**Week 5: The Importance & Cost of Discipleship (Part I)**

**Introduction**

This topic explores the importance and cost of discipleship. Part 1 focuses on the importance of discipleship whilst part 2 considers with the cost of discipleship. In this session we will examine scriptures that highlight the need for discipleship in our world today, the signs and need for spiritual maturity. The study ends with some discussion questions to deepen our learning about discipleship and to provide opportunity for application. The aim of this session is to equip us further in our walk as disciples of Christ.

**Key Scriptures**

**John 15:16, Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23; Luke 14:26-35; Matthew 10:37-39**

1. **Why should we focus on discipleship?**
* Christ set the example of making disciples.
* Jesus Christ commanded His followers to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
* Discipleship is the best method to reach our world for God.
* Discipleship produces mature Christians.
1. **What are some signs of spiritual maturity?**
* Christlikeness (1 John 2:6)
* Fruitfulness in our service for God (Mathew 25:14-30)
* A humble attitude and a willingness to serve others (John 13:12-17)
* A standard of excellence in our lives in general (2 Corinthians 13:11)
* A close relationship with Jesus (Galatians 2:20)
* The fruit of the Spirit manifest in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23)
* A stable, consistent, and holy walk before God and man (Ephesians 4:11-16)
* A solid knowledge of God’s word and discernment as a result (Hebrews 5:13-6:2)

**3. Why is there a need for spiritual maturity?**

* The Bible suggests spiritual maturity is expected for all Christians (Eph 4:11-16)
* Spiritual maturity is essential to create leaders in the body of Christ (1 Pt 5:1-3)
* Spiritual maturity is required for us to stand against the attacks of the enemy and fulfil our God given mission (Mathew 12:29)
* Only the spiritually mature disciple can have a lasting impact for God and convey the character of Jesus to the world.

‘*Winning converts adds to the numbers of born-again believers, but discipleship makes disciples who are mature reproducers, who will in turn multiply the numbers of born-again believers/disciples*” (Gordon & Fardouly, 1988)

**Discussion Questions**

1. Did Jesus make an impact on the world through His disciples? Why?
2. Why must we aim to spiritual maturity? (Colossians 1:28)
3. What is Christlikeness? (Romans 8:29)
4. What type of person is Jesus looking for to serve Him? (Luke 16:10-12; Matthew 25:14-30)
5. What would you need to change in your life if you follow Jesus as a true disciple? Discuss.

**Memory Verse**

**John 15:16 -** *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

**References**

* Gordon B & Fardouly D, The Foundations of Christian Living: A Practical Guide to Christian Growth (Sovereign World Limited, 1988)