

SEMBRADOS
EN BUENA TIERRA
Planted in good soil

LEARNING TO BE A
DISCIPLE

By Heriberto and Elsa Hermosillo

Semilla
de Mostaza

To all our dear **semillosos** that had the patience to wait until God finished His project. We thank each and every one of you, in hope that this material will edify your lives and the lives of many others.

Heriberto and Elsa Hermosillo

Semilla
De Mostaza

PLANTED IN GOOD SOIL

Index

1. Hear. Listen carefully
2. Read. Go over what you have learned
3. Search. Scrutinize the Scriptures
4. Meditate. Digest the word
5. Memorize. Set in mind
6. Bring forth fruit. Put into practice
7. Multiply. Reveal to others.

PLANTED IN
GOOD SOIL

Introduction

Dear brothers and friends, we welcome you to the section: **Learning to be a disciple.**

Jesus said in John 8:31-32: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”.

In this section, we will learn the steps to stop being believers only and to become true disciples of the Lord, gaining back our identity as His sons and portraying His image (Romans 8:29).

We pray that His word may be like the rain that makes the earth bud and flourish and that the seed of life may be fertilized by His Holy Spirit in your heart, bringing forth fruit thirty, sixty, or a hundred times what was sown!

With love,
Heriberto and Elsa Hermosillo

1. Hear. Listen carefully

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession- to the praise of his glory.

Romans 10:14

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

We begin this study understanding that those of us who have believed in the sacrifice of Christ and have given our lives to Him are called to be not only believers, but disciples, just as Jesus pointed out in John 8:31:

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”.

The Lord desires that we become His disciples so that we may live in eternal freedom from the power of sin in our lives, and that we use that freedom to fulfill His purpose and enjoy the abundant and fertile life that He has promised.

The word of God has all the elements that our spirit needs so that we may become His disciples and so that God's image may develop in our lives.

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

Just as the rain and the snow water the earth and make it bud and flourish, the Word of God waters our spirit to produce faith and to develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, so that we can flourish, or multiply, in the lives of others.

In order for the Word of God to complete its purpose, we need to put to work all of our senses and learn to listen carefully.

In Greek the word **hear** is the word **akoúo**

#191 Strong's dictionary = to give ear to a teaching or a teacher, to attend to, consider what is or has been said

Let's analyze the following passages:

Ephesians 1: 13-14

- a. After **hearing** the good news (gospel)
- b. After **believing** (in the gospel by faith)
- c. We were **sealed** with the Holy Spirit and received the deposit of our inheritance; in other words, the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts from now on.

The first step to developing a transforming faith in our lives is to listen to the Word of God carefully. This is not only in the moment when we believed and gave our lives to Christ, but permanently, continuously, and daily.

We need to listen to His Word carefully, so that the Holy Spirit may produce faith in our hearts. Once we have listened to the Word of God carefully, the Holy Spirit helps us believe and seals us with the

guarantee that one day we will be in His presence. Learning how to listen carefully, believe, and obey brings a transforming faith as a result.

Let's expand the concept of listening carefully by analyzing the following verses:

Romans 10:14

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:17

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

Romans 10:17

17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

Ephesians 2:8

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”

The disciple's faith is supported in the Word of God.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8-9

- a. Faith is a gift from God that we do not deserve.
- b. The door for our salvation is grace
- c. The key that opens that door is faith.

Faith comes from listening to the word of God.

Verse to memorize:

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

Questions for discussion:

1. Can we develop faith that saves without knowing the word of God?

2. Where does faith come from?

3. What will be the result of believing in the gospel (the word of God)?

2. Read. Go over what you have learned

Acts 8: 26-39

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Phillip, “Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.

29 the Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

How important it is to identify our need to read the word of God! We need to go over what we have learned, so that God, through His Spirit, will give us the ability to understand. It is not enough to open our Bibles on Sunday during the service; we need to have a relationship with God every day.

Anaginósko, Greek #314 Strong’s dictionary: **To read**

Let’s analyze the following passages:

Acts 8:26

When we are interested in learning and when we look for answers in His Word, God provides us the means to understand His ways to those who are genuinely interested in knowing Him.

Acts 8:27-28

It is important to point out that the man in this passage had taken the time to come from far away (Ethiopia) to worship. Also, on his way back from the temple in Jerusalem, where he had gone, he did not waste his time—instead, he was reading the Word of God with a good “spiritual appetite”.

Acts 8:29-31

“...Do you understand what you are reading?”

God sent Philip his servant to meet the need of the Ethiopian to understand His word.

Acts 8:32-39

Not only did God send his servant so that he could teach him, but he also sent his Holy Spirit to help the man understand (Mathew 13:23) and gave him the desire to obey His commandment of being baptized.

It is important to go over what we have learned after we have listened the word of God, so that through His Holy Spirit, God may give us the ability to understand.

Verse to memorize:

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10

Questions for discussion:

1. What should we do before reading His word?

2. What should I do after having listened carefully?

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”

37 Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.”

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Mathew 13:23

23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Luke 11:9-10

9 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

3. Search. Scrutinize the Scriptures

Acts 17:10-11

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.

11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2 Peter 1:17-21

17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The same way that listening carefully and going over what we have learned is important, it is also crucial to examine deeply what we hear. We do this to clear our doubts, to strengthen what we have learned, and to make sure that we are receiving a truthful doctrine.

Anakrino, Greek # 350 Strong's dictionary: to investigate, examine, inquire into, scrutinize

Lets examine the following passages:

Acts 17:10

We need to observe that Paul and Silas were the ones who shared the word of God to the people in Berea.

Acts 17:11

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for":

a. "they received the message with great eagerness"

Eagerness = will to put into action with enthusiasm what we have heard.

b. "and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

2 Peter 1:17-21

"And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

Our doubts, concerns, and problems should be considered under the light of the Scriptures, and our fidelity should not be towards any man, but to the word of God.

It is easy to distance ourselves from God's protection when we look for an answer in anything that is not the Scriptures (Galatians 1:6-10).

Jesus insisted that we diligently study the Scriptures, which testify about Him (John 5:39).

There are many tools that help us to examine His word. Some of these are:

1. Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*

Helps locate the biblical passages in which a specific word was used, and it gives the original message of the word (for example, the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible).

2. Biblical Commentaries*

Interprets the Scripture based on the times, customs, and culture in which those verses were written, making reference to other similar or complementary verses of the passage. It is essential that when we use this tool we ensure that the writer whose comment we are reading is a person known for his fidelity to the truth doctrine (like Mathew Henry or William Hendriksen).

3. Expository Dictionary*

Definition of the words written in the Bible and the translation to its original language (like Vine’s Expository Dictionary).

***These are not essential**

Verse to memorize:

“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.” John 5:39

Questions for discussion:

1. How can we make sure that what we hear at church or in our discipleship classes is, in fact, the word of God?

2. What tools can we use to better understand the word of God?

3. What adjective is used by through the Holy Spirit to describe the disciples from Berea? What are the two reasons for calling them in that way?

4. What does “examine” mean?

5. What does “eagerness” mean?

Galatians 1:6-10

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel –

7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

John 5:39

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.

4. Meditate. Reason the Word

Psalms 4:4

4 In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.
Selah

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.
2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

So far, we have learned to listen carefully, to go over what we have heard, to examine deeply, and to absorb all the hidden treasures. Now we will learn a wonderful step that will help us have a deep relationship with our Father: meditate on the Word of God.

It is incredible to discover that by meditating on His Word, God speaks to us personally.

Through this process, His Word is carried from our mind into our heart. We encourage you to set a time every day to listen to the voice of the one who loves you and who wants to have a relationship with you.

Amar, Hebrew #559 Strong's dictionary: consider

“In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.” Psalms 4:4

In the time that you set your alone time with God, allow Him to speak to you. So now, on what should we meditate? Let's analyze the following passage:

Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”

We need to meditate on His mercies toward us and on all that God has delivered us from, without deserving it, even when we made the wrong choices. In gratefulness for what He has done for us, we will offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

We also need to understand the meaning of the words “mercy” and “grace” in our lives.

God's mercy is not receiving what I deserved for my sin. God's grace, on the contrary, is that I have received something that I do not deserve, which is His forgiveness, based on Christ's sacrifice on the cross to pay for my sins.

Because of the undeserving gift that I received through Him, I am called to give myself to God.

This living sacrifice will take an effort. What effort does God demand from us now that we belong to Him? We have to be willing to let worldly things in us die and allow His presence and His authority to govern us, so that His image develops in our lives.

This will not be easy, but we will gladly have the will to do it when we really understand and recognize everything that God has done for us and everything He has delivered us from.

Then, this living sacrifice will be understood and rationalized as an act of worship, that with the power of His Word in our lives, His Holy Spirit and the fellowship with the body of Christ, will strengthen us until the end. God wants our reasoned, understood, worship.

Romans 12:2

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

We need to transform our way of thinking by meditating on His word. The word of God will change the way we look at life and the way we react to different situations, and it will help us confirm that His will is good, pleasing, and perfect. It is good because He wants the best for us; it is pleasing because once we see the results, we will love it; it is perfect because He is never wrong.

Psalms 1:1-3

Instead of listening to the advice of this world, which will take us away from God’s will, God tells us that we will be happy and blessed if we meditate and reflect on His word, and if we avoid having close relationships with those who do not want to obey Him. Learning to savor His precious word will help us:

- Bring forth fruit in the time of testing (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Have strong convictions (a leaf that does not wither)
- Prosperity in all the areas of our life (3 John 1:2)

The Word tells us that the people who meditate on it day and night will be prepared to face the trials in life. They will have strong convictions and will not fall easily into disobedience. The result will be prosperity in all areas of their lives according to God’s will.

Verse to memorize:

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

Questions for discussion:

1. What can help me to offer my body as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God?

2. How can I prove that the will of God for my life is good, pleasing, and perfect?

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

3 John 1:2

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

5. Memorize. Set in mind

2 Peter 3:1-2

1 Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.

2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

John 15:3

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

The Lord has left us a powerful weapon to face the devil's schemes, and it is the same weapon that Jesus used when He was tempted in the desert—the Word of God set in the mind and the heart.

In the book of Acts, when the first church was developing, the apostles would always recite the scriptures and Jesus' words when it came to defending their faith.

In the letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul exhorts us to put on the full armor of God and to use the weapon that He has given us to counterattack the enemy's schemes: the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

In his second letter, the apostle Peter exhorts us to set in our mind the words of the prophets and the commands given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ, so that through them, our mind will be renewed and purified.

Mnaomai, Greek #3415 Strong dictionary: fixture in the mind or mental grasp.

2 Peter 3:1-2

“Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking (John 15:3). I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.”

In John 15:3, the Lord Jesus says that His word cleanses our mind. In Isaiah 55:10, we learned that the word of God has all the ingredients that our spirit needs so that His purpose for our life can be accomplished.

That is why the apostle Peter urges us to memorize the Word, so that it produces fruit that brings glory to the name of Jesus. Let's look at another passage that will help us to continue to understand why it is crucial to memorize His word:

Psalms 119:9-11

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

The reason for treasuring the Word of God and for memorizing His teachings is that it protects us from the devil's schemes and we are able to defend ourselves from his attacks.

Tereo, Greek #5083 Strong Dictionary = to guard, treasure inside; expresses watchful care and is suggestive of present possession.

We need to treasure God's word in our heart so we can achieve the promises that God has for us!

Let's study another passage that verifies what we have been learning:

2 Samuel 12:9

"Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?"

Not giving importance to the Word of God, or refusing to live by it, opens the door for our lusts to take over our lives and make us fall into sin.

Verse to memorize:

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalms 119:11

Questions for discussion:

1. How can we make sure that we will have the necessary weapons to come out victoriously when temptations or tests come?

3. With what does God cleanse our lives every day?

Psalms 119:9-11

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

2 Samuel 12:9

9 "Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

6. Bring forth fruit. Put into practice

Mathew 13:23

23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

James 1:21-22

21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

James 1:23-25

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.

In Mathew 13:23 we learned that the two purposes of God for our lives are: to bring forth fruit (of the spirit; Gal. 5:22-23), and to multiply spiritually. In other words, we need to be a living example so that others may come to know Christ through our lives. In this class, we will study how we can bring forth fruit.

Poietes, Greek #4163 Strong dictionary: To do, perform

James 1:21

The first step we need to take in order to bring forth fruit is to dispose of everything that gets in the way: lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. This way God will be able to transform our lives through His word. We need to receive His Word with a gentle and humble attitude so that, by obeying God's will, we find rest for our souls. What does receiving God's Word mean? It is the sum of all the steps that we have previously learned: listen carefully, go over what we have learned, scrutinize the Scriptures, meditate and memorize His Word, and as we are now learning, put His word into practice.

James 1:22

We need to have the desire to do (**poietes**) what we learn from the Scriptures. Then we will be able to see the results that the Word promises to us, instead of lying to ourselves and seeing no changes.

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.” Philippians 2:13

If we have the will to obey God, He will help us and give us all that is necessary for us to do it and to bring forth fruit, a fruit that the devil cannot imitate: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. All these give glory to God.

James 1:23-24

The mirror is the word of God, and when we hear it, we might not like what we see. But if we forget what we saw and we do not do what God asks of us, we continue to be slaves of that vile image.

James 1:25

But the man who looks intently... In other words, listens, reads, searches, meditates, and memorizes the perfect law of God. (**Mathew 13:23**)

...Law that gives freedom

The freedom to be able to do, with the power of Christ in us, what was impossible for us to do in the power of our flesh.

Continues

In Greek: **parameno**, means **to walk close to, constantly walk forward.**

When God shows us a problematic area in our life, we take firm and continuous steps to conquer our weakness through the power of Christ.

Blessed

In Greek: **mokarios**, which means **joyful, cherished, chosen, sanctified in what he does.**

We will be happy and blessed when we put into practice what the Word says (John 13:17). God wants to restore His image in us, like children of God, so that through our good deeds, the world glorifies the Father who is in heaven.

Mathew 11:29-30

The yoke of the Lord lightens our burdens and brings rest to our lives.

John 15:8

What a privilege the Father has given us! We are to represent Him and His love to the world, bringing forth fruit in the Spirit, fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and in that way bringing Him glory.

John 13:17

We will be happy and blessed if we put God's will into practice!

Verse to memorize:

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you need to get rid of so that the Word produces fruit in your life?

2. How do you need to receive the Word, and what is the benefit that you will receive from that?

Galatians 3:10-13

10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

John 13:17

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Mathew 11:29-30

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

John 15:8

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

7. Multiply. Reveal to others

John 8:31

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Mathew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Hebrews 13:13-15

13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The goal for the series “Learning to be a disciple” is to become true disciples of God, not just superficial believers. In John 8:31 the Lord told us that if we held on to His Word, we would really be His disciples, and we would know the truth, and the truth would set us free. Throughout our classes we have had the opportunity to learn that to “hold” to His Word. We need:

1. To listen carefully
2. To go over what we have learned
3. To scrutinize the Scriptures deeply
4. To meditate on the Scriptures
5. To set it in our mind and heart, and of course
6. To live it, so we can witness His freeing and transforming power in our lives.

We are now in the last step of Learning to Be a Disciple. This step comes naturally when we have put into practice all the previous steps. By now, people have noticed a change in our lives and have wondered what has transformed us. This is when God gives us the opportunity to be witnesses—not only through our words, but also through our lives, giving freely what we have freely received.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Mathew 28:19-20

The following passage teaches us how to apply this concept:

Hebrews 13:13

Ahmologeo, Greek #3670 Strong’s dictionary: confession is made, give thanks.

- a. Go. To whom? To those who do not know Him. God wants us to be sensitive to the needs that other people have to know Him (**Mathew 25:40**).
- b. Where? Outside the camp; in other words, out of the church, bringing the good news to everybody around us: our children, parents, brothers, neighbors, etc. (**Acts 1:8**)
- c. How? Bearing the disgrace he bore; in other words, suffering the consequences of not being from this world. This could mean that people will mock us or not accept us. Knowing whom we represent, we will be ready to be witnesses all over the world for the love of His name. (**Mathew 5:10-12**)

Hebrews 13:14

When we go where God sends us, we need to remember not to put down roots in this world, nor look for things that do not last, knowing that we are from a heavenly city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:15

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

Continually offer:

- **Evangelism:** Sacrifice of praise, under the new covenants.
- **Praise** (Greek: genesis): offering of gratitude, fruit of love produced by His Spirit. There is no greater love that we can show those around us than sharing the good news of forgiveness and salvation, which we have received through the death and resurrection of Jesus. (Romans 10:14-15)
- **Confession:** the audible declaration (through our words) and the visible testimony (through our way of living), of the transforming power of the name of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Verse to memorize:

“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

Hebrews 13:15

Questions for discussion:

1. Why is it that, upon receiving Jesus’s grace, we want to share it with our loved ones?

2. What was Jesus’s command in Mathew 28:19-20?

Romans 10:14-15

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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