

# Deeper Together

A 10 Week Exercise in Growing as Followers of Jesus

## SMALL GROUP PARTICIPANTS GUIDE - 2016



**International Evangelical Church  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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The material in this course has been sourced and adapted from the following materials:

- The Discipleship Ministry [www.BibleStudyCD.com](http://www.BibleStudyCD.com)
- Mizizi: Plugging in to Your God Purpose, Mavuno Church, Nairobi, Kenya
- Navigators

# Introduction.

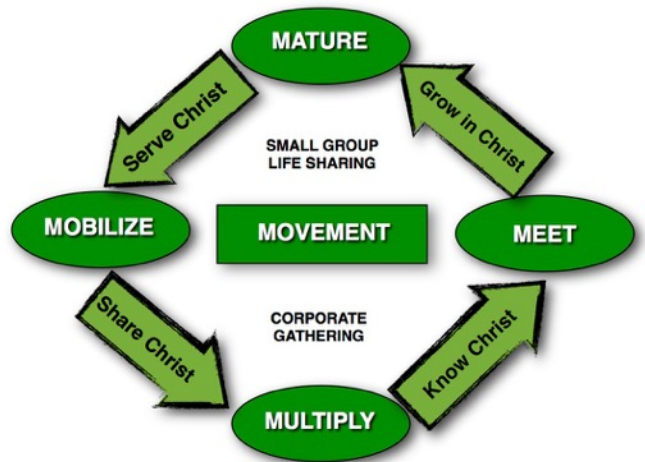
Thank you for being willing to join us on this 10 week journey of discipleship. This journey is really meant to kick start us in our growth with God. We all are coming from many different places in our journeys. Some of us just recently came to Christ and others of us have been walking with Him for decades. However, the thing that is common among all of us is the following Jesus is meant to be a journey where we keep going deeper and deeper, expecting to be conformed to His image.

On this journey, there are some ideas that will frame our times together.

1. These teachings are delivered with the Overall Discipleship Process (Life Development Process) that we have developed at IEC in mind. We look at 5 Ms of Discipleship.

These are:

- A. Meeting Jesus** (coming to faith and continuing to encounter Him)
- B. Maturing in Christ** (growing up to resemble Jesus more)
- C. Mobilizing as Equipped, Empowered and Released Jesus Followers** (we are made for ministry and get the privilege of engaging in it).
- D. Multiplying Disciples who Make Disciples.** Our desire is to see Kingdom multiplication as we share life on life discipleship with others).
- E. Movement.** God is moving and we long to be caught up in what He is doing.



Our hope is that throughout this time together we will grow in all of these areas. However, these 10 weeks are simply to give us a taste of what is possible. We have classes we offer to help train in these areas, too, such as: VISION, PRAYER, DISCOVER, SHARE, and more. Please join us for them and keep growing. The primary aim is for you to grow as someone who is self-feeding and willing to choose to grow as a Jesus follower day by day in relationship with Him.

2. Small Groups. We believe discipleship happens best in relationship. We did not design these 10 weeks to be a personal journey, but rather we purposefully are asking you to be in a small group or at least a pair of people going through this material. Discipleship cannot happen in a vacuum. We need each other.
3. Discussion. Each week we will have a teaching. But much of our learning is going to be in discussing things together and reflecting together on scriptures. The beauty is that God has called together a diverse group with those who are far along on their journeys with Jesus and others very new. We will learn together with some simple rules for sharing.
4. Reflection. At the end of each lesson there is group reflection, but also steps to take during your week. Growing as a disciple means a daily walk with Jesus. So, we encourage you to use the **This Week's Application - To take Home** section to use during your week to grow in Christ.
5. Gathering. On Sundays we also will be looking at some similar topics to what we'll talk about each week. So, we encourage you to gather together with us at our worship services where we grow in worship, fellowship, study and prayer together.

May we grow in Christ during this season,  
The Elders and Ministry Leaders of IEC.

# 1. Meet Jesus. Responding to God.

## Introduction

If you died today, how sure are you that you have Eternal Life?

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Not Sure

Maybe

Absolutely

## 1. God, Our Creator, Loves Us!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

## 2. Our Sin Has Separated Us From God!

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

## 3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, Died On the Cross for Our Sins!

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

## 4. We Must Receive Jesus Christ As Savior and Lord!

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12

## This Week's Application. - To take Home

1. Take some time to reflect on where you are as a Follower of Jesus. What might help you to draw closer to Him over these next 10 weeks?
2. Start reading the Daily Bible Readings found on Page 14.

## 2. Mature in God's Family.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

**So what do we need to give each other as a Family together in The Lord?**

### 1. Encouragement

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

### 2. Inspiration

"Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'" 1 Corinthians 15:33

### 3. Restoration

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently."  
Galatians 6:1a

**How can we grow as God's Family together in this room?**

## **This Week's Application. - To take Home**

1. Pray daily for each of the members of your group this week.
2. Continue in the Daily Bible Readings found on Page 14.

# 3. Mature in God's Word.

"There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death." Proverbs 16:25

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 1 Timothy 3:14 - 16.

To understand God's Word to us, we must interpret at 2 different levels.

**I. We try to understand the meaning of the original author to the original audience (Exegesis)? We want to hear the Word as the original audience would have heard it.**

**II. What is the relevance and application of this passage to my life today? (Hermeneutics)**

**SPECS (like spectacles, glasses).**

**S - What are the SINS I should forsake?**

**P - What are the PROMISES I can claim?**

**E - What are the EXAMPLES in the text that I should follow?**

**C - What COMMANDS should I obey?**

**S - What STUMBLING BLOCKS or errors should I avoid?**

## **This Week's Application. - To take Home**

This week we learned the importance of studying God's word and its usefulness to us. This week, spend some time in God's Word. Together we are going to read through \_\_\_\_\_.

Try the following each day:

1. Pray for insight, focus and clarity.
2. Keep reading the Daily Readings. For this week, you will see that there is one chapter per day in 1 Thessalonians (there are 5 chapters).
3. Re-read the chapter, asking the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How questions.
4. Journal a bit about what this passage might have meant to the original audience.
5. Journal what God is showing you in this passage using SPECS from above.
6. Bring something that God showed you and that you are willing to share to next week's small group.

# Week 4 - Mature in Prayer

*“Prayer is the one activity that brings us into an ongoing, minute by minute, encounter with the Living God!”*

## Four Aspects of Prayer

### Adoration

“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can show forth all his praise?” Psalm 106:2

### Confession

“If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;” Psalm 66:18

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’ - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Psalm 32:5

“Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” Psalm 51:2-5,10 & 12

### Thanksgiving

“give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

### Supplication

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6

## This Week's Application. - To take Home

1. Share prayer requests around the room. Commit to pray for each other.
2. If you see God intervening in your request during the week, send an email, letting people know how God is answering.
3. Next week come prepared to share what God did in you as you prayed for others, or the encouragement you felt in knowing that others were praying.
4. Daily commit to spending 10 minutes in prayer using the ACTS Model.
5. Continue Reading the Daily Bible Readings on Page 14.

# Week 5 - Overcoming Growth Hurdles. There is An Enemy.

Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Genesis 3:1-19.

1 Peter 5:8, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

## **A. The Enemy Within.**

Read Romans 7:15 - 25.

**Read Romans 6:6 - 8, 11.**

Romans 8:11- 14.

But there are some practical steps or choices we can take which help us in this battle.

1. **Practice honesty. Read 1 John 1:9 and James 5:16.**
2. **Stop Feeding My Flesh. Read Galatians 5:24 - 26.**
3. **Walk in The Spirit. Read Galatians 5:16 - 18.**

## **B. The Enemy Without.**

Read 1 John 2:15 - 17.

## **C. The Enemy Above.**

Ephesians 4:27.

1 Timothy 3:7.

Revelation 2:10

1 Timothy 5:15.

## **This Week's Application - To Take Home.**

1. Pray daily using the ACTS model for at least 10 minutes. However, this week focus on the confession part of the prayer.
2. Ask God to make you more aware this week of the ways the enemy is trying to distract you. As you become aware, ask God to re-center you on Himself and His purposes.
3. Help others to see the forgiveness that is offered in Christ. Especially think about brothers and sisters in Christ and how you might be able to speak words of forgiveness that leads to freedom over them rather than judgement and condemnation.
4. Continue in the Daily Bible Readings on Page 14

# **Week 6 - Overcoming Growth Hurdles. Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?**

**Read Romans 8:14 - 39**

**When we see suffering, how can we respond?**

**1. Press in to Him and His Love for us.**

v. 15 - 17, v. 35 - 38.

**2. Cry out in The Spirit.**

v. 14, 26 - 30.

**3. Keep Perspective.**

v. 18 - 25.

**4. Walk with Others.**

v. 31 - 37.

## **This Week's Application - To Take Home.**

1. Daily bring before the Lord any suffering in your life. Come into His Presence and ask Him to meet you in the midst of your suffering and to make His undying Love known.
2. Using the ACTS model, pray for those who suffer around you. Also, bring your suffering before God.
3. As you move around the city this week, ask God that He would open your eyes to those who are suffering. Then ask Him how He might have you respond to their suffering.
4. Continue in the Daily Bible Readings on Page 14 of the Participant Guide.



# Week 7 - Overcoming Growth Hurdles.

## How Does God View Money?

Matthew 6:33. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

What is a Biblical Perspective on Money and Stewardship, then?

1. **God owns everything.** Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;"

2. **Our role is to be good Managers / Stewards.**

Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

1 Timothy 6:17 - 19, "17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

3. **Management Requires godly Action.**

A. Giving. Proverbs 3:9 - 10. "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 11.

B. Taxes. Romans 13:6 - 7. "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."

C. **Savings.** Proverbs 6:6 - 8. "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."

D. **Lifestyle Spending.**

1 Timothy 6:6 - 8 " But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

1 Timothy 6:17- 18. "17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Luke 16:10 - 11 ""Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

**E. Making a Budget.**

	Current	Ideal
<b>Income</b>		
Salary		
Other Income		
<b>Giving</b>		
Tithe 10% to Church		
Offering		
Family Support		
Gifts to the Poor		
<b>Savings</b>		
Investments		
Emergency Fund		
Replacements		
<b>Debt Repayment</b>		
1		
2		
<b>Living Costs</b>		
Utilities		
Transportation		
Phone / Internet		
Rent		
Food		
Eating Out		
House Help/Guard		
Pocket Money		
Insurance		
Medical		
Fees		
Clothing		
<b>TOTALS</b>		
<b>Credit or Deficit</b>		

**F. Living Debt Free.**

Prov. 17:18 “One who has no sense shakes hands in pledge and puts up security for a neighbor.”  
 Prov 22:7 “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.”  
 Prov 22:26 - 27 “Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; <sup>27</sup> if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.”

**This Week’s Application - To Take Home.**

1. Confess to God how you have held back resource from Him for your purposes rather than His.
2. Commit to start tithing. Start this Sunday.
3. Work on a Budget / Spending Plan. Pray and ask God to guide you in this process.
4. Keep reading the Daily Bible Readings on Page 14.

# Week 8 - Mobilizing for Ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:12 - 27.

## S - Spiritual Gifts.

**What gift do you think God perhaps has given you?**

### (Partial list of Possible Spiritual Gifts)

Prophecy, Evangelism, Missionary, Apostle, Teaching, Encouragement, Wisdom, Discernment, Knowledge, Service, Mercy, Hospitality, Pastoring, Giving, Artistic, Handiwork, Intercession, Healing, Miracles, Tongues, Interpretation, Leadership, Administration, Faith.

## H - Heart.

**What are you Passionate about?**

## A - Abilities.

**When you look back over your life, what abilities has God given you? What do you enjoy doing?**

## P - Personality.

**What makes your personality unique?**

## E - Experiences.

**What experiences (positive or negative) might God redeem for His purposes?**

### One Another Verses

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

1 Corinthians 12:25

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:2

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Thessalonians 5:13

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Ephesians 4:2

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 5:21

Colossians 3:13

James 5:16

1 Peter 1:22

1 Peter 4:9

1 Peter 5:5

1 John 1:7

## This Week's Application - To Take Home.

1. Ask God to show you your Unique SHAPE This week. Be aware of things you enjoy doing or different opportunities that God seems to put in your path. Prayerfully consider how they are part of how God has made you to serve His Body.
2. Read the list of One Anothers again.. Ask God to make those known in our community. How can you make some of those One Another verses a reality for others in this group?

# Chapter 9 - Sharing My Faith

Matthew 28:18 - 20. “<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Rebecca Pippert wrote, “Our problem in evangelism is not that we don’t have enough information - it is that we don’t know how to be ourselves. We forget we are called to be witnesses to what we have seen and know, not to what we don’t know. The key is authenticity and obedience, not a doctorate in theology.” *Out of the Salt Shaker and into The World*

*6 Different Models of Sharing the Good News with others.*

1. Read Acts 2:38 - 41.
2. Read Acts 17.
3. Read John 9:25
4. Read Luke 5:27 - 31.
5. Read John 4:28 - 29.
6. Acts 9:36.

## **This Week’s Application - To Take Home.**

1. Read The Passages for This week in the Bible Readings, Page 14.
2. Continue using the ACTS model for a daily prayer time.
3. Each day this week pray for 5 people you would like to see come to know Jesus. At the same time pray for opportunities to share with them glimpses of who God is.
4. Take some time to think about Your Story. What were you like before Jesus? What has He changed in you? How are you different now? Use those ideas to help you think more deeply about how you share Jesus with others.

# Week 10 - Multiplying Disciples as the Church's Mission

What is One-To-One Discipleship?

2 Timothy 3:10 -11. <sup>10</sup> You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

<sup>12</sup> In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."

<sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: <sup>14</sup> Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup> Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor." Luke 6

When we look at the Biblical Examples of Discipling others, we see that there are 3 Characteristics that it will take in our lives, for us to give birth to other disciples.

1. Faithful....Loyal, trustworthy, dependable, true and devoted. To God and to a spiritual child.
2. Available...At hand, not too busy. Accessible, willing to spend time together with you.
3. Teachable....Humble, eager to learn and apply instruction, willing to change.

**What would it take for you to invest in a One To One Discipleship relationship with someone.**

1. **Recognize what the basics of the Christian Life are.**
2. **Invite someone who is not as far along in their walk with Jesus to start spending some intentional time together.**
3. **Read together some Bible passages. Maybe even read through a book of the Bible together. Discuss what makes sense and what does not.**
4. **Give the person time to simply be together. Allow them to see how you interact with others, with your family. Sit together and serve together at Church and in the community.**
5. **Pray together. Encourage each other and start asking more vulnerable questions of each other.**
6. **Give the person practical suggestions about how they could keep growing in The Lord. It might be things that have worked for you or things you feel might be helpful for them. If you need help, ask someone who is further along than you to help guide you.**
7. **Start praying for someone that your friend could start meeting with as you see them growing in The Lord.**

**This Week's Application - To Take Home.**

1. Start seeking God about WHO you can ask to be in a one on one discipleship relationship.

# Daily Bible Readings

Week 1		Week 4		Week 7	
9/18	John 3:16 - 17	10/9	Psalms 106	10/30	1 Timothy 3:17 - 19
9/19	John 10	10/10	Luke 11:1 - 13	10/31	Matthew 6:19 - 24
9/20	Romans 6:23	10/11	Psalms 51	11/1	Matthew 6:25 - 34
9/21	John 14	10/12	Psalms 150	11/2	Mark 12:41 - 44
9/22	Romans 5:8	10/13	Matthew 6:1-18	11/3	Isaiah 58
9/23	John 1:12	10/14	James 5:13 - 20	11/4	Mark 10:17 - 31
9/24	Genesis 3:15	10/15	Luke 18:1 - 14	11/5	2 Corinthians 9
Week 2		Week 5		Week 8	
9/25	Hebrews 10:25	10/16	Romans 8:14 - 17	11/6	Romans 12:10, 16
9/26	Leviticus 19:18	10/17	Romans 8:18 - 30	11/7	Romans 15:7, 14
9/27	1 Samuel 20	10/18	Romans 8:31 - 39	11/8	1 Cor 12:25 Gal 5:13, 6:2
9/28	Proverbs 17:17	10/19	Habakkuk 1	11/9	1 Thess 5:11-15
9/29	Prov 27:5 - 7	10/20	Habakkuk 2	11/10	Eph 4:2, 4:32, 5:21
9/30	John 15	10/21	Habakkuk 3	11/11	Col 3:13, James 5:16, 1 Pet 1:22
10/1	John 17:20 - 26	10/22	2 Timothy 1:6 - 14	11/12	1 Pet 4:9, 1 Pet 5:5, 1 John 1:7
Week 3		Week 6		Week 9	
10/2	1 Thess 1	10/23	Ephesians 5:1 - 20	11/13	Matthew 28
10/3	1 Thess 2	10/24	Ephesians 6	11/14	Acts 2:38- 47
10/4	1 Thess 3	10/25	Romans 7:15 - 25	11/15	Acts 17
10/5	1 Thess 4	10/26	Psalms 32	11/16	John 9:25
10/6	1 Thess 5	10/27	Psalms 103	11/17	Luke 5
10/7	1 Timothy 3:14 - 16	10/28	Psalms 145	11/18	John 4
10/8	Psalms 119	10/29	2 Corinthians 5	11/19	Acts 9