

# Chapter 2 Five-Day Bible Study Plan: The Biblical Pattern of Discipling

## Day 1: Discipling as God's Design in Creation

**Scripture Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:4–9

**Context:** God commands Israel to love Him and teach His words diligently to their children, embedding discipling in the family structure as a pattern for transmitting faith through life's moments.

**Illustration:** Picture a gardener carefully tending a young plant, watering it daily and guiding its growth with stakes. Similarly, God designed parents to nurture their children's faith, and all believers to disciple others, cultivating spiritual growth through intentional care.

**Reflection:** The chapter highlights how God “hardwires” discipling into creation through parenting, where love and teaching flow naturally. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 shows discipling as an all-of-life commitment, passing on God's Word to shape others toward maturity.

**Theological/Christological Point:** Theologically, God's covenant with Israel reveals His relational nature, calling His people to reflect His faithfulness by teaching His Word (Deuteronomy 7:9). Christologically, Jesus fulfills this covenant as the Word made flesh (John 1:14), modeling perfect obedience and teaching His disciples to pass on His teachings (Matthew 28:20).

### Exegetical Questions:

1. In Deuteronomy 6:6–7, why does God emphasize teaching “when you sit... walk... lie down... rise”? What does this suggest about discipling?
2. How does the command to “love the Lord your God” (v. 5) connect to teaching His words diligently?
3. What role does the heart play in discipling, based on “these words... shall be on your heart”?

**Theological Question:** How does God's relational design in creation reflect His desire for us to disciple others, and how does Jesus embody this design?

### Application Questions:

1. How can you incorporate God's Word into daily moments (e.g., conversations, routines) to disciple someone?
2. Who in your life (e.g., family, friend) could you intentionally teach God's Word to this week?
3. What habits can you develop to keep God's Word “on your heart” for discipling?

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you love Him wholeheartedly and to use daily moments to disciple others with His Word.

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## Day 2: Jesus' Model of Personal Investment

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 3:13–15; John 15:15–16

**Context:** Jesus called the Twelve to “be with him” and sent them to preach, investing deeply in a small group, especially Peter, James, and John, to prepare them for ministry.

**Illustration:** Imagine a coach training a small team, spending hours with each player to teach skills and build trust. Jesus similarly invested in His disciples through close relationships, modeling discipling as personal and purposeful engagement.

**Reflection:** The chapter emphasizes that Christianity began with Jesus' personal investment in a few, not a mass rollout. Mark 3:13–14 shows discipling as relational, involving time spent together to equip others for God's work.

**Theological/Christological Point:** Theologically, God's call to relationship reflects His triune nature, where love and unity exist eternally (John 17:21). Christologically, Jesus, as the incarnate Son, discipled by being with His followers, revealing God's heart and empowering them through His Spirit (John 15:26).

### Exegetical Questions:

1. In Mark 3:13–14, why does Jesus prioritize “being with him” before sending the disciples to preach?
2. What does the selection of the Twelve (and the inner three) suggest about the intentionality of discipling?
3. How does John 15:15–16 expand on the purpose of Jesus' choice of disciples?

**Theological Question:** How does Jesus' relational approach to discipling reflect the relational nature of the Trinity?

### Application Questions:

1. Who are one or two people you could “be with” to help them grow in faith?
2. How can you make time this week to invest in someone through shared activities or conversations?
3. What can you learn from Jesus' example of choosing a few for focused discipling?

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank Jesus for calling you to Himself. Ask for wisdom to invest in others relationally for their spiritual growth.

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## Day 3: Multigenerational Discipling

**Scripture Reading:** 2 Timothy 2:1–2; Titus 2:3–5

**Context:** Paul instructs Timothy to entrust what he learned to faithful men who will teach others, envisioning a multigenerational chain of discipling, like a father to a son.

**Illustration:** Think of a relay race where each runner passes the baton to the next, ensuring the race continues. Paul’s vision for discipling is like passing the gospel baton through generations, ensuring God’s truth endures.

**Reflection:** The chapter notes Paul’s desire for “spiritual great-grandchildren” through Timothy’s teaching. 2 Timothy 2:2 calls us to disciple with a long-term, multigenerational perspective, trusting God’s Word to bear fruit.

**Theological/Christological Point:** Theologically, God’s plan for His church involves faithful transmission of truth across generations (Psalm 78:5–6). Christologically, Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), ensuring the gospel’s spread through faithful teaching, empowered by His authority.

### Exegetical Questions:

1. In 2 Timothy 2:2, what does Paul mean by “entrust to faithful men”? Why is faithfulness emphasized?
2. How does Titus 2:3–5 illustrate multigenerational discipling in the church?
3. What does “teach others also” imply about the scope of discipling?

**Theological Question:** How does Christ’s Great Commission shape our understanding of multigenerational discipling?

### Application Questions:

1. Who in your life could you entrust God’s truth to, preparing them to teach others?
2. How can you encourage a multigenerational mindset in your church or community?
3. What specific truth from Scripture can you share with someone this week to start this chain?

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to give you a vision for multigenerational discipling and courage to entrust His truth to others.

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## Day 4: Toiling and Struggling for Others

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 1:24–29; Philippians 2:5–8

**Context:** Paul describes his toil and struggle to proclaim Christ, aiming to present everyone mature, relying on God’s power. This reflects the costly, self-giving nature of discipling.

**Illustration:** Imagine a farmer laboring in the fields, planting seeds under harsh sun, trusting for a future harvest. Discipling is like this—hard work with eternal rewards, powered by God’s strength, not our own.

**Reflection:** The chapter highlights Paul’s “agony” in discipling, warning and teaching to present others mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28–29 shows discipling as strenuous but empowered by God, requiring us to proclaim Christ faithfully.

**Theological/Christological Point:** Theologically, sanctification involves effort and reliance on God’s grace (Philippians 2:12–13). Christologically, Jesus’ self-emptying sacrifice on the cross (Philippians 2:8) models the costly love required in discipling, as He gave Himself for our maturity.

### Exegetical Questions:

1. In Colossians 1:28, what does “warning and teaching with all wisdom” involve in Paul’s ministry?
2. How does Paul’s “toil” and “struggling” (v. 29) reflect dependence on God’s energy?
3. How does Philippians 2:5–8 connect Christ’s humility to Paul’s discipling efforts?

**Theological Question:** How does Jesus’ sacrificial love on the cross inform the costly nature of discipling others?

### Application Questions:

1. Where might discipling someone require “toil” or “struggle” for you (e.g., time, emotional energy)?
2. How can you rely on God’s strength when discipling feels challenging?
3. Who can you warn or teach this week to help them grow in Christ?

**Prayer Prompt:** Praise God for His power working in you. Ask for endurance to toil for others’ spiritual growth.

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## Day 5: Proclaiming Now, Presenting Later

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 2:1–5; Matthew 5:16

**Context:** Paul’s desire for the Colossians’ “full riches of complete understanding” shows discipling’s goal: maturity in Christ for the Last Day. Proclaiming now prepares others for eternity.

**Illustration:** Consider an architect designing a building with future generations in mind, choosing materials that endure. Discipling is like this—proclaiming God’s Word now to build mature believers for Christ’s return.

**Reflection:** The chapter emphasizes discipling’s long-term perspective, sowing God’s Word for eternal fruit. Colossians 2:2 calls us to help others discern truth, preparing them to stand mature before Christ.

**Theological/Christological Point:** Theologically, eschatology shapes discipling, as we aim for maturity at Christ’s return (1 Corinthians 1:8). Christologically, Jesus, the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13), is the goal of our proclamation, as we present others to Him, the one who perfects our faith.

### Exegetical Questions:

1. In Colossians 2:2, what are the “full riches of complete understanding”? How do they relate to maturity?
2. How does Paul’s “struggle” (v. 1) connect to his desire for the Colossians’ faith?
3. How does Matthew 5:16 illustrate the visible impact of proclaiming Christ?

**Theological Question:** How does Christ as the goal of history shape our motivation to disciple others for eternity?

### Application Questions:

1. Who can you proclaim Christ to this week to prepare them for eternity?
2. How can you help someone discern between “right and wrong, true and false” in their faith?
3. What long-term investment (e.g., mentoring, teaching) can you make in someone’s spiritual growth?

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for the hope of Christ’s return. Ask for faithfulness to proclaim His Word, preparing others for eternity.