

SIXTH LAY TALK

TALK #10

DISCIPLESHIP

Overview of All Talks

The Walk to Emmaus 72-hour experience delivers one message that is communicated through the music, meals, clergy meditations, attitudes and actions of the team members, and the talks. You will deliver one of the fifteen talks. In reality, you will deliver one-fifteenth of the Emmaus talk—one message with fifteen presenters.

Prepare your talk using the outlines provided. As a good general rule, two-thirds of the talk will come from the outline and one-third would be the speaker's original insights and illustrations.

The talks are sequenced in a defined order; each builds on the next to provide pilgrims with the complete message of Emmaus. Do not try to cover more than your assigned topic. The expanded outline intends to provide a solid understanding of the material from which your talk will be developed. The abbreviated outline helps you see the progression of the main points. *Neither outline is a script*; you will need to add personal examples to give life to the content and make it real to the hearers. Use visual aids to help convey the main points.

The Holy Spirit, as well as feedback from the team after your talk preview, will provide additional guidance for your unique presentation of this talk. Once you incorporate the suggestions offered after your preview, your presentation no longer belongs just to you but to the team God is forming to deliver the Emmaus message.

This presentation is allotted a maximum of twenty to twenty-five minutes. Please honor the time limit out of a spirit of cooperation, charity, good stewardship of time, and consideration for the hearers.

Overview for Speaker

This is the last talk on Saturday. The first day of the Emmaus Walk, Friday, introduced pilgrims to God's grace and offer of a relationship. The talks on Saturday, the second day, explained how pilgrims could respond to that grace and grow in the Christian life through the practice of that relationship. This talk brings it all together by describing the disciple as one who has said yes to Jesus Christ and lives fully in that relationship.

This talk not only defines discipleship but also points out that every person can be a disciple in some sphere of influence. The disciple is a Christian leader—one who steps out to follow Christ and to lead others in the way of peace and salvation for our world. A disciple uses all his or her gifts to serve Christ and the church.

This talk aims to inspire pilgrims to give their all for Christ. As you focus on relationship with Christ and others, give personal examples of discipleship. Help pilgrims see how they can be disciples in practical ways.

Videos and recorded songs should not be part of the talk. Any projection during the talk should be kept simple.

This talk is scheduled for Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

EXPANDED OUTLINE

DISCIPLESHIP

Lead the Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Please turn to page 48 in your Worship Booklet, and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Introduction (1–2 minutes)

Choose a brief, personal story or experience that relates to the main point of this talk. If you cannot think of an appropriate introduction, consult the Lay Director or Spiritual Director for assistance. A good introduction will engage the hearts, minds, and attention of pilgrims and move them into the theme of this talk. For example, you might do the following:

Option 1: Share a specific way you have changed your practice of Christian discipleship and how this has changed your life. Feel free to name the fears or obstacles you had to overcome.

Option 2: Share the life story of someone that illustrates the main theme of the talk.

My name is _____, and the title of this talk is DISCIPLESHIP.

I. Insights

Yesterday we heard that our lives require a priority. A Christian's priority is a life in grace. Today we have heard how we can mature in grace and live out the Christian life through a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. If you fully respond and take seriously this relationship with Jesus Christ, then you are his disciple.

II. What is a disciple?

A. This passage shows what it means to be a disciple:

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him (Mark 1:16-18.)

Disciples are followers of Jesus. They have responded with their whole being to the call of Jesus to follow him and become fishers of people. They demonstrate their discipleship in the following ways:

1. *Giving their hearts to God in piety.* The first disciples had a personal relationship with Jesus. They lived with Jesus every day, and that relationship shaped them.
 2. *Giving their minds to God in study.* The first disciples were students. Jesus taught them about God, life, and ministry. The word *disciple* (from the Latin *discipulus*) means to be a learner, a pupil of a master.
 3. *Giving their hands and feet to God in Christian action.* The disciples partnered with Jesus in ministry, receiving on-the-job training. Piety and study are not ends in themselves but prepare us for action as disciples.
- B. Discipleship is the process of becoming the whole person God calls each of us to be through our relationship with Jesus Christ. A disciple embraces God's highest purpose for his or her life—to grow in the likeness of Christ for the sake of others. (See Ephesians 4:13.) This growth implies the following:
1. *A disciple is a growing person.* A disciple learns to live fully by faith in Christ. A disciple grows in his or her capacity to love God in all circumstances and to love all people.
 2. *A disciple is a minister.* A disciple serves as a partner in Christ's redemptive work. Ministry involves helping people become the whole persons God calls them to be in Jesus Christ.
 3. *A disciple is a full-time Christian.* Discipleship is not a part-time activity; it is a Christian's true vocation, a way of life—trying to live daily according to Christ's teachings.
 4. *A disciple is a witness to Christ.* Disciples provide the living evidence of God's grace and Christ's resurrection. (See Acts 1:22.)
 5. *A disciple is a Christian leader.* Jesus called his disciples out of the world to lead. By becoming followers of Jesus, the disciples became leaders among people.
 - a. The same is true of present-day disciples. Disciples hear Christ's call to step out of the crowd and lead the way. As Christian leaders, we direct others to the life of grace. We are like Andrew; after Andrew began to follow Jesus, he found his brother, Simon, and led him to Jesus. (See John 1:40-42.)
 - b. Each person here is a leader. Jesus called you the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (See Matthew 5:13-14). You lead when you use your unique gifts to serve God and others. Christian leadership is not based on the power of position but on the authority of love and commitment to truth. Christian leadership manifests in servanthood. (See John 13:12-16.)

III. Qualities of a disciple

A disciple displays certain qualities:

- A. *A disciple knows his or her priority.* A disciple's priority sets the course for his or her life, gives direction, and challenges a disciple to live up to his or her potential.
- B. *A disciple exercises discipline.* Discipleship involves accepting the discipline of following Christ each day and hour. It means living in God's presence continually and using one's gifts for ministry. Church participation is a discipline—giving of your presence, prayers, gifts, and service.
- C. *A disciple understands reality.* A disciple has a keen awareness of people and circumstances. A disciple has a clear head, a warm heart, and both feet on the ground. Disciples realize that the persons they meet each day are the ones God is giving them to witness to.
- D. *A disciple shows empathy,* identifying with other persons both in their sorrow and their joy. Genuine appreciation of the gifts and experiences of others is a characteristic of Christian leadership.
- E. *A disciple takes initiative.* A disciple is a self-starter, sizing up a need and taking steps to meet it. He or she lives with eyes open, seeing every situation as an opportunity for witness. The actions of modern-day disciples serve as a continuation of the book of Acts. Through us, the Acts of the Apostles continue to unfold today as the story of the Holy Spirit acting through the lives of ordinary men and women.
- F. *A disciple is generous.* A disciple lives and acts out of gratitude for all that God has given and is giving. A disciple is blessed to be a blessing, gladly exhibiting toward others the generosity he or she has experienced from God. As one person has stated, "Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread" (D. T. Niles, *New York Times*, May 11, 1984). A disciple does not withhold the living bread from a starving world.

IV. Spiritual qualities of the disciple

God, through the working of the Holy Spirit, gives disciples certain spiritual qualities—manifestations of God's gift of grace. By virtue of these qualities, disciples show forth Christ in their lives.

- A. *Faith*—A disciple has a lively faith. This faith moves beyond a simple belief that God exists to a motivating conviction that Jesus is Lord, that the way of Christ is worth the risks, and that with God all things are possible. The book of Acts recounts in chapter after chapter what God did through the followers of Christ, how they knew they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and how they worked with joyful trust in what God could do through them. They did not always have understanding, but they had faith. A lively faith says, "God can do anything, and I am excited to be God's instrument."

- B. *Humility*—A disciple is humble. The disciple knows he or she has not arrived but is on the way. The disciple is not only born anew but continues to mature as a son or daughter of God. Thus, the disciple remains open to truth, teachable, and unblocked by false pride or a need for attention. A true disciple knows that much can be done when no one is concerned about who gets the credit. Humility is born of a relationship with Jesus Christ, who gave up divine credentials to bring us salvation. (See Philippians 2:1-11.)
- C. *Hope*—A disciple is sustained by hope in God. When human hope ends, hope in God begins. (See Psalm 39:7; Romans 4:18.) A disciple remembers the open tomb; even dead ends and disappointments can be doorways to new life. When others feel frustrated and give up, a disciple perseveres in the belief that “for God all things are possible” (Matt. 19:26). In all circumstances, a disciple displays a living hope (see 1 Peter 1:3) and passes on that hope to others. Christian hope is not Pollyanna optimism. Nor is a disciple satisfied with the status quo. A Christian vision for the world (see Matthew 6:10) and the possibilities of life in Christ (see Philippians 3:14) for each person motivate the disciple.
- D. *Love*—A disciple loves. To a disciple of Jesus, every person matters. The depth of a disciple’s love determines the extent of dedication of his or her discipleship. The love of God is more than sentimentalism or warm religious feeling; it is the willingness to sacrifice for the well-being of another. Out of love for God and neighbor, a disciple wants to share the good news of grace and be present for others in times of need. *[Talk about an experience of accountable discipleship.]*

V. Conclusion

- A. Disciples are Christian leaders—not by office or position but by the spiritual quality of the life they live and the One they represent. They have responded to two commands of Christ: “Follow me” (Mark 1:17) and “feed my sheep” (John 21:17).
- B. We read about two kinds of people in the Gospels.
 1. *The crowds*—the thousands of persons who sought out Jesus. They hungered and desired healing. Most were curious, not committed.
 2. *The disciples*—those few who heard the call to follow, committed their lives to him, and put their faith into action.

The same two types of people exist in today’s church. Each of us must decide which we will be. Will we stop short of responding fully to God’s grace and call? Or will we gratefully and wholeheartedly respond by becoming disciples of Jesus Christ?

De Colores!

ABBREVIATED OUTLINE

DISCIPLESHIP

Lead the Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Please turn to page 48 in your Worship Booklet, and join me in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Introduction (1–2 minutes)

My name is _____, and the title of this talk is DISCIPLESHIP.

I. Insights

If you are living fully in the relationship that God has offered you in Jesus Christ, then you are a disciple.

II. What is a disciple?

- A. *Mark 1:16-18 shows that a disciple is a person who has responded to the call to follow Jesus and become a fisher of people: by giving God one's heart (in piety), one's mind (in study), and one's hands and feet (in Christian action).*
- B. *Discipleship is the process of becoming the whole person God calls each of us to be through our relationship with Jesus Christ growing in the likeness of Christ and living for the sake of others.*
 - 1. *A disciple is a growing person.*
 - 2. *A disciple is a minister.*
 - 3. *A disciple is a full-time Christian.*
 - 4. *A disciple is a witness to Christ.*
 - 5. *A disciple is a Christian leader.*

III. Qualities of a disciple

- A. *Knows priority*—focuses on priority; has direction.
- B. *Has discipline*—to follow Christ each day of life.
- C. *Knows reality*—is aware of people and circumstances; realizes each is an opportunity to witness.
- D. *Shows empathy*—displays sensitivity to other persons' needs and gifts; shares their pain and joy.
- E. *Takes initiative*—is able to size up needs and take steps to meet them.
- F. *Practices generosity*—lives out of gratitude for all that God has given and is giving; freely shares what God has given.

IV. Spiritual Qualities of the disciple

- A. *Faith*—has lively faith, not just belief God exists but conviction that Jesus is Lord and that with God all things are possible.
- B. *Humility*—knows he/she has not arrived; makes self-available to be fertile ground for the Holy Spirit; does not need to take credit.
- C. *Hope*—has a Christian vision of the world; is sustained by God when human hope ends.
- D. *Love*—willingly sacrifices for others; the mark of a true disciple.

[Talk about a personal experience of accountable discipleship.]

V. Conclusion

- A. A disciple is a Christian leader who has responded to Jesus' commands: "Follow me" and "feed my sheep."
- B. We read about two kinds of persons in the Gospels:
 - 1. the *crowds* who were curious but not committed
 - 2. the *disciples* who committed their lives to Jesus and his ministryWhich will we be? Will we stop short or fully respond to grace by being a disciple?

De Colores!