

# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY: FOLLOW JESUS

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE? A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE?

**“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.”**

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) #127

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## A REFLECTION ON MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

### What does it mean to be a disciple?

Before one can evangelize, one must be evangelized. Before one can disciple others, one must be a disciple.

The new evangelization begins with each one of us as a disciple. The identity of a disciple springs from Jesus Christ, through faith and Baptism, and grows in the Church, the community where all its members acquire equal dignity and participate in various ministries and charisms.

### What is the difference between a disciple and a missionary disciple?

The word disciple comes from the Greek word *mathetes* meaning pupil/student of the master. It is an apprenticeship in faith to the master, Jesus Christ.

A disciple is a friend and follower of Jesus who follows Jesus, worships Jesus, and shares Jesus with others.

### A disciple is someone who:

- Discovers Jesus
- Follows Jesus
- Worships Jesus
- Shares Jesus

A missionary disciple is one who emphasizes the importance of following and sharing Jesus with others and inspires, equips and forms others to be disciples and disciple makers.

### A missionary disciple is someone who:

- Introduces others to Jesus
- Accompanies others on their Way
- Invites and accompanies others to Sunday Worship and the Sacraments
- Inspires, forms, equips and sends others on mission to share Jesus and make disciples

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## NOTES

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## TEN HABITS OF DISCIPLESHIP

	DISCIPLES	MISSIONARY DISCIPLES
<b>Relationship</b>	Has a personal relationship with Jesus	Introduces others to their best friend Jesus
<b>Prayer</b>	Prays every day	Helps others to pray
<b>Commitment</b>	To Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom	Guides others to make a commitment to Jesus, His Church and to the Kingdom
<b>Worship</b>	At least once a week in the most Holy Eucharist	Welcomes and invites others to Mass and to the Sacraments
<b>Study</b>	Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings	Shares their love of Sacred Scripture and other Christian writings with others
<b>Open</b>	Open and responsive to where the Holy Spirit and Jesus are calling me	Helps others to be open to the Holy Spirit and where they are being called
<b>Participates</b>	In the community and the Sacramental life of the Church	Walks with others intentionally in faith and helps them to discern where the Lord is calling them to participate
<b>Serves</b>	Others in the name of Jesus Christ	Guides others to serve in the name of Jesus Christ
<b>Shares</b>	My personal gifts, time, and treasure with the Lord, His Church, and others	Helps others in word and deed to be generous stewards of the gifts given to us
<b>Evangelizes</b>	The world through word, witness, works of mercy, and compassion	Provides support and formation for others in how to share the Good News

*“When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love.” - Pope Francis*



**FOR REFLECTION:**

“Jesus is the only Gospel: we have nothing further to say or any other witness to bear.”

- John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* #80

“There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed.”

- Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* #22



**PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- Where am I in my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?
- What practices do I need to spend time praying about in order to deepen my faith?
- Who am I journeying with as a fellow “Disciple on the Way”?
- Who is supporting my journey as a “Disciple on the Way”?



**PARISH REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

- As we consider our parish, what can we do to make the mission of our parish in making disciples more explicit?
- Who are the most readily available, on fire and enthusiastic disciples that could help to move other “Disciples on the Way”?
- What existing initiatives or ministries are most important to growing our discipleship efforts?
- Which ministries need to be relooked at from the perspective of discipleship?
- What do we need to STOP doing to grow disciples?
- What do we need to KEEP doing (but perhaps improve) to grow disciples?
- What do we need to START doing to grow disciples?
- How will we know if we are successful in making disciples?

**SPACE FOR REFLECTION**

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