

MAKE DISCIPLES: NEVER ALONE

Jesus is standing on a mountain in Galilee surrounded by 11 of his disciples. He is preparing them for his departure and commissioning them for the task ahead. They are to make disciples of all the nations. He has started by revealing that he is invested with all authority, both in heaven and on earth. Then he commissions them, telling them how to go about their task. As he concludes his commission he ends with a promise. And this promise would make all the difference.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

John 14:15-18

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:7-8

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement:

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Mark references to Jesus with a and underline any references to time.

V20 What promise does Jesus make his disciples?

How long is this promise for?

How does v18 add weight to this promise?

"Behold" - in Greek this word is an imperative, a command. It means "look and see, take notice". Jesus is exhorting the disciples to pay close attention to the fact of his presence. But how would Jesus be present? Would it make a difference?

Read John 14:15-18. Mark references to the Holy Spirit with a 👄 and underline the words "I will..."

List the three "I will" statements in these verses.

What do you learn about the One the Father will give?

Another -Vines- denotes another of the same sort/quality

Read John 16:7-8. Mark any references to the Spirit (e.g. Helper, him, he) as above.

What ministry would the Holy Spirit have?

How would this help with making disciples?

Jesus promises we will not be left like orphans - fatherless, desolate or alone. He will send one like himself to live within us and to help us.

Acts 1:4-5,8

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-8

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

What difference will the Spirit with us make?

Read Acts 1:4-5,8. Mark Spirit with a 

What were the disciples to wait for?

When was this event going to happen?

V8 What impact would the Holy Spirit coming have on them?

How does this relate to the commission to make disciples of all nations?

The disciples return to Jerusalem and wait with other followers of Jesus and are praying.

Read Acts 2:1-8. Mark Spirit with a  and mark references to disciples with a 

List what you learn about the disciples and their companions? Note each detail.

What do we learn about the audience who heard them? Where were they from? What do they hear?

V7,8 What amazes the hearers?

In what way does the presence of the Spirit make a difference? (See v4 and compare 1v8 above)

Why do you think we should listen to Jesus when he says “Behold” (Matt. 28v20) taking note that he is with us?

Jesus presence with us by His Spirit not only gives us power to fulfil his commission to make disciples. It means so much more.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Mark Spirit with a  and mark you / your with a 

How is our body described?

What implications does this have for us?

Romans 8:14-17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 5:25

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18-21

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



1 Thessalonians 5:19

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

Reflection

As we finish this series, how would you define a disciple of Jesus Christ? Is it simply a matter of attending church or does it go right to the centre of our whole life and core identity?

How would you describe yourself? Why?

Read Romans 8:14-17. Mark Spirit with a  and mark you / we / are with a 

V14-16 How does the indwelling Spirit inform our identity?

V15 What does he enable us to do? How does this relate to not being left as orphans?

V17 What will be the outcomes of being family?

For many of us, the presence of the Spirit of Christ within us is not something we "behold". We forget. In the NT there are some commands that will help us steward his presence within.

Read the following verses and mark the Spirit as before. Underline the instructions and think about the following questions.

Galatians 5:25

What is the instruction in this verse?

Walk -4748- to proceed / march as a soldier, keep in step

What would this look like in our lives each day?

Ephesians 5:18-21

V18 What contrast is being made—what does this teach us about being filled with the Spirit?

Filled -Greek Tense- present continuous, "be being filled"

V19-21 How does the Spirit's infilling show itself?

Ephesians 4:30

What does it mean to grieve someone?

How could we grieve the Holy Spirit?

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Quench -4570- to extinguish, suppress, dampen down

How would this impact the Spirit's work in us and through us?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

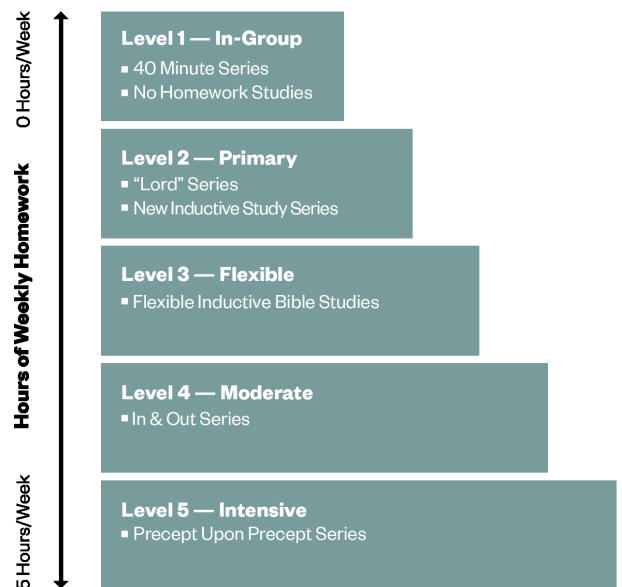
Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

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