



# dis·ci·ple·ship

counting the real cost



Hello Students in Christ,

It has been a little over a week since we met at Emmanuel Bible College for the *Discipleship: Counting the Real Cost Retreat*. We are thankful for the opportunity to minister with you. Thank you for the great testimonies and pictures. I want to remind you of what you were challenged with during our weekend together.

In 2 Corinthians 11:24 – 28 Paul writes *“Five times I received from the Jews thirty nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from robbers, dangers from my country men, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren. I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is a daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.”* Paul wrote about these trials not as a brag book but he understood the war time mentality, facing persecution for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Today we are at war. We are in a battle for the Kingdom of God, daily you face the struggles of choosing between God and the world. When we make the stand for God we understand that we will face suffering. Paul felt the pain of choosing the kingdom of God over the world.

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On Friday night we posed the question “Who or What are you following?” We looked at the call of the first disciples. John the Baptist was preaching ‘*repent for the kingdom is at hand*’ (Mt.3:2). We see that Jesus comes on the scene, is baptized by John and takes up the message of ‘*repent for the kingdom is at hand.*’ Jesus then turns to Simon called Peter and Andrew and says “*Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.*” (Mt 4:19) Jesus continues his message of follow Me. To put this in to our own words, “Stop what you are doing turn and follow Jesus.” The word repent means “to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one’s life”

Who are you following? In a world that offers so many eye catching things, are you following Christ or your own desires? **Our response should be to follow Jesus, we should be able to drop everything we are doing and follow Christ.**



“*If anyone wishes to come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.*” (Mark 8:34). Following Christ comes at a cost: Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and follow Him. This is huge. Jesus calls us to put Him above everything else in life, above our own desires. To deny ourselves means “refusing to follow any natural tendency however innocent, that runs the opposite of Christ’s path for us.” We looked at the things in our lives that cause us to stumble in our walk. **Have you evaluated what you need to give up in order to walk with Him.**



Are you ready to be a true follower of Christ. We looked at the disciples who could not wrap their head around Jesus teaching on eternal life. “*He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.*” John (6:54) The disciples of Jesus were filled up with bread and fish, looking for the quick gratification of following Christ. They loved the signs but when Jesus started preaching about Eternal life, the disciples walked. They grumbled about his teaching and couldn’t handle it. **True disciples of Jesus accept the teaching and unite with Christ and follow His agenda.**



Sunday morning we looked at understanding Paul’s war time mentality. We are at war with the world, Jesus calls us to go out and make disciples, teaching them to observe all he commanded. Jesus does not want to see one of his sheep go astray and it is our calling to go and share the message of the Gospel, the message of true discipleship to our friends, family, school and community.

How do you measure up? As time has gone by have you forgotten the commitment you made? Are you on fire for God and his Word? Have you started a study with your friends? The time has come where we have to stand up and reach our peers for the kingdom. My hope is that we can continue to come along side you and give you the skills needed to make a difference in this generation.

Do you have any questions? We want to help you as you evaluate your walk with Jesus. We are here to mentor you to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, making an impact for the kingdom in your community. If there is anything I can do to help you please do not hesitate to connect with me via e mail [mark@transformcanada.com](mailto:mark@transformcanada.com) or by phone 877.234.2030. Don’t forget to stay in touch on Facebook.

#### **What the Lord’s doing in J.B.**

I was really impacted during the weekend and it helped me see God through the eyes of a disciple. It also showed me WHY I was having trouble in my life. As in, why I have trouble finding good, strong friendships and such. During the Transform Canada conference I was surrounded by friendship and happiness, and I realized the God was helping me get used to the life ahead of me. You guys rock at what you do, be encouraged.

Blessings, Mark

# Inductive Bible Study

Inductive Bible study is studying the Bible using the Bible as the primary source, not looking to other books to figure out what it says. There are three steps to inductive Bible study that are outlined below.

## OBSERVATION (the 'WHAT' step)

In studying the Bible, you first need to observe (examine) the text. We do this by asking the 5W's and H (Who, What, When, Where, Why and How). Next, look at the key words and phrases (generally repeated words are key words!) and finally, the references to time and geographical location (this helps you to keep the text in **context**). Make lists! For example, in Psalm 23 we can see by making a list that God's attributes are: peace giver, a shepherd, He guides the righteous, restores the soul.

## INTERPRETATION (the 'SO WHAT')

The interpretation step is simply understanding what the text says. Scripture should always be interpreted according to its **context**; similar to a jig saw puzzle – you start from the outside and work your way in. Once you are done observing, step back and read the text again. Look at it carefully; what you have marked. What do you see? What is the text saying?

## APPLICATION (the 'NOW WHAT')

Finally, application is simply applying the meaning of text to your life. What is the Lesson for Life (LFL) you see in the text you have just observed and interpreted? How does this text impact you? How can you take these lessons and use them in your everyday Christian walk? Ask, "How does this apply to my life?"

Mark Key Words

List

Evaluation  
(what?)

Context

Application  
(So what about me?)

Now what?

# Practice Your Skills...

## Lightning Study

Today people are caught in the trap of materialism. How can we change our focus to see what is truly important?

### Follow these instructions and discover for yourself:

Mark **God** including all the synonyms and pronouns that refer to Him (e.g. Father, He, His)

Reflect: What benefits do we obtain when we know God?

Mark **blessed(blessing)** riches with the same symbol.

Reflect: What did you discover by marking these words?

Mark the phrase in **Christ Jesus** including all the synonyms and pronouns that refer to Jesus( e.g. Lord, Him )

Reflect: What are the riches we have been given In Jesus?

Mark the phrase **according to**.

Reflect: Why did God do this for us?

## Ephesians 1:1-14

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:
- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love
- 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
- 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

# Snapped!



## What the Lord's doing in G.D.

This weekend has impacted me in many ways! First, it is an intense weekend, so if you're thinking about going, make sure you really want to go. Secondly, I learned SO much about being disciple of God. It takes a lot of effort; it is NOT easy. Jesus wants us to give up ALL that we have for Him. We have to not be ashamed of Him and to love Him more than anything.

## What the Lord's doing in D.J.

Last night I was reading my Bible for an hour. That's something that I never do. It was sweet :-)

I thought the weekend was AMAZING! The people I met were really nice and the leaders were great. The best part was on Saturday night when we prayed. I felt the Holy Spirit in me. I felt so connected to God and I don't want to loose that feeling.

## What the Lord's doing in M.M.

The weekend was so much fun. The leaders and speakers were really great too. We learned how to be a true disciple of Christ and how to study His Word. I liked the discussion groups the best, because we learned some good techniques to study the Bible (O, I, A). I'm still learning to apply God's Word especially, but I am really thankful for all the stuff that the youth retreat taught me.

## Go Deeper Student Leader Internship

Brantford, Ontario August 13-15, 2009

Three Days and Three Nights of intense Bible study training and living it out!

### Finding Your Place of Service in the Church

(Thursday)

Using basic Inductive Bible Study skills, you will learn what the Bible teaches about how individual believers fit in Christ's body, the Church. This workshop focuses on the foundational elements of spiritual gifts.

### Witnessing (Friday)

The basics of Inductive Bible Study will be used to observe what the New Testament says about "Witnessing." Understanding what God says about witnessing can set you free from feelings of failure and bondage in this area.

### Basics of Precept Upon Precept (Saturday)

*Experience the joy of discovering the Truth of the Bible for yourself!*

Learn inductive Bible study skills and how to lead a small group inductive Bible study. Using the book of Jonah you will learn basic Old Testament book study skills and small group discussion techniques. This workshop will qualify you to lead PUP classes after learning to do homework and how to effectively lead a discussion.

**Cost:**  
**3 Days - \$100**

includes workshop materials and 2 meals each day.

A limited number of billet spots with local church families are available on a first come basis.



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