



TOGETHER LEADER'S GUIDE

Table of Contents

[The Lessons Explained](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Lesson 1: Pattern](#)

[Leader's Intro Video](#)

[The Main Takeaway](#)

[Getting Started:](#)

[Bible Study](#)

[Application/Action](#)

[Lesson 2: Invest](#)

[Leader's Intro Video](#)

[The Main Takeaway](#)

[Getting Started:](#)

[Bible Study](#)

[Application/Action](#)

[Lesson 3: Focus](#)

[Leader's Intro Video](#)

[The Main Takeaway](#)

[Getting Started:](#)

[Bible Study](#)

[Application/Action](#)

[Lesson 4: Impart](#)

[Leader's Intro Video](#)

[The Main Takeaway](#)

[Getting Started:](#)

[Bible Study](#)

[Application/Action](#)

[Thanks!](#)

The Lessons Explained

The ideal amount of time for each lesson is 60-90 minutes. While we do want to arrive at certain truths by the end of the lesson, we recognize that there is more than one way to arrive at those truths.

Recap - before each lesson, there are some suggestions to follow up from the previous lesson. Use a few of the suggested questions or come up with your own. Following up from the previous session helps your group members share their experiences, process their application, and keep the learning going.

The Main Takeaway - this is the whole point of the study, the destination, the concept towards which we are driving. If participants can walk away with one thing, it would be the main takeaway. In the participant workbook for this set, the main takeaway is displayed after the Bible study part of each lesson.

Getting Started - this section introduces your group to the topic of the session in a way that grabs their attention. It might even help your group get to know each other better.

Bible Study - this is the meat of the lesson. Here you will help your group members learn from Scripture.

Look In / Look Out - comes at the conclusion of the Bible study. In this section, we ask questions that address personal internal reflection and external application in your life. We believe that both internal/external application is important. It is

recommended that you go into the session with an idea of what action points you want to lead the group towards and how. You will know where to lead the group based on the group's spiritual maturity.

Add-Ons - After each lesson are a couple of “add-ons.” These are little nuggets of wisdom: short food-for-thought articles and ideas that complement what your group studied in the lesson. Use these add-ons in any creative way you'd like, as time permits.

More to Grow On - Each one of our lessons will only scratch the surface of a topic. p2c.sh/moretogrowon has additional resources to which you can point group members, to take their study deeper in their personal time.

What about prayer? We want prayer to be infused into everything that we do. We know that you as a leader have the skills and creativity to prioritize and plan prayer into each group meeting. If you want ideas for how to lead your group in prayer, go to p2c.sh/smallgroups. Here you'll find the [Teaching Your Small Group to Pray](#) resource and many other small group leader resources.

What follows are the leader's notes for each lesson in the *Together* set. You'll find suggestions on how to arrive at the main takeaway, and get a glimpse into our thought process in designing these studies. We would encourage you to follow the flow presented in this guide, while honouring and maintaining good group discussion on these topics. The suggested answers are here to serve as a guide to help you understand our train of thought.

Feedback

Your viewpoint matters to us as we create small group resources. Please share your overall thoughts on leading this study [here](#). You can share any lesson-specific thoughts [here](#). Both feedback forms are short and easy to fill out.

Also, help us out by writing an Amazon review [here](#) (don't be afraid to be honest).

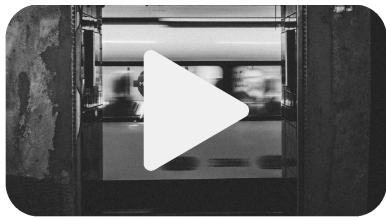
PATTERN

Lesson 1: Pattern

Feedback Alert! After you've led this lesson, let us know your thoughts by quickly leaving your comments [here](#).

Leader's Intro Video

Watch this short video on the lesson you're about to lead. You'll get a lesson overview as well as tips for leading this lesson well. Enjoy!



[Together: Lesson 1 - Leader's Guide Video](#)

The Main Takeaway

→ Following Jesus' pattern of ministry leads us to a discipleship mindset.

Was Jesus an effective disciple maker? This almost feels like a trick question. Of course the answer is “yes”, right? He is the Son of God. He was completely in step with the Holy Spirit. He did only what he saw the Father doing.

On the other hand, one of his inner circle betrayed him. He didn't have a very big following. When he died, there were only 120 people who still followed him, most of whom were poor, illiterate, and uninfluential. If you judged Jesus' effectiveness in disciple-making with the standards of success you apply to yourself, you might conclude he was "ineffective" (as impious as it would feel to do so). But Jesus wasn't ineffective; he was strategic.

As we closely examine his methods and focus, we see a pattern of ministry that was extremely intentional and designed to be emulated. We also have the luxury of being able to look back from our place in history, seeing the massive expansion of his Church. In this lesson we will look at the genius of Jesus' methods and glean principles to follow as we seek to continue the expansion of his Church.

Some principles your group might observe from the ministry of Jesus include:

- Jesus' ministry focused on people
- Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples
- Jesus passed things on to others
- Jesus was trying to do many things and this required him to be intentional
- Jesus cared more about depth than breadth
- There are risks and benefits to doing ministry the way Jesus did ministry.

You may have a whole bunch of things that you are doing. But you should pattern your ministry after Jesus' ministry and focus on making disciples.

Getting Started:

This activity is meant to get your group members thinking about what from their lives they would pass onto others. Some of the things they mention might not be things you'd pass on in discipleship, but that's ok, the point is to just get your group thinking about what from their lives they would want to share with others. Often times we feel inadequate or unequipped to disciple others, but there are probably things in each of our lives that have

made an impact that we'd love to pass on. Discipleship doesn't need to be complicated, and this is a great intro conversation to the topic of discipleship.

Bible Study

WHY DID JESUS COME?

1. This is a difficult question to answer. Jesus himself states many different reasons why he came (as we'll see in the next question). Don't worry if people miss out on important aspects of his mission. The point here is for group members to begin to understand the complexity of Jesus' mission and begin to understand that he was accomplishing many things at once, and therefore needed great intentionality of focus.
2. Continue to grapple with the mission of Jesus. Warning: at face value, some of these statements are not easily understood. Some of them even seem contradictory. The point of this exercise is not to get bogged down examining all the facets of Jesus' mission on earth, but to simply take in the breadth of his task. For those who want to go deeper, you could suggest a comparison of these statements, especially the seemingly contradictory (probably better understood as paradoxical) ones.

Matthew 5:17	Fulfill the law not destroy it
Matthew 10:34-36	Bring a sword, divide families
Mark 2:17	Bring sinners to repentance
Mark 10:45	To serve - give life as a ransom
Luke 19:10	To save the lost
John 3:16-17	Not to condemn but save
John 6:38	To do God's will
John 9:39	Bring judgement
John 10:10	Give abundant life

John 12:46	Be the light in the world
John 17:4	Bring God glory
1 Timothy 1:15	Save sinners

3. Discuss

4. I don't think that any of us would expect Jesus' following to be so small at the end of his time on earth. However, Jesus built depth into his followers. He knew that a huge but shallow following wouldn't stand against the persecution and hardship of establishing the early church.

HOW DID JESUS DO IT?

This more inductive approach to studying Jesus' discipleship technique has the benefit of seeing Jesus' ministry activities within their context in Scripture and allows your group a fuller experience of studying them. Share with each other what you chose to underline and give an opportunity for people to explain why they underlined what they did. Some things to note here:

- Jesus teaches in parables.
 - Jesus explains his teaching to the disciples.
 - Jesus performs miracles (calms the storm, heals the demoniac, raises the dead, feeds the 5000, walks on water).
 - Jesus deals with demons, haters, crowds, political authorities, grief.
 - Jesus spends time continuously with the disciples.
5. There are a couple of things to note here. One, Jesus did discipleship in the context of relationship. He spent copious amounts of time with the disciples. They always seemed to be with him. When we read about the time Jesus spent with his disciples, we are let into intimate teaching moments and times of demonstration. Two, notice that Jesus doesn't stop ministering to crowds or individuals because he's in a "discipleship time"; he lets the randomness of the moment help him to demonstrate how to be fishers of men.

6. Some of the dangers may include the following: people are bound to fail; you can't control the outcome when you entrust something to others; things can be lost if replication is incomplete; the disciples will never be as good as Jesus. Some benefits could include the following: Jesus could leave the disciples knowing they were ready; the success of his Church was not reliant on him; the principles were transferable.
7. Discuss. Whether or not your group sees Jesus' pattern in their ministry, this question is designed for self-reflection. This question is the hinge point of the lesson, where your group should start to apply the study personally.

Application/Action

LOOK IN: What changes could you make to better reflect the principles of discipleship as modelled by Jesus?

- Each person should ask the Holy Spirit to be the guide he is meant to be, and to guide them into truth. He is best able to give them guidance about their personal internal application. You may want to give people individual time to think about this and write some thoughts down.

LOOK OUT: Pray and ask God to use you to minister. Be on the lookout this week for people that you can minister to and people you can minister with.

- Have a prayer time to ask God to help each member. This can be a group or personal time. Use your knowledge of timing and group dynamics to prepare for this time. Check in with your group next week to see how this went.

[Feedback Link](#)

INVEST

Last Session Recap:

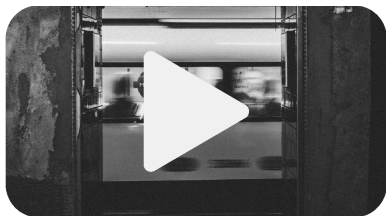
- Have you had any more thoughts or questions about discipleship since we last met?
- Was there anyone that you ministered to or with since the last session? How did it go? What did you learn?

Lesson 2: Invest

Feedback Alert! After you've led this lesson, let us know your thoughts by quickly leaving your comments [here](#).

Leader's Intro Video

Watch this short video on the lesson you're about to lead. You'll get a lesson overview as well as tips for leading this lesson well. Enjoy!



[Together: Lesson 2 - Leader's Guide Video](#)

The Main Takeaway

- Discipleship is the lifelong calling to partner with the Holy Spirit to invest in others to help them be more like Jesus.

When it comes to discipleship, people often feel ill-equipped, overwhelmed, or deflected (it's not their job). We want you to know you're not alone and that you have something to offer.

Making disciples is not just for missionaries and pastors. The verses in the Bible about making disciples apply to everyone - even you. This lesson is about investing our lives in other people and is meant to give you some biblical motivation and some discipleship principles, as well as to deal with some of the barriers.

Getting Started:

This activity is meant to get you talking about what discipleship looks like. Try to draw out your group members' discipleship experiences as you discuss. Sometimes people think you need to be some sort of super Christian with all the answers in order to disciple others. This activity will help you get a sense of what your group members think about discipleship and it may show you some barriers or misconceptions they have about discipleship.

Bible Study

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS DISCIPLESHIP

1. Discuss
2. Some things you might observe: Jesus commanded all of his followers to make disciples; Jesus sends his followers; he charges us to present everyone mature in Christ; he goes with us; those whom we disciple are our joy.

3. If Jesus is commanding all believers to make disciples, it's disobedient to ignore these commands. Our greatest joy will be in disciple-making. The Church grows through discipleship.
4. The point of this question is to get participants to consider how discipleship might evolve over a lifetime (both how you are discipled and how you disciple others). Different seasons or cycles of life, new forms of technology and resources, and ever-changing relationships all contribute to discipleship looking different at different points in your life.

EXEMPT

5. Discuss. It's common for people to be resistant or even angry when asked to change the way they live their life. A perfectly natural response to this is to say, "That's good for others, but it doesn't apply to me." Jesus doesn't leave a lot of room for us to feel this way about making disciples. This discussion is meant to stimulate some thought about whether any resistance is happening in the hearts of your group members.
6. This is meant to stimulate a non-judgemental discussion about why your group members find Jesus' commission hard. Not that we want people to remain here, but you shouldn't feel the need to correct false reasoning or bad motives now. Allow people the space to be open and honest.
7. In this verse Paul describes a way to respond to different types of people to help them in their sanctification / discipleship process. If you're lazy you need to be rebuked. If you're weak you need to be helped. If you're timid you need to be encouraged. Be patient with everybody (including yourself). Get your group to think about themselves and where they're at as well as those they are working with. There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach; different people need different things from discipleship at different stages and that's okay.
8. There are many ways to partner with the Holy Spirit in discipleship, but it is important to come away from this portion of the study with the knowledge that we don't have to go it alone. The Holy Spirit is with us.

Some of the ways in which we can partner with the Holy Spirit include:

- Recognizing where the Holy Spirit is already at work in the life of the person you're investing in, then joining the Holy Spirit in his work.
 - Prayer, and lots of it. Not passive prayer, but prayer that moves your heart to action. Bathe the entire process in prayer. Pray for wisdom and discernment to know how to proceed. Pray for patience. Pray for resources. Then listen and watch to see how God responds. The Holy Spirit is eager to help, so you can have confidence to ask him to help.
 - Use the Bible as your primary source whenever possible. These are the very words of God and will be the best tool to align your discipleship with his desires.
 - Constantly point others to Jesus and remind them of how the gospel applies to their daily lives.
9. Discuss. As in question 6, the point here is to provide a space for your group to feel the weight of the teaching. There is no correct answer.
10. In some ways Jesus had the same resources that we have today. The Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the culture of the day. In addition to the things that Jesus had, we have an entirely new set of tools and resources. We have the internet, 2000 years of Church history and writings, countless books, podcasts, conferences, among other things. The purpose of comparing resources is not meant to suggest that it's easier or harder than Jesus had it. It is meant to demonstrate that we have absolutely no shortage of help or resources at our disposal.

Application/Action

LOOK IN: Prayerfully ask God to show you what hinders you from fully investing in others. Surrender these things to God.

- The change that God desires is not behavioural or surface change, rather, he desires deep heart change. The only way we can achieve this type of change in any meaningful way is through partnership with what the Holy Spirit is doing in our life. Therefore, inviting the Holy Spirit to help you apply this lesson is paramount. This is why we pray here.

LOOK OUT: Identify at least one person you would like to invest in this week, to partner with what God is doing in his or her life. Keep in mind the resources at your disposal from question 10.

- This is where you want to help your group get practical. Talk with your group members about next steps they can take to invest in the lives of others. For some ideas about how to begin to disciple others, check out the discipleship 1.0 conversation guides at p2c.sh/discipleship.

[Feedback Link](#)



FOCUS

Last Session Recap:

After reflecting some more on last week's lesson,

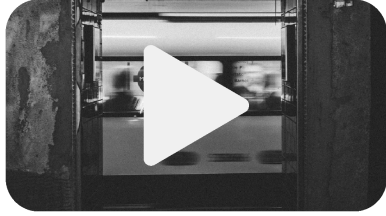
- Has God brought to mind the names of some people who you can begin investing in?
- Have you done anything to start investing in them? How has it gone?

Lesson 3: Focus

Feedback Alert! After you've led this lesson, let us know your thoughts by quickly leaving your comments [here](#).

Leader's Intro Video

Watch this short video on the lesson you're about to lead. You'll get a lesson overview as well as tips for leading this lesson well. Enjoy!



[Together: Lesson 3 - Leader's Guide Video](#)

The Main Takeaway

- We need to focus how we invest in others, because even though we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing, we also only have a finite amount of time and capacity.

Everything we do in life requires a process of selection. When we choose what to eat, drink, watch, read, and do, we are also functionally not choosing hundreds of other options. Even the most indecisive people are able to make hundreds of choices daily without much thought, but this becomes much more complicated when it involves people, especially when it concerns discipleship. Choosing who to disciple can feel judgmental, uncomfortable, overwhelming... you fill in the blank. It can somehow just seem wrong or even robotic to plan out how you'd like to directly influence someone. The process of discipleship involves selection whether we like it or not, so how do we make sure we select well?

In this study we will look at some of the benefits of focusing your time intentionally and give some principles to help you choose your focus well.

Getting Started:

Beware: this exercise can spawn some fantastic conversation (use wisdom in how you spend your time). It is meant to warm up the group to start thinking about focus and resource allocation. There is no right answer, but it can be a lot of fun to look at the different answers people give.

Example: this person has chosen to be above average in wisdom (6), intelligence (5), and sensitivity (5), average in social skills (3) and athleticism (3), and below average in looks (2).

	Below Average		Average		Above Average	
Wisdom	1	2	3	4	5	6
Social Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6
Intelligence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Looks	1	2	3	4	5	6
Athleticism	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sensitivity	1	2	3	4	5	6

Bible Study

YOU ARE VALUABLE, OTHERS ARE VALUABLE

Have your group read through Ephesians 1:3-14 two times through. The first time through get them to circle all the “in him” references. The second time through have them underline all the things that are now true of them because of Jesus. The Ephesians passage is printed on page 41 for them to mark up.

1. Allow group members to share their statements. Things your group members might draw on from Ephesians 1 - we are connected to God through Christ. God chose us on purpose, we are holy and blameless in him, we are loved, we have been adopted, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. We have every spiritual blessing available to us.

This passage of Scripture is often used to teach on identity because it shows us that we have value. Value because God says so and value because, in him, we have intrinsic worth.

2. All Christians. The point of this question is to help your group members internalize that each one of them as a follower of Christ is a recipient of all the blessings and truths contained in this passage. All Christians - which includes both your group members as disciple-makers, as well as whoever they will influence - have these blessings by nature; they don't need to be “disciplined in”.

3. Always true. This question is designed to go head-to-head with the feelings and emotions associated with the Christian life. Sometimes there is a disconnect between what we read or know to be true of us and what we are feeling inside. We need to grapple with this. The blessings of all Christians are not dependent on feelings, but we can be deeply affected by feelings.

YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER

4. This is a great opportunity to call forward feelings of gratitude and thankfulness to God for those people who have been placed in your life and made an impact. Consider as a leader if it would be appropriate to have a group thanksgiving/prayer time.
5. Two things you want to be aware of as your group answers this question. One, people can feel awkward about trying to pass things on because they aren't confident they have anything to offer. This is totally false. As we reduce the task of discipleship to simply passing on a few bricks, it lowers the barrier to entry. Encourage any group members who are worried about creating fully mature disciples. Secondly, we cannot decide what someone will learn from us, we can only attempt to influence. It's important not to get ahead of yourself here.

YOU ARE FINITE - YOU CAN'T INFINITELY POUR OUT YOURSELF

6. There is no right answer here. This question is designed to help group members start to examine their life and what they have space for. Likely one of a few things will happen. One, they will realize they need a little bit of stretching to be more intentional with their time and building into others. Secondly, they might realize that they are trying to do too much and need to have some more balance in their life. Or lastly, they might realize they've got a good thing going and need to keep it up. Whatever the realization it is always good to have a bit of self-reflection about capacity and balance.

YOU CAN LOVE EVERYONE EVEN IF YOU DON'T INVEST IN EVERYONE

7. There is a spectrum of emotions that people are likely to feel when faced with their capacity, from pride to inadequacy. We are prone to comparing ourselves with our peers and looking at what they can do (or even what Jesus did). Wanting to act like you're a big plate person when you're really not can be damaging. Likewise, feeling inadequate and serving below your capacity isn't the right answer either.

8. Discuss.
9. This question makes a couple of assumptions. It assumes that you are currently developing good healthy relationships with people you care about and love. Also, it assumes that you want to start investing in people. What your group should start to get a picture of here is that there is not only one way to love people (i.e. intentionally enter a discipleship relationship). There are great ways to love people that don't involve intentional discipleship. For ideas, they could consider reading a book like 5 Love Languages.

Application/Action

LOOK IN: Ask the Holy Spirit what section or piece from today's lesson you need to apply to your life. Share with the group.

- Once again, we want to learn and apply the things that God is speaking to us about as we study his Word. Therefore specifically asking the Spirit, "What are you doing in my life here?" and "How should I continue to take steps of faith?", will yield better results than any other question.

LOOK OUT: Look back at what you wrote down in questions 5 and 6 (what you'd like to impart to someone and how much capacity you have). Pray and ask God to give you an opportunity to invest in someone.

LOOK OUT: Are there some intentional steps you can take this week to invest in the lives of others this coming week?

- Talk with your group about ideas on how to do this. Encouragement from others is a crucial part of the journey. Make sure to follow up and see how it went.

[Feedback Link](#)

IMPACT

Last Session Recap:

After reflecting some more on last week's lesson:

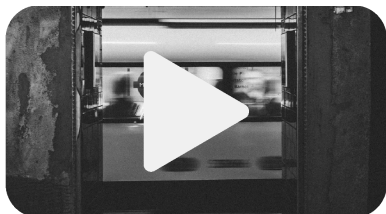
- Is there anything else the Holy Spirit is showing you about discipleship?
- Have you taken any steps of faith to invest your life in others? How did it go?

Lesson 4: Impart

Feedback Alert! After you've led this lesson, let us know your thoughts by quickly leaving your comments [here](#).

Leader's Intro Video

Watch this short video on the lesson you're about to lead. You'll get a lesson overview as well as tips for leading this lesson well. Enjoy!



The Main Takeaway

→ All discipleship that links back to the gospel is good discipleship.

The thought of discipling someone can be intimidating. It can seem like their spiritual development is in your hands, which feels like a huge responsibility. Do you know enough about the Bible? Do you have enough experience in ministry? Can you teach better than others? Even asking questions like this might be enough to scare the most keen individual away from imparting their lives to others, or maybe it would reduce times together to hanging out. Besides, isn't having a plan unloving or treating others like a project?

At the root of all these fears are some wrong assumptions. If you remember one of our definitions from earlier: discipleship is the lifelong calling to partner with the Holy Spirit to invest in others to help them be more like Jesus. This has a couple of key implications. One, the Holy Spirit, your partner in this process, IS more mature, more knowledgeable, a better teacher, and more experienced. He wants to use you to influence those around you. He is not so concerned with your shortcomings as he is your willingness to be used.

Two, the point of discipleship is to help others be shaped more into the image of Jesus. So we don't need to get super hung up on what our times together are built around, but what they are founded upon. We need to have the gospel as the foundation of everything we do. We're all drawn to different structures, styles, and resources (it's alright to be you) - but we always want to be pointing people to Jesus and the gospel.

In this lesson we continue to carry forward the analogy of the house from lesson three. However, we want to focus on helping people on the journey of being a mason, building into the houses of others. In this lesson your focus will switch to questions like, "How do I build others' houses? Do I need to be fully built before I can build? What should the bricks be made of?"

Getting Started:

Give each member 1-2 minutes to do this individually. Have as many people as time permits to share their stories. This exercise is meant to illustrate that even given a similar list of words to make up a story, there are infinite ways that they can be used together. Applying this to discipleship, it may seem like there are a limited number of ways to teach the principles of the Bible, or that certain topics are too basic to create interesting discussions. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. There are endless opportunities to be creative in your approach to imparting spiritual principles.

Bible Study

1. In this first question we're trying to uncover your group's assumptions, barriers, fears, etc. They might not say them outright, but what they do or say may reveal these things. It's okay if people don't have a lot of experience and aren't sure. Just make sure you give time for both parts of the question.

JESUS' EXAMPLE

2. This question will probably take the most time of all the questions; as you lead, try to prioritize doing this question well. There is a lot going on in these chapters. Jesus tells parables, does a miracle, sends out the disciples to give things a try, models communicating with a king, foretells his death, deals with conflict, and more. Jesus is very intentional about spending time with his disciples, modelling ministry activity, and preparing them for the future.
3. Jesus very clearly has legacy in mind. He is not so concerned with any one particular activity, but with connecting his followers to the grander mission of God.

POINTING TO THE GOSPEL

4. This question is meant to give your group an opportunity to sharpen their observation and interpretation skills. Things to note: they meet at night; Nicodemus as a Pharisee would be a very religious person; not only was he a Pharisee but a

ruler; Jesus doesn't directly answer his question; Jesus makes it personal; Jesus foretells his death; connects salvation to himself.

5. Jesus cuts through Nicodemus' surface question of trying to understand Jesus' public ministry and religion in order to connect with him on a personal level. He describes how he is in need of a personal saviour.
6. It is important to learn the skill of decoding culture and connecting the realities of life to gospel truth. There are excellent answers provided for us in the pages of Scripture if we simply know how to apply them. Also, we can greatly benefit from the experience of Christian practice and history.
7. Discuss. Some tensions might include being structured vs unstructured, doing ministry together vs helping them connect with God, giving them vision vs being practical (note: these tensions are real, but they are not necessarily always mutually exclusive).
8. Discuss the different tensions people experience and how they feel as a result of those tensions.
9. One temptation in dealing with different tensions is to swing from extreme to extreme. This is not necessarily bad at surface level, but examining what motivates you to swing back and forth can help you be balanced in your discipleship.

Application/Action

LOOK IN: Where do you need to experience God's grace in your life as you embark on a discipleship journey?

- Let yourself off the hook that you need to know everything, you need to have arrived, or that you need an elaborate plan - you just need to point people to Jesus.

LOOK OUT: Take a step of faith to begin investing in others.

- No need to over-complicate things. It's about taking a step of faith to try something.

[Feedback Link](#)

Thanks!

Congratulations, you've made it through leading this study. Thanks for your willingness to serve others and help them grow in loving and serving Jesus. Hopefully along the way, you've learned some valuable lessons and have been personally encouraged as well. Now that you've done this workbook, please give us your overall feedback [here](#) and help us by writing an Amazon review [here](#) (don't be afraid to be honest).