

# DISCIPLES TEACH GOD'S WORD

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

## BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES TEACH GOD'S WORD

Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2; James 3:1

## BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:20

"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## BIG IDEAS

- Teaching others the Word begins with the Gospel.
- Teaching others the Word means teaching all of Scripture, not just certain parts.
- Teaching the Word is about teaching obedience, not just information.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 28:16-20; MATTHEW 5:17-20

## TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



### Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



### Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



### Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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**BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 28:20**

*"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

**Disciples reproduce by teaching truth.**

*"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

- A disciple of Christ is someone who reproduces themselves. Because a disciple is someone who follows another and becomes more and more like them, a disciple of Christ becomes more and more like Christ. Jesus commands His followers to reproduce themselves by teaching others His truth.
- A disciple teaches truth by teaching others the Word of God. God's Word is our source of truth and by teaching it to others, we will teach them truth. When a disciple teaches truth, he or she will reproduce followers of Christ. Jesus taught His disciples truth while He was on earth and the men and women who followed Him became more and more like Him. Now, His followers learn truth through His Word and become more and more like Him.

**Disciples reproduce by teaching obedience.**

*"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

- When disciples teach others truth, they teach obedience to God's Word. In order to accurately reproduce a disciple of God, a person must teach absolute obedience to God's Word.
- When we teach others to observe God's commands, we are teaching them to immerse themselves in them and to hide them in their hearts. This means that they become what they base their lives on. They make decisions based upon the wisdom they find in God's Word, not the world.

**Disciples reproduce by God's power.**

*"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

- Any good thing we do, we do in God's power. God is the one who works in us and enables His people to fulfill His purpose for them. As He works in us, we will produce fruit and do good works.
- This also means that when we reproduce other disciples by teaching them His Word, we will do this in His power, not our own. We understand God's Word because His Spirit illuminates it to us. The Spirit guides us and teaches us God's truth and enables us to teach others.

**BIG IDEA #1: TEACHING OTHERS THE WORD BEGINS WITH THE GOSPEL.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commissions His followers with the task of making disciples. As He commissions them, He commands them to do this by teaching them His Word. They are to go into all the world and reproduce followers of Him. Before a disciple of Jesus can teach another person how to follow and obey Jesus, he or she has to share the good news of the Gospel. Disciple-making and teaching begin with the Gospel. A disciple shares this truth first and then teaches the specifics of the Word of God. Evangelism is the first step in disciple-making and teaching because without a repentance of sin and a personal knowledge of Jesus, a person cannot really follow Jesus. When a person repents and believes in Jesus, then they can begin to know and understand what it looks like to follow Jesus in obedience. This means that they first must know Jesus and then they can begin to understand His written Word.

**[ THEREFORE ]****Why is sharing the Gospel the first step of teaching or disciple-making?**

A person can't understand the truths of Scripture unless they know Christ because sin darkens our minds to truth as Ephesians 4:18 shows. Matthew 9:37-38 and Romans 1:16 reminds us that when we are saved, we become new and can know Christ. Our hearts and minds are opened to truth.

**[ THIS ]**

When a person hears and believes the Gospel, they can then obey the Word. It's after this saving knowledge has happened that people can learn specific truths in God's Word. As the Gospel is received, the Holy Spirit comes, and illuminates God's Word and opens hearts to grow in knowledge and truth. The Gospel changes lives because people become new creations. Hearts are set free to follow Jesus and to become more like Him. Desires change and people no longer pursue just the things of the world. Instead, they desire the things of God and want to grow in holiness. This makes it possible to teach specific and deep truths from the Word and to see lives transformed, but this isn't possible until the Gospel is heard and believed.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How does sharing the Gospel result in a person being able to learn truth?**

When we believe the Gospel, we receive the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit helps us know truth. John 6:44, 16:8, and 1 Corinthians 2:10 remind us of the Spirit's work and power in revealing truth to people.

**How is it possible to teach from God's Word without explicitly sharing the Gospel?**

We can teach from God's Word without sharing the Gospel by teaching things out of context. We can teach a parable or story without really bringing in the Gospel. 2 Timothy 4:3 reminds us that people have itching ears and do not always endure sound doctrine. Because of this it can be easy to just give platitudes instead of teaching truth and sharing the Gospel.

**Why is this dangerous?**

This is dangerous because this presents a false Gospel to people. This leads people to believe they are in right standing with God when they haven't really believed the Gospel.

1. Matthew 28:20: *Sharing the Gospel is the first step in reaching others. When we want to make disciples, we must first share the Gospel with them and then teach them God's Word.*

## BIG IDEA #2: TEACHING OTHERS THE WORD MEANS TEACHING ALL OF SCRIPTURE, NOT JUST CERTAIN PARTS.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

It can be tempting to learn and obey only the parts of Scripture that are simple, easy, or not controversial. Matthew 5:17-20 reminds us that every part of Scripture is important and significant. We cannot just teach the parts of Scripture that make us or others comfortable. We cannot skip over parts that may offend some people. It can be tempting to only teach passages that speak about God's love and leave out the parts that speak of God's wrath. As a disciple who teaches God's Word, we must not do this. We must endeavor to teach all of God's Word because we believe that all of it is important.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What are some parts of Scripture we may be tempted not to teach?

It is tempting to only teach what is popular or comfortable. Titus 2:1 and 2 Timothy 4:2-4 tell us to teach the Word because it is truth. We cannot give in to the temptation to teach what will make people happy and leave out the parts that upset them or offend them. We must teach all of Scripture.

### [ THIS ]

Teaching God's Word means we teach all of it. As disciples we will want to teach all of God's Word because we will value it and know its importance. We will see the Word as God's means of speaking to us and hold it in the highest place in our lives. We will want others to know it. God's Word will excite us and comfort us. As His disciple, we will want other people to experience the same thing that we do when we read and study it. We will teach the challenging parts and the difficult parts. We will endeavor to help others understand all of it because it is truth and gives life to those who read it and study it. We will share the parts that seemingly go against social norms even if it means we are unpopular or cast outside of social circles. God's Word is valuable to His disciples because it is from Him and the way they know Him. They will teach it all to others. God's Word is profitable to all of our lives. Every part of His Word profits our lives and helps us grow. God's Spirit helps us teach even the most challenging parts of His Word.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How does it profit us to teach all of God's Word?

The Bible is our only source of truth. In it we learn about ourselves and God. We are made more and more like Jesus as we read and study it. It profits us to teach all of God's Word because it makes us and others more and more like Him when we do. We grow together as we teach all of His Word to others.

#### How have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you as you've tried to teach someone else God's Word?

In John 14:26 and 16:7, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and be our Helper. He helps us know God's Word and teach God's Word. Jesus gives us power to teach others His Word and to disciple them. We lead others in the power of Christ and it is through His power that we can share God's truth and help others grow. This is encouraging because we do not have to do it in our own power.

2. Matthew 5:17-20: Every part of God's Word is vital and important. We do not get to place a higher value on some parts than on other parts.

## BIG IDEA #3: TEACHING THE WORD IS ABOUT TEACHING OBEDIENCE, NOT JUST INFORMATION.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God's Word is living and active and can peer into our souls and transform us as Hebrews 4:12 teaches. It is good and profitable in every way and to every part of our lives. It knows us better than we know ourselves and through the work of the Spirit convicts us of our sin and transforms us to be more Christ-like every time we read it. We know that as we teach God's Word and as we study it ourselves, we should be different. God's Word is powerful. It can reveal the depths of our souls to us and lead us to repentance. It shows the nature and character of God and thus of ourselves. This changes us and grows us to be more like Him. We can know who we are and what is expected of us by knowing God's Word. When we teach His Word, we should teach with the goal of transformation in mind. Then we are hearers and doers of the Word.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### How has God's Word transformed you?

Hebrews 4:12 teaches us that God's Word pierces our souls. This means that it peers into our being and reveals our souls. As the Spirit works in us and as we read God's Word, we can know our sin and repent of it. This can transform us. We can also know how to live for God and how to please Him.

#### What error do we make when we do not expect to be transformed when reading and teaching God's Word?

Isaiah 55:11 says that God's Word is not proclaimed in vain. This means that we should and can expect for it to change us and others. Hebrews 3:7-8 warns of the effects of what could happen if we harden our hearts against the transformation.

### [ THIS ]

Because God's Word transforms, it will lead to obedience. When we teach the Word, we are teaching obedience to the Bible. That is the only way we are transformed. If we do not obey His Word, then we are only hearers of His Word and not doers also. If we just teach the Word without teaching with the expectation that lives are changed, we are just giving out information. We might as well be reading from a dictionary or encyclopedia. When we teach, we teach with the expectation that lives will be different because of the teaching. We express that lives should be different because the Word of God is being taught. God expects us to respond to His Word when it is taught. He requires a response from His people. If we teach anything other than what God requires, we are failing to do what God has commanded. As disciples, we must teach that obedience is required when we hear God's Word.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### When has someone taught God's Word in a way that you understood transformation was the expectation?

#### How did this affect you?

Romans 12:2 is an example of Paul calling his listeners to life change. As he taught them God's commands, he expected the Word to change them. When we hear the teaching of God's Word, we should expect to be changed. We should hear it and respond to it in obedience. This changes us and grows us in Him.

3. Hebrews 4:12: The Bible is living and active and pierces our soul. It leads us to changed lives. It's more than just gaining information.