



COLLABORATIVE DISCIPLESHIP

2 Cultivate

Characteristics of a Disciple

1 Connect

Summary Jesus commanded His followers to “*make disciples of all nations.*” It is therefore important for His followers to understand what it means to be a disciple, to evaluate their lives in light of this definition, and to commit themselves to living as disciples of Jesus.

Read Matthew 28:18–20 and ask the following questions:

- 1 What do you like about this passage?
- 2 What do you find uncomfortable or difficult to understand in this passage?
- 3 What appears to be the main idea emphasized in this passage? (Look for repeated words or ideas.)

Consider how the following passages increase our understanding of this topic:

Read Matthew 11:28–30.

How does Jesus describe the process of learning from Him?

What do you find encouraging about this? What is difficult about it?

Read Luke 14:25–33.

What level of commitment does Jesus expect from His disciples?

How is this commitment both a one-time decision and a daily one?

Read John 15:4–5.

What does it mean for Jesus’ disciples to bear fruit?

How have you seen God bear fruit through you and through other believers?

- 4 What are the beliefs and values promoted in these passages?
- 5 What do these passages reveal about our human condition and God’s response?
- 6 How are these beliefs and values similar or different from those that have influenced you? (such as your family, culture, peers, church, etc.)
- 7 How might our faith increase and our lives change as we embrace what is true and important?
- 8 In light of what we’ve discussed, how can we pray for each other right now?

How would you define “disciple”? Describe a time when you were a disciple or student of someone else.

3 Care

Since we last met, what happened as a result of expressing Christ’s love to others?

How can you, or we, express Christ’s love to others this week?

Here are a few ideas:

Pray God would meet their deepest needs.

Help meet a felt need they have.

Encourage them with a text, note or verbally.

Give them a thoughtful gift or buy them coffee.

Invite them to do something fun or meaningful.

Listen to their story.

Explore their thoughts on the gospel.