend and journey together in the maturation process. Invite them to relate as iron sharpening iron. Ask if they are okay with your taking the initial lead. Their response is an indication of whether they are teachable, wanting to grow and willing to be accountable. For the Lord’s sake, focus your energy on the hungry. Someone who is hungry for God will be willing to learn from anyone.