

The Discipleship Game Plan

Whether you're taking a class, doing a job, or raising a family, success begins with defining what it means to WIN. For Christians, "winning" isn't just going to church, being more religious, or even "becoming a better person." It's making disciples of Jesus Christ, period. But what is a disciple? And how do we make them? In the New Testament, Jesus and the first Christians left us a discipleship game plan, and everyone - from brand-new believers to life-long Christians - has a part to play in it. Throughout this series, you'll discover new ways that you can win people for Jesus Christ, so join The Story every Sunday in August as we explore the X's and O's of making disciples.

August 3, 2025 - Part 1 - Get in the Game!

What comes to mind when you hear the word "discipleship"? Before hearing today's message, how would you have distinguished between a believer and a disciple?

What do you make of Pastor Eric's claim that the modern Church's biggest problem is a crisis of discipleship? Agree or disagree? Why?

Let's look at Jesus' final words before he ascended into heaven:

Matthew 28:17-20 - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:5 - "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

What is a disciple? Where does the word *disciple* come from?

Besides Jesus, what leaders or influencers have influenced or "discipled" you throughout your life?

John the Baptist had disciples of his own until he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, after which he said:

John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Why is this the mantra of every disciple of Jesus Christ?

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP is the _____ process of _____
JESUS into every facet of your life**

Given how important discipleship was (and is) to Jesus, why do you think so few Christians (around 6% according to recent studies by George Barna) are actually living as disciples of Christ?

James 2:19 - You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. *Do what it says!*

What is the key difference between a "churchgoer" or "believer" and a true disciple?

Jesus' *Discipleship Game Plan* is to develop us into mature leaders in his Kingdom. That process looks something like this:

BELIEVER → WORSHIPER → FOLLOWER → MENTOR → LEADER

What are the hallmarks of a Level 1 *believer*? What are the risks for Christians at this stage?

What are the hallmarks of a Level 2 *worshiper*? What are the risks for Christians at this stage?

What are the hallmarks of a Level 3 *follower*? What are the risks for Christians at this stage?

What are the hallmarks of a Level 4 *mentor*? What are the risks for Christians at this stage?

What are the hallmarks of a Level 5 *leader*? What are the risks for Christians at this stage?

**As you think about your life in Christ, where are you (from Level 1-5) on this journey right now?
What leads you to place yourself at that stage?**

What would it take for you to “level up” from where you are now to the next stage of your development in Christ?

What habits or fears are holding you back from taking the next step in your journey, and how do you plan to overcome them?

Your Notes:



Back to School Blessing

Save the date to join us on Sunday, August 10 at all three services (8:30, 9:45 & 11:05am) as we pray over all of our students and teachers heading into a new school year!



Register for Groups

Registration for all of our fall adult classes is open through the month of August! Stop by the lobby today to learn more at our Groups table, or visit **thestory.church/groups** to view our offerings online and register digitally.



NEW! Premarital Class

Merge facilitates deeper conversations about the purpose of marriage, intimacy, and creating a life together centered on Christ for couples who are engaged or soon-to-be engaged. This class is a prerequisite to get married at The Story. Visit **thestory.church/merge** to learn more and register.