

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Biblical Discipleship! God has not brought you to this place in your life by coincidence. The following months will be an exciting adventure in which God intends for your life change in a positive and radical way. God desires that you grow. He already said, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" **2 Peter 1:3**. Now, you should have the patience, faithfulness, and discipline to intimately know God and make the most of a fulfilling life here on the earth. It will be a blessing for your discipler to be able to guide you in this very important step of your walk with our Lord. He or she has been trained to establish in you the biblical foundation necessary for your spiritual growth and ministerial involvement. The purpose is for God to be glorified. Prepare yourself to know God's will for your life, decide to enjoy the blessings that you will receive and to grow while you face the trials that you will go through. Every lesson that you will study will look at a fundamental element for your growth. This lesson in particular seeks to establish the why of biblical discipleship and the essential elements so that God's purposes will be fulfilled in your life. According to **2 Timothy 2:2**, God's dream is that some day you will teach others to walk firmly in their relationship with the Lord.

I. God desires that you grow by getting to know Him through the Bible

A. What is the Bible?

1. It's the Word of God. It contains 1189 chapters divided in 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
2. It's the book that God wrote for us, using some 40 authors during the course of about 2000 years. They received the exact words from the Holy Spirit that they were supposed to write. **2 Peter 1:20-21**
3. It's the absolute truth that should govern our lives. It is God Himself that has exalted His Word above everything else in the universe and it is our duty to submit ourselves to the authority of the Word in every area of our life. **Psalm 138:2** says: *"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."*

B. Why is it important that we know the Bible?

1. It's important that we know it because as we study it, we will know the truth. **John 17:17**
2. It's important that we know it because it will be opened in the final judgment and by it all those who have rejected Jesus will be judged.
3. It's important that we learn to delight ourselves in this exceptional book. *"And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life":* **Deuteronomy 32:46- 47**
4. Some thoughts that we should consider are:
 - a. "We should read the Bible daily to be wise, believe it to be spiritually strong and practice it to exercise our holiness. It contains the necessary light for our pathway, the sustenance for our spirit, and the timely comfort in our saddest moments."
 - b. "The Bible is as important for the child of God as a map is for the traveler, the staff for the pilgrim, and the compass for a pilot or the sword for a soldier."
 - c. "If a device is not operated according to the instructions found in the owner's manual, it will function poorly or not function at all. The Bible is the manual that God has left for men so that they will function in the best possible way."
 - d. "Throughout history, many have tried to destroy it, prohibiting it, burning it or hiding it, but what has happened is that it has multiplied and spread more and more throughout the world. The Bible is the most published book in the history of mankind. It's no wonder since it was God Himself that said *"Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."*

II. God is eager for you to grow grasping the goals of biblical discipleship

A. Take advantage of the following objectives for your spiritual growth:

1. To live in intimate communion with God.
2. To live for the conversion of others.
3. To live in fellowship with other believers.
4. To live for service in the ministries of the church that God has placed you in.

B. Take advantage of your discipler's guidance and support.

1. With love, he or she is willing to invest his or her life in you **1Thessalonians 2:7-8**
2. From now on, he or she will be like your spiritual parent who will seek to instruct you in the fundamentals of sound doctrine, and he or she will guide you towards a new direction and a new purpose. **2Timothy 3:10**
3. Your discipler will pastor you during the coming months. Observe how he or she lives and try to imitate his or her conduct. **Hebrews 13:7** speaks of the attitude believers should have towards their spiritual guides: *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of [their] conversation.”*
4. Ask him or her questions every time you have a doubt.

III. God desires that you grow in the firmness and constancy that belong to a disciple of Christ

A. For this reason, to continue with biblical discipleship, the Discipleship Ministry firmly requires of you:

1. That it be a priority for you to meet at least once every week with your discipler.
2. That you complete the assignments that are found at the end of each lesson and particularly with the memorization of the verse that you will find there. Your discipler has been instructed to not continue with the lessons if you don't fulfill this part of your commitment.
3. That starting today you read two chapters daily of the New Testament until you finish it. Your discipler will read the same passages every day so that you can encourage each other.
4. That you faithfully attend the services at your church.

B. Along with your discipler please read the commitment letters that correspond to each one of you. If you both agree with what each one says, sign them and exchange them, willfully sealing the pact that will unite you as you undertake this exciting step of your spiritual growth.

COMMITMENT LETTER OF THE DISCIPLER

I _____ from this day forward commit myself faithfully before my disciple to:

1. *Diligently transmit my spiritual life and the biblical principles of each lesson with the noble objective of helping help him or her grow spiritually.*
2. *Make his or her spiritual growth a priority in my life.*
3. *Make the weekly meetings with him or her, a priority in my life.*
4. *Read the New Testament while he or she reads it during the discipleship program at a rate of two chapters per day.*
5. *Look for him or her and encourage him or her all times.*
6. Strive so that the 4 goals of discipleship are reached by him or her:
 - *To live in intimate communion with God.*
 - *To live for the conversion of others.*
 - *To live in fellowship with other believers.*
 - *To live for ministerial service in the church that God has placed you.*
7. *Check the homework assignments and the memorization of the verses that are found at the end of each lesson, before beginning the next one.*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

COMMITMENT LETTER OF THE DISCIPLE

I _____, so that my Biblical Discipleship isn't interrupted, from this day forward commit myself faithfully before my discipler to:

1. *Make the weekly meetings with my discipler, a priority in my life*
2. *Make my attendance of the church services a priority of my life.*
3. *Read the New Testament with my discipler during the discipleship program, at a rate of two chapters daily.*
4. *Strive for my own spiritual growth taking advantage of the resources that my church provides and concentrating on:*
 - *Living in intimate communion with God.*
 - *Living for the conversion of others.*
 - *Living in fellowship with other believers.*
 - *Living for ministerial service in the church that God has placed me in.*
5. *Complete the homework guides and the memorization of the verses that are found at the end of each lesson and share them with my discipler before beginning the next lesson.*

Signature: _____

Date: _____