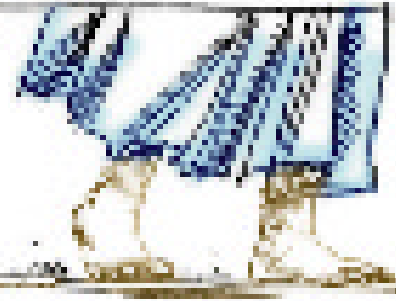


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Lesson 11 / Page 1

Loving Our Lord

In lesson 10 we focused on the fact that we have no ability to produce any fruit apart from Christ. This is His work, and we have the privilege to be a part of it. Our part is to trust and obey; His part is to save lives and empower disciples. One of the most important practices we can do each day is to meditate on God. This is a spiritual discipline that is invaluable for those who want to live out God's kingdom on earth (see Matthew 6:10). King David was great at it. Let's borrow one of his prayers and make it our own as we choose this day to cling to Jesus.

1. Meditate on Psalm 143:7-12. Read it slowly two to three times. What phrase jumps out at you? _____

a. David faced physical enemies that wanted to block his way when he was serving his God. He could easily get overwhelmed by these enemies. What are some things that cause you to feel discouraged and overwhelmed?

b. If we waited until our lives were in perfect order, none of us would ever enter into kingdom work. What do you see in this psalm as some practical advice to keep you on level ground? _____

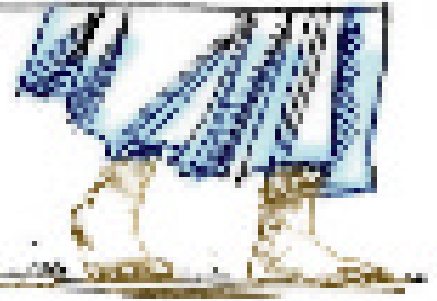
c. What encourages you from this passage as you seek to live your life as a disciple for Christ?

d. Notice how intentional David was about focusing on the character of God. How did this help him to face his battles? _____

Keeping a journal is a great way to focus your mind and heart on what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you. David wrote his prayers down giving us a great example. He wrote of his fears, worries, anger, dreams, commitments, requests and praises to God. Have you started a journal to the Lord yet? Even if you don't write in it every day, once or twice a month would be a great start.

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Lesson 11 / Page 2

Learning His Word

One of the amazing parts of God's creation is that we are all so different from each other. We have our own personalities, strengths, weaknesses, and our own life experiences that have shaped us and placed us where we are today. There is no cookie-cutter pattern in being a disciple or making disciples. The common denominator is that we love Jesus and want others to know and love Him too. What form that takes will be different for each one of us. However, there are some principles in Scripture that apply to everyone.

1. John 15 continues to give incredible insight on how to walk in Christ. It teaches us, the branches, how to thrive in the Vine, Jesus. Read John 15:9-11 again. Do you ever feel like your life lacks joy? What are some ways we try to produce that fruit in our own effort? _____

 - a. Obeying the Lord's commands connects us to our true Vine and the fruit of that relationship is complete joy; Jesus' joy in us! We obey His commands simply because we love Him (see John 14:15). Why do we love Him according to I John 4:19? _____

 - b. Who receives all the glory for this amazing plan? _____
 - c. How does Jesus explain it in John 15:8? _____

 - d. So, when we love God and obey Him, we not only receive the blessing of His joy, but the honor of glorifying Him! How does this bring perspective to your day-to-day life? _____

 - e. Sometimes we think it's in the big, showy demonstrations that God is most glorified; but according to Jesus, it's much simpler. In what way can you specifically glorify God today? _____

2. A disciple lives for God's kingdom, His agenda, and His glory. Jesus explicitly tells us how He wants us to obey. Read John 15:12. In what ways can we love others as Jesus loved us? _____

 - a. Verse 13 gives more insight. What does it say, and why is this true? _____

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Lesson 11 / Page 3

b. John 15:15 is very interesting. What does it say? _____

c. How do we love our friend Jesus according to verse 13? _____

3. Read John 15:15-17. Jesus is speaking directly to disciples. What's the difference between a servant and a friend?

a. What has He taught us through His words? _____

b. Why are our ears open to this teaching, according to verse 16? _____

c. Did we sign up for this assignment? We were chosen to do more than go to heaven. What is God's will for our lives according to verse 16? _____

d. What kind of fruit will last? _____

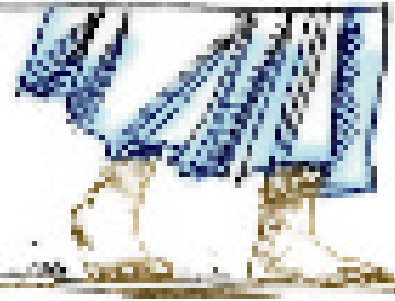
4. Can you think of one or two people whom God used to bring your faith to fruition? _____

a. Who told you about Jesus? _____

b. Who taught you what it means to love Him and find joy in Him? _____

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c. These people were God's chosen ambassadors in your life! Why did they step out and speak to you according to II Corinthians 5:14? _____

5. Read II Corinthians 5:14-21. We will break this down more in a future study, but what is the overall message of this passage? _____

a. Isn't it exciting to know that one of our main purposes for living is to represent God on earth? What is the central truth of our message? (see verse 19 and 21) _____

b. Verse 19 says that "God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation." How does it make you feel to know that God has given you this privilege? _____

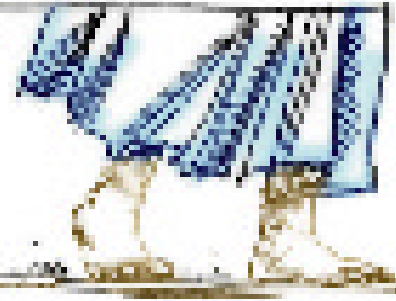
6. Jesus knew that His disciples would be unsure of themselves when He commissioned them to go and make disciples. Many times we feel the same way today. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Write out the passage in the space below: _____

a. How does Jesus assure us in verse 20? _____

b. Do you think Jesus meant for just these eleven men to fill this assignment? _____

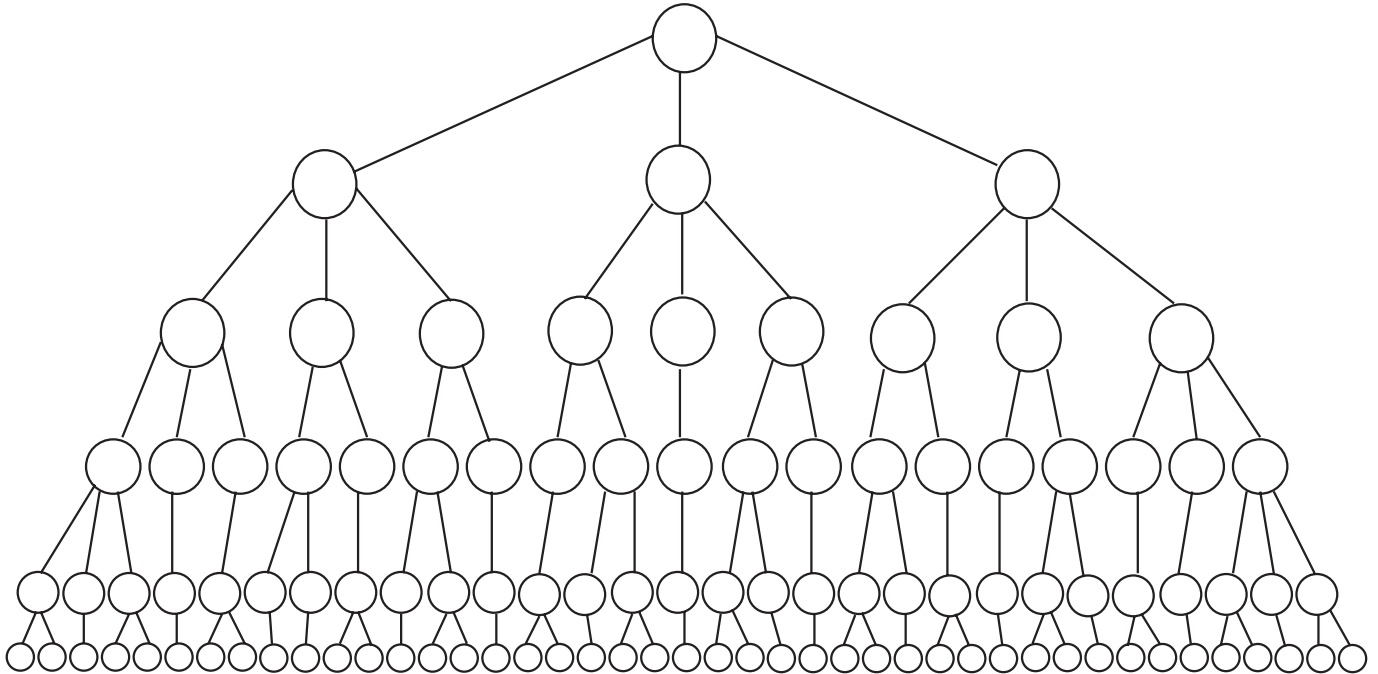
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c. Check out the chart below.



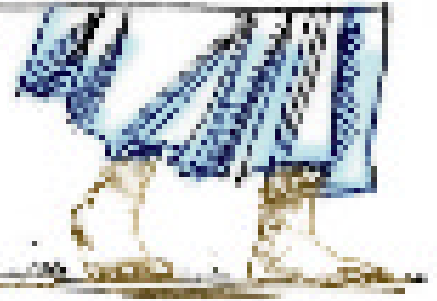
This is an illustration of spiritual multiplication. Other people have borrowed this model, but Jesus created it! Your name is on one of those dots, and your life has the potential to touch hundreds through personal discipleship. What comes to your mind as you look at this chart? _____

d. According to Jesus, what are we to pass on to our disciples? (see Matthew 28:20) _____

e. Think about the men Jesus recruited. Most of them were uneducated fishermen but were given the most important job ever created. Their only qualification was that they loved Jesus. It's the same for us. Jesus entrusts the most important message in the world to us! What do you find interesting about that fact?

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Lesson 11 / Page 6

Living His Way

1. Read John 15:1-17 and Matthew 28:18-20 aloud. Take a moment, and ask the Lord to bring to your mind the names of people that are in your sphere of influence at this time. That simply means people with whom you come in contact. Think of your neighborhood, sports teams, work place, family members, or friends from the gym. Write down every name you think of in the space below: _____

- a. Underline the names of those whom you are pretty confident believe in God and walk with Him.
- b. Circle the names of those you feel don't really know the love of Jesus yet.
- c. Put a box around the names of those you think might believe in God but seem confused on what it means to follow Him whole-heartedly.
- d. Are you open to the idea that God may want to use you as an ambassador in one of these lives for His kingdom and glory? What's your initial response to that call? _____

- e. End your time of study praying over these names, especially the ones circled and boxed. Ask God to whom He wants you to minister. At this point, just pray and trust that God will lead you on level ground (see Psalm 143). Write these names in your journal under the heading *Future Disciples*. God is in control. He will lead in His time and in His way. You can anticipate the joy of Jesus as you learn to obey this very specific command from Matthew 28:18-20.

Summary Statement:

Key point of the lesson

Memory Challenge:

Matthew 28:18-20