

## Virtual Discipleship – Week 1 Intro

Hi everyone. Thank you for agreeing to be part of this experiment in “virtual discipleship”. In these uncertain days where face-to-face meetings are not always possible or wise, let’s not neglect any opportunity to spur one another on to love and good works.

Just FYI - this is a “Broadcast List”. That means that you will receive what looks like an individual message from me to you. In reality, this exact message is going out to 21 total people all at one time. You can reply to me and I will see it but no one else on the broadcast list will. I chose this over a group to avoid everyone’s phones “blowing up” constantly. If that were the case, most of us wouldn’t stick around very long and I wouldn’t blame you!

This tool (that we’re just calling “Virtual Discipleship. Unless one of you creatives has a cool suggestion!) has *one primary goal* and *three core values*:

### Primary Goal

*To help you grow in your love and obedience to God.*

### 3 Core Values

1. **Biblical:** God’s Word is authoritative, inspired, and useful for teaching, correcting, rebuking, and training in righteousness. The wisdom of God puts to foolishness the wisdom of man. So we submit.
2. **Simple:** These devotional times shouldn’t take more than 10 minutes. In fact, we’ll call it the “959 Rule”. Keep your time to 9 minutes and 59 seconds. :-)  
We’re not trying to become experts here (no such thing in the Kingdom!). We just want to love and obey God a little better day by day.
3. **Reproducible:** This tool is made to multiply! Very soon you should be sharing this tool with 2 or 3 other disciples who can then share it with 2 or 3 other disciples etc etc etc...Start praying now about who your first disciple will be (whoever they are, they probably have more free time right now than they have in a long time!).

### **Here’s how it will work:**

Each evening, I will send out a prompt to be used the next morning. This will happen for the next 5 days (Monday-Friday) then, going into the weekend, we’ll take some time for feedback before going into the next week. Please do your best to make these 10 minutes (959!!!) one of the very first things you do with your day. I know it can be challenging but it is worth it to give God the “first fruits” of our time, especially before the “distraction machines” fire up for the day.

## **What you'll receive from me (Pray, Read, Respond):**

A prayer prompt, a short passage of scripture, and three questions.

Example:

### Pray

Take a full minute right now to pray. Thank God for giving you another day and thank Him for three specific blessings in your life.

### Read

*You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. And over all these good things put on love. Love holds them all together perfectly as if they were one. Let the peace that Christ gives rule in your hearts. As parts of one body, you were appointed to live in peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15)*

### Respond

1. What is one thing this passage teaches you about God?
2. What is one thing God wants you to learn or do from this passage?
3. How can I pray for you today?

It will be this exact format every single day (like I said, simple and reproducible).

## **What you'll send me:**

Your answers to the three questions.

That's it.

You don't have to rewrite the questions. Just format it like this:

1. God forgives and chooses me!
2. I need to be merciful and forgive someone today
3. Pray that God would give me the strength and tenderness to show mercy to Bob today and forgive him.

You answering and sending these questions is a way of us holding each other accountable for completing the task. Also - you have my word as a brother that I will pray for the thing you ask me to pray for. (and remember, I am the only one who will see your replies).

And, seriously, that's it.

I am excited to hear how God uses this to encourage you this week. Not only that, I think we'd agree that our neighbors could benefit from your faithful, joyful gospel witness in these days. And then, as God leads, you can begin to share this with the people God has brought into your life. After all, this is the command, call, and identity of every person who follows Jesus - to go and make disciples! So let's go!!

Love in Jesus -

David

*(\*if this "read and respond" format doesn't work for you, no worries and no shame. Write your answers in a journal, share with a partner/friend/spouse, or document it in some way. Remember this is an "alternative" to face-to-face discipleship so interaction and accountability is key. We're not just about knowledge...we want to learn to OBEY God. Read and pray this week where you're able and let's talk soon about how we can find a way to work together to see you grow in your love and obedience to God!)*