

Plant: **Introduction** | Video 1

Introduction

Welcome to our video discipleship series, *Plant. Grow. Multiply*. The goal of this series is to help you take your next step in your Christian journey and to help you become a disciple maker. Picturing the growth process of a tree will help you understand what it means to grow in Christ. What starts with planting a seed grows into a tree that produces fruit and multiplies to make other trees that produce fruit. In the same way, we want to help you **plant the Gospel, grow in community, and multiply through service.**

Plant. Grow. Multiply.

How to Use This Study

This first set of videos are designed to help you plant the Gospel in your life. To maximize your experience with this material, we encourage you to do things:

- 1. Watch the video with someone else.** Look for someone slightly ahead of you on your faith journey or someone whom you can help take his or her next step.
- 2. Discuss and read further on these topics.** These videos are meant to serve as appetizers to the meals of discipleship discussions you can have with one another.
- 3. Focus on obedience and accountability.** Discipleship is a lot like buying paint at Home Depot. You might get the supplies you need to get the job done, but nothing will change until you go home and apply it.

What Is a Disciple?

A disciple simply put is a follower of Jesus. Below you find the verse that describes the time when Jesus called his first disciples and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Matthew 4:19

He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

3 Components to Being a Disciple

- 1. A disciple follows Jesus.** We don't just follow a set of ideas, but instead, we follow the person of Jesus, believe that He is God, and try to live as Jesus lived.
- 2. A disciple fishes for people.** The people Jesus was calling to follow Him were fishermen by trade. So the fact that Jesus was calling them to fish for people was a metaphor to give them a new purpose and to show them the importance of reaching out to those who don't know Jesus yet. The Gospel really is good news, and as disciples of Jesus, we should share that good news with others.
- 3. A disciple fellowships with believers.** While the decision to follow Jesus is personal, the practice of following Jesus was never meant to be done alone. Life is difficult, and we need one another. To live in fellowship means to live connected in community with other believers. You need people to encourage you in life, and people need you. Discipleship is always a team sport.

Additional Reading

Matthew 9:9-13; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-46; 1 John 1:1-9;

Plant: **Your New Identity** | Video 2

Today, we're discussing what it means to have a new identity in Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 (Bible verse known as the 'Great Commission')

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Image to Remember: **Receive the gift.**

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Gospel in 4 Phrases (from John 3:16)

1. God **loves**.

2. God **gave**.

3. We **believe**.

4. We **live**.

Truth to Declare: **Don't live for your identity. Live from your identity.**

Applications

1. Have you prayed to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

2. Have you been baptized? Baptism is the natural next step once you believe in Jesus Christ. It is the public expression of your personal belief.

Additional Reading

Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 3:23, 6:4; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:1-10

Plant: **Holy Spirit** | Video 3

Today, we're discussing the purpose of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 2:6 (NIV)

6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

How are we expected to live as Jesus did? He is God. We are not. That doesn't seem possible, does it? Did you know that while on earth, Jesus' ministry was marked by His dependence upon and connection to the Holy Spirit? Three examples of this can be found in Luke 3:21-22 at his baptism, Luke 4:1 when he was led into the wilderness, and Luke 4:14 when He began his preaching ministry. Pastor Dann Spader said, "Jesus did not dip into His deity to live out His humanity." In other words, Jesus gave us the example to follow in that He depended upon the Holy Spirit, which means we can, too.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Godhead known as the trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit serves as the substitute presence of Jesus in the life of every believer, and Jesus promised the coming of the Holy Spirit into his disciples in John chapter 14 verses 16-17 and John chapter 16 verses 7-15. In John chapter 3, the same word for wind is used to describe the Spirit of God. This word picture actually helps us visualize the working power of the Holy Spirit. You cannot see the wind, but you can see the effects of the wind. In the same way, it's difficult to "see" and discern the visual presence of the Holy Spirit, but you can definitely experience the effects and power of the Holy Spirit.

Image to Remember: **Raise the sail.**

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Truth to Declare: **Christians should be Spirit-led and Spirit-filled.**

Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Applications

1. Discuss ways you can be Spirit-led in your daily decision making.
2. Discuss ways you can be Spirit-filled in your daily life.

Additional Reading

Luke 3:21-22, 4:1, 4:8; John 3:8, 10:10, 14:1-17; 16:7-15; 2 Corinthians 3:17

Plant: **Your Story** | Video 4

Today, we're learning how to share your story with others.

Image to Remember: **Flip the script.**

Whether you watch movies, read books, or a little bit of both, every story you watch or read involves a change of the main character from the beginning to the end. In the same way, we want to encourage you to share how Jesus Christ has changed your life with a simple three step formula to help you remember and share with others. Your story, also known as your testimony, is one of the most powerful weapons you can use influence the lives of others because your story is authentic, it is unique, it is real, and it connects your heart with the heart of the people around you.

4 Reasons People Don't Share

1. They are afraid.
2. They don't have a sense of urgency.
3. They don't see people the way Jesus sees people.
4. They don't know how to share their story.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Romans 10:15

15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

3 Components to Sharing Your Story

1. Before Christ, I was

.....

2. I met Christ when

.....

3. After Christ, I was

.....

Truth to Declare: **Our job is to share, and God's job is to save.**

Applications

1. Write down your story using the formula listed above.
2. Make a prayer list of people with whom you can share your story.
3. Share your story with at least one person this week.

Additional Reading

Read examples of testimonies found in John 3, 4, 5, 6, and Paul's testimony in Acts 22 and 26.

Plant: **God's Story** | Video 5

Today, we're learning the major movements of God's story as told through the Bible.

Image to Remember: **Display the God stuff.**

Picture walking along a city street in front of a department store. What do you see? While the store has many items inside, what you see first is what the store chooses to place on display in the front window. Usually it is their best items, or the items that represent the current season to entice you to come inside. In the store of your life, what's on display? While our lives are filled with many ups and downs, we get to choose what we put on display for the world to see. Displaying the God stuff does not mean hiding your issues or struggles, but rather recognizing God's power and presence in every situation of our life.

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Truth to Declare: **God's story is about God's glory.**

In the last video, we learned how to share our faith story with others. Along with telling our story to others, we should regularly share God's story with others. What is God's story exactly? I'm glad you asked.

4 Components of God's Story.

1. Creation –

God spoke the world into existence. God created the world on purpose and for a purpose.

2. Fall –

Adam and Eve sinned and humanity became separated from God.

3. Redemption –

Jesus died on the cross as payment for our sins. When he rose again on the third day, He defeated death itself, and made salvation and forgiveness possible.

4. Restoration –

Jesus' promised his disciples that he would one day return to earth and deal with Satan once and for all. We currently live in between redemption and restoration.

Applications

1. Examine your past week. What did you place on display for the world to see?
2. How can you place God on display this week?
3. How does knowing God's story help shape living out our own story?

Additional Reading

Genesis 1-3; Romans 3:23, 5:8; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:13-6:2; Revelation 20-22

Plant: **Prayer** | Video 6

Today, we're discussing a key practice to planting the Gospel in your life on a daily basis: prayer.

Prayer – Intentionally talking with God. Prayer involves both speaking to and listening to God.

Image to Remember: Anchor your soul.

Imagine tying a boat to the shore. When you pull on the rope, do you pull the shore to the boat or the boat to the shore? Prayer is not about drawing God close to you, but you close to God. We have an anchor for our souls. Except our anchor is not placed on earth, but in heaven. Prayer is not about intelligence, but persistence. It's not about length. It's about love. It involves speaking honestly with God as well as taking time to quietly listen to what God might be speaking to your heart.

Hebrews 6:19

19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

Truth to Declare: Take time to talk with God every day.

Luke 5:15-16

15 But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. 16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Jesus would regularly get away to pray. Jesus is described as getting away to pray over 30 times in the Gospels. Even when Jesus was busy with ministry, He always took time to stop and pray. While Jesus' longest prayer can be found in John 17, Jesus took time to teach the disciples how to pray in Matthew 6.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

6 Characteristics of the Lord's Prayer (from Matthew 6:9-13)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Our Father – <u>Presence.</u> | 3. Your Kingdom come – <u>Purpose.</u> | 5. Forgive us – <u>Pardon.</u> |
| 2. Hallowed be – <u>Praise.</u> | 4. Daily Bread – <u>Provision.</u> | 6. Lead us – <u>Protection.</u> |

Applications

1. Take time to pray with the person with whom you're walking through this study.
2. Take 5 minutes and pray through the Lord's prayer each day, pausing and reflecting on who God is and what God has done.
3. Write down your prayer requests and ask others how you can pray for them.

Additional Reading

Mark 11:22-25; John 17; Colossians 1:9-14; Philippians 4:6-10; James 5:13-18

Plant: Bible | Video 7

Today, we're learning the basics to reading our Bible. The bible consists of 66 books, compiled by 40 different authors, written over the span of 1600 years, and yet it has one unified message: Jesus saves.

Jesus valued Scripture, and we should, too. Did Jesus have the New Testament during His earthly ministry? No, He did not, because the New Testament depicts His story and the launch of the church. However, Jesus knew the Old Testament and knew it well. He quoted the Old Testament over 70 times in the Gospels. For example, Jesus used the bible to defeat temptation in the wilderness with Satan (Luke 4:3-4). Just as Jesus used the Bible to defeat temptation, the Bible is a weapon for Christians to win spiritual battles. Also, we should remember that God's words are powerful. When God speaks, creation listens. Jesus is even referred as "The Word." Are you listening to God's Word?

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Romans 12:2

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2 Timothy 3:16

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.

Image to Remember: **H.E.A.R. from God.**

4 Steps to Studying the Bible

1. **Highlight** a verse or section of Scripture.
2. **Explain** what the passage means in the original context. Look and listen for the surrounding words, sentences, and paragraphs to give you clues of the original meaning. If you're not sure, ask questions. Studying the Bible with others is a great way to grow in your faith.
3. **Apply** the passage to your life. Once you get an idea of the original meaning, consider what principles and promises apply to your life.
4. **Respond** to what you read. The goal for reading the Bible is not information, but transformation. The God of the Bible is alive and active today, and God is able and willing to work in your life, too.

Truth to Declare: **Learn to unleash the power of Scripture in your life.**

Application

1. Pick a book of the Bible and begin reading every day. While all books of the Bible are profitable for reading, a few good start places include the following books: John, Acts, Colossians, and James.
2. Discuss what you read with the friend with whom you're going through this study.

Plant: **Obedience** | Video 8

Today, we're discussing how to obey what God tells us to do.

Image to Remember: **Ride the bike.**

3 Components to Riding Your Spiritual Bike

1. Seat of Bike =
Being a child of God.

2. Left Pedal =
Knowing the Word of God.

3. Right Pedal =
Doing the Word of God.

There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you less. If you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your identity as a child of God is secure. Christianity is not about rules, but about relationships. God loves you, and it's because God loves you that he has given you a purpose. Following Jesus is an adventure. Following Jesus involves movement. To live like Jesus means to pattern your life after the practices of Jesus, and today, we want to discuss how to better do that through obedience. You need all three components to grow in your faith (being, knowing, and doing).

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Mark 10:45

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke 22:41-42

41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Truth to Declare: **Faith is a journey, not a guilt trip.**

Obedience is not about **behaving**, but about **becoming** the man or woman God has called you to be. It's less about a destination and more about the direction of your life. Choose to obey God today!

Applications

1. After reading God's Word, identify something that God wants you obey this week.
2. Share what you're going to do with a friend and hold each other accountable.

Additional Reading

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 12:30-31; Philippians 2:5-8