

**BeaconLight**  
Training

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# DISCIPLESHIP

A course for Christians  
who want to grow in Christ

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to DISCIPLESHIP! These four study-sessions are for Christians who want to grow in Christ - it will re-tune your heart and mind to the essentials of our relationship with Jesus. We all need that because our busy lives give us false priorities. Even Christians committed to ministry need an uncluttered view of how to live the Christian life! Taking this time out will give you the refreshed focus on Jesus Christ that we all need.

**We meet on Wednesdays during May 2006**

*7.45-8.15 Food and fellowship*

*8.15-8.20 Introducing the theme*

*8.20-8.30 Sharing initial thoughts*

*8.30-8.35 Testimony*

*8.35-8.45 Reading the passage*

*8.45-8.50 Teaching the principle*

*8.50-9.25 Discussing the passage*

*9.25-9.30 Summary and homework*

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## PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN

No.	What should I do?	How will I do it?	When will I do it?

THIS WEEK'S ACTION AGENDA	REVIEW

WELCOME

TODAY'S THEME: "WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLESHIP?"

Your thoughts:

Group thoughts:

**PRESENTATION POINTS**

A glimpse of heaven  
-

Words matter  
-

To be continued ...  
-

Q.	FROM THE BIBLE TEXT	TO YOUR LIFE
1	Jesus is gentle and gracious with Thomas, but there's also a hint of mild rebuke at the end of v27. Why should Thomas already have stopped doubting and believed?	"God is always good". Sometimes that's obvious to us. But what kind of things might make you feel doubtful or disillusioned about God?
2	What does Jesus mean by "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed?" (Why do you think John puts v30-31 immediately after this?)	What things can you focus on, to help you get to grips with those feelings?
3	How would you sum up what Peter does after he has denied Jesus?  What do you think he might be thinking about himself?  How do you think he might be feeling?	If you "mess up" - if you sin in a big way, or somehow deny Christ how do you normally react? (e.g. Are you a bit like Peter, or are you different from him?)
4	Why is this episode in v15-19 so important for Peter?  What does it tell us about who God can use?	When we sin, what encouragement can we get from how Jesus deals with Peter? What challenge does it give us?

**PRESENTATION POINTS**

Doubt &amp; Disillusionment

-

Cowardice &amp; Betrayal

-

"What is that to you?"

-

Q.	From the Bible text	To your life
1	"Words don't matter - they're just so much hot air." Verses 14-15 suggest otherwise - but what's wrong with saying words are "just so much hot air"?	Can you think of examples/situations where you do take gospel words seriously?  Can you think of examples/situations where you need to do this better?
2	"Discipleship is about learning to obey all that Jesus commanded". What does "learning-centred" and "obedience-centred" discipleship look like?	Is your discipleship centred on learning? Is it centred on obeying?  What steps can you take to grow in these areas?
3	In v20, Jesus promises that God's Spirit will help us, even in the most daunting situations. What difference would "learning and obeying" the truth of that verse make for us?	

THIS WEEK'S ACTION AGENDA	REVIEW

Welcome

Today's Theme: "Who Can Be a Disciple,  
and Who Can Make Disciples?"

Your thoughts:

Group thoughts:

THIS WEEK'S ACTION AGENDA	REVIEW

Welcome

Today's Theme: "What Makes a Disciple?"

Your thoughts:

Group thoughts:

**PRESENTATION POINTS**

Sheep without a shepherd

-

Astonishing bread

-

A blockage

-

A cycle

-

Q.	FROM THE BIBLE TEXT	TO YOUR LIFE
1	Verse 26 is very strong. What was your first impression when you read it?  On reflection, what do you think Jesus is getting at?	Has being a disciple of Jesus been costly for you in the past? In what ways?
2	In Jesus' day, people associated 'carrying a cross' with execution — you were going to your death (v27). What does this tell us about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?	
3	The builder in verse 28 had to 'sit down and estimate the cost'. What might become of a builder who failed to do this?	What costs of being a disciple ought you to 'sit down and estimate' for the present and future?
4	Salt can illustrate lots of different things. In verse 34, what is the analogy between salt & discipleship?	Are there any ways in which you might be in danger of "losing your saltiness"?  What can you do to avoid the danger?

**PRESENTATION POINTS**

Costs: Upfront vs Hidden

-

How can "hate" be good? (v26)

-

What cross are we to carry? (v27)

-

Think about it! (v28)

-

Q.	FROM THE BIBLE TEXT	TO YOUR LIFE
1	<p>Here is a claim: "Not understanding is an intellectual problem and having a hard heart is a moral/spiritual problem; they are completely unconnected."</p> <p>Is this true? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Can you think of examples in your life where a 'hard heart' has led to you being blind to the truth about Jesus?</p> <p>Or blind to what you should do because of it?</p>
2	<p>If the disciples had 'understood about the loaves' what exactly would they have understood?</p> <p>What difference should this have made to how they acted in verses 47-52?</p>	<p>What have you understood recently about Jesus?</p> <p>What difference should this make to what you do?</p>

THIS WEEK'S ACTION AGENDA	REVIEW

Welcome

Today's Theme: "What's the cost of Discipleship?"

Your thoughts:

Group thoughts: