

For Larry Poston's

THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK: A PLAN FOR BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

APPROACH TWO STUDY GUIDE

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A Discipleship Ministry Resource

WHAT STARTS IN HERE WILL

REACH THE WORLD!!!



STUDENT NAME (print)

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Thoroughly Equipped for Every Good Work:

A Plan For Biblical Discipleship

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Approach 2.1 The First Characteristic Part 1

- 1) Do you feel that it is possible that there are teachings of Jesus Christ that exist outside of the Bible? Justify your position.

- 2) What is the main problem with searching for spiritual truths apart from the teachings found within the Bible? (pg 25)

- 3) What is implied by the belief that there are optional standards for ultimate truth? (pg 25)

- 4) Considering 1 Cor 2:9-16, what conclusion concerning the authority of the Bible must the disciple of Christ make?

- 5) Being a lifelong student of Jesus Christ requires two specific things that we must understand and grasp in a specific order where one must lead to the other. What are they? (pg 25)

- 6) What ultimately is the importance of the Bible? (pg 25)

- 7) In what two ways does God reveal Himself to His creation? (pg 25)

- 8) Name the two reasons Poston states for why God took on human form. How did He show His humanity? (pg 25) Do you identify with His humanity? Explain three of the human aspects of Jesus that you identify with.

9) What is the implication of Peter's closing statement in his explanation of "The Transfiguration" in 2 Pet 1:17-19? (pg 26) State four reasons for why the written word is more certain than the remembered stories? Do you agree with this? Justify your reasoning.

10) What is conditions, quality, etc of our life primarily based on? (pg 26)

11) Name and explain the four categories of influence the Bible should have on the life of the believer? (pg 26)

12) What two descriptives does Poston use to describe the Bible? (pg 26)

13) What is the implication of believing that the Bible is authoritative? What is the only source of absolute truth? If opinions of religious and philosophical matters have no basis in the absolute truth, what are they? (pg 26)

14) What power does the Word of God have? (pg 26)

15) The Bible is not a book of spells or incantations. Instead, what purpose does it serve in our lives? (pg 27)

16) Name and explain the four ways we can gain knowledge through the Bible. (pg 27)
Create and explain some strategies for each method.

17) Where does Poston suggest a new student of the Bible should begin? (pg 27) Do you agree with his suggestion? Justify your answer and explain your reasoning.

18) What phrase best describes the first characteristic of discipleship?

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Approach 2.2 The First Characteristic Part 2

- 1) Is reading the Bible the same as studying the Bible? (pg 28) Justify your answer.
- 2) Poston suggests 3 methods to studying the Bible. Name and explain them. (pg 28)
- 3) Name and briefly describe the three questions that represent the steps that we should follow in order to get the most out of each passage we study? (pg 28) What three words best describe the three steps of study? What are two purposes of taking notes of our studying?
- 4) Decide for yourself the purposes for not looking for direct or implied meaning when determining what a verse says.
- 5) What questions must we ask when determining the meaning of a passage? (pg 28)
- 6) Why do you think determining the context of a passage is so important? What is the simple definition of “context”? (pg 28)
- 7) What is the importance of the application of Scripture? (pg 28) What two possible reasonings must we discern between to properly apply any passage?
- 8) What is an expected discovery for each prospective Bible student? (pg 29) Why should that discovery not trouble us?
- 9) Provide and explain the four conditions mandatory for correct study and interpretation of the Bible. (pg 29)

- 10) According to 1 Cor 2:13-14, why does the unbeliever neither accept nor understand the Bible? According to John 16:13-15, what is the Holy Spirit's role when determining spiritual truths? Who does Jesus teach is the final source of all truth? How is this important when determining the reliability and accuracy of written works? (pg 29)
- 11) Of all of the theories or methods of Bible interpretation, why is the Grammatical-Historical method so preferred? What is the basis for this method? (pg 29)
- 12) List and briefly explain the 8 general principles of Bible interpretation. (pg 29-31)
- 13) Generally speaking, what is the central theme of the Bible? (pg 30) List and summarize the main divisions of the Bible.
- 14) What is the purpose of Bible study? (pg 30)
- 15) Is correct interpretation of the Bible the final result for the believer? What is our responsibility for Bible interpretation? Explain and justify your answers. (pg 31)
- 16) Considering the importance of correct interpretation of Bible teachings, what must the phrase "work out our own salvation" mean? (pg 31)
- 17) What is our responsibility when analyzing a command or precept that through proper Bible study is not limited to a particular person, time, or place? (pg 31)
- 18) What phrase best describes the first characteristic of discipleship?

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Approach 2.3 The Second Characteristic

- 1) What attribute of the second characteristic of discipleship sets it apart from the other two?
Why is it impossible here? (pg 33)
- 2) List and explain five actions that characterized Jesus' love for His disciples. (pg 33)
- 3) Paul gives detailed instruction on the characterization of love in 1 Cor 13. What are your strong and weak points of the characteristics of love? (pg 33) How can you adjust and grow from your weaknesses?
- 4) Considering and explain the material nature of Jesus' lifestyle. (pg 33) What is the result of that lifestyle? How can that benefit us when considering our love for others?
- 5) What drew angry reactions from Jesus? Do you think those reactions are justifiable? Explain and justify your answers.
- 6) The first three paragraphs on pg 34 portray the love of Jesus that the world has never seen, nor ever will (to that degree). List each of the illustrations of His love provided in that portion of text. What standard is formed concerning the measurement of our love towards each other?
- 7) Jesus gives the standard as a command to His disciples in John 13:34 and again in John 15:12. What is the context of those passages? What theme is shared by both? What would be the purpose of that command being interjected here instead of the Sermon on the Mount or some other similar passage where He taught moral and ethical values? (pg 34)
- 8) If our lives are not characterized by the love of Jesus, what result will that have on the lost when we speak of "the love of God"? (pg 34)
- 9) What aspects of the western culture cause difficulty in fulfilling this characteristic of discipleship? (pg 34-35) Is Jesus asking us to love one another? Explain your answer. What then are the responsibilities of the disciple concerning love?

- 10) What is the expression of love that Jesus ultimately desires and sees as the proof of our love of Him? (pg 35)
- 11) The first standard of measurement for a disciple's love for others is to love as Jesus loved us. What second standard does Jesus make? (pg 35) What is the end result of that standard of love? (pg 35)
- 12) What three obstacles must we overcome in order to truly love others? (pg 35) Do you currently struggle with any of these three obstacles? Explain how these obstacles can be overcome?
- 13) What is the only way for a believer to truly experience a Biblical love for others? (pg 35)
- 14) What two general behaviors do people typically exhibit who have (an improperly placed) poor self-worth? (pg 35) What tends to be the result of those behaviors?
- 15) Read John 13:3-5. What three truths must we realize in order to express our love to others through acts of humility? (pg 35-36)
- 16) Why is the concept of "identity" so problematic? (pg 36) Why do so many Christians also wrestle with this?
- 17) According to Paul's teaching in Romans 6, what three-step procedure must a Christian undertake to keep from sinning? (Pg 36-37) Briefly explain each step.
- 18) We are to dedicate ourselves wholly and completely to the task of keeping from sin. But if we fail, what promise are we to remember? (1 John 1:9)
- 19) List and explain the 7 illustrations the New Testament provides in order to help us to understand our new identity in Christ. Assess your own personal walk. How do you view yourself in light of these illustrations? (pg 37)
- 20) What phrase best describes the second characteristic of discipleship?

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Approach 2.4 The Third Characteristic

- 1) Explain the two purposes in nature of bearing fruit. (pg 39) Apply these purposes to the spiritual world. What are the implications and applications of each?
- 2) Read John 15:16. Was Jesus speaking only to His disciples? Explain your answer. What was the purpose of His selection of His disciples? What does that mean for us?
- 3) What incorrect view of the role that individual Christians played in spreading the gospel crippled the church? Explain. (pg 39)
- 4) What awareness was brought by the Evangelical Awakening? (pg 40)
- 5) Who is known as the father of the modern missionary movement? (pg 40) Briefly explain.
- 6) What invention loosened the grip of “professional” Christianity? (pg 40) What understanding became clear to “ordinary” Christians?
- 7) In what two ways can Christians actively engage in building the kingdom of God through spiritual reproduction of the faith? (pg 40)
- 8) What fact do many Christians either not understand or not believe as true? (pg 40) What consequences could this conceptual failure have on spreading the gospel?
- 9) What foundational concept must be realized for Christians to begin to bear fruit? (pg 40)
- 10) What is the simple definition of “the Gospel”? (pg 41)
- 11) What are the three ways Poston provides for how we communicate the Gospel? (pg 41-42)
- 12) How do we live out being salt and light to the earth? (pg 41) What positional clarification must we make in order to bring people we influence into a relationship with Jesus?
- 13) What is a simple explanation that defines “the proclamation of the Gospel”? (pg 41) What are two essential aspects to proclaiming the Gospel?

- 14) What two tasks must we undertake in our presentation of the Gospel? (pg 41)
- 15) Read Romans 10:9-10. Name and describe the two aspects involved with successfully applying this passage. (pg 41)
- 16) Name and explain the three other ways Poston suggests that allow us to accomplish our calling to bear fruit. (pg 42)
- 17) How does Poston describe prayer? (pg 42)
- 18) List the five expressions of prayer. For each, provide an explanation in your own words using your own experiences. (pg 43)
- 19) What are some profound effects that prayer has in our life? (pg 43)
- 20) Describe some of the characteristics of prayer demonstrated in Jesus' life. What is required to bear fruit like this? (pg 43)
- 21) List the four conditions that must be met in order for our prayers to be answered. Apply each to your own life. In what areas are you successful/unsuccessful? Explain (pg 43)
- 22) What then are the four ways provided that we can bear fruit? (pg 43) Rate yourself – what are your strengths and weaknesses concerning these? What can you do to maintain/improve?
- 23) What phrase best describes the third characteristic of discipleship?

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End of Approach Two Outline -

Upon reaching the end of the second approach, the student now should have a solid understanding of discipleship. The student, at this point, is strongly encouraged to formally reflect about what has been learned, and what decisions will be made going forward. The following outline is a concise "map" toward that goal.

- I. Introduction paragraph (short testimony since arriving at DL)
- II. 1st Characteristic of discipleship – map all three prerequisites of discipleship onto the 1st Characteristic ... explain what you are going to have to personally do, lose, gain, etc to be successful.
 - a. 1st Prerequisite
 - b. 2nd Prerequisite
 - c. 3rd Prerequisite
- III. 2nd Characteristic of discipleship – map all three prerequisites of discipleship onto the 2nd Characteristic ... explain what you are going to have to personally do, lose, gain, etc to be successful.
 - a. 1st Prerequisite
 - b. 2nd Prerequisite
 - c. 3rd Prerequisite
- IV. 3rd Characteristic of discipleship – map all three prerequisites of discipleship onto the 3rd Characteristic ... explain what you are going to have to personally do, lose, gain, etc to be successful.
 - a. 1st Prerequisite
 - b. 2nd Prerequisite
 - c. 3rd Prerequisite
- V. Conclusion – direction from here?