

Called to be Disciples of Jesus Christ



WHAT IS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP?

Everyone wants to do something great with their life. We want our lives to be meaningful, to make a difference, perhaps to be heroic. Maybe you want to be great in sports, science, music, or acting. The truth is, God also wants you to be great. He created you to be great and gave you all the gifts and talents you need to become

great. He not only created you to be great, He also created you to become a saint and be with Him in Heaven.

God invites each of us when we are baptized to become followers of Jesus Christ. Someone who follows Jesus Christ is a Christian **disciple**. Being a Christian disciple means forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by getting to know Him, becoming more like Him, and sharing our faith with others.

Christian **discipleship** is the most important part of being Catholic. When you are baptized as a Catholic Christian, it is the beginning of a life that you will live in friendship with Jesus Christ, learning more about Him and becoming more like Him. We can pretend to be Christians just by saying we are, but to be a true Catholic means to be a real Christian disciple of Jesus Christ.

HOW CAN I FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST?

The disciples in the Gospel were able to follow Jesus from town to town and listen to His teachings. Today, Jesus is not walking around in our towns but He is still here with us. The only way we can follow Him is if we know how to find Him. We can find Jesus in four main ways: by speaking to Him in daily prayer, by participating in the worship of God at Mass, by receiving the sacraments often, especially the **Eucharist** (Holy Communion) and **Reconciliation** (Confession), and by seeing Him in other people.

Following Jesus is something you can do right now. You can imitate Him in your thoughts, words, and actions. You can imitate Him when you play sports, listen to music, or make friends, as long as you do it the way Jesus would have done it. By doing this, you are already doing great things with your life and growing in holiness.

The first heroes of the Christian faith did not need to say that they were Christians. Everyone knew they were Christians because they lived their lives in a special way. Ask yourself: do people know that I am a Christian disciple by the way I live?

Christian Disciple:

Someone who follows Jesus Christ by trying to be like Him in everything they do.

Christian Discipleship:

living as a Christian disciple.



GO AND CHANGE THE WORLD

A Christian disciple realizes that a living faith is the key to a truly happy life. Living our faith leads to our happiness because it leads us closer to God. If it leads us to God, it can lead others to God as well. This is why our Catholic faith is a treasure to be shared with other people, so that they can be happy too. The twelve **Apostles** were the first to spread Jesus' message throughout the world. Jesus said to them, "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, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19).

Looking out at the world, we can see, as the Apostles did, that there are many people who are unhappy or suffering because they do not know Jesus Christ. In addition to knowing Jesus through prayer and the sacraments and imitating Him in our words and actions, we must also be willing to share our Catholic faith with other people, as the Apostles did. God knows that young people can do good things but we will only be ready for greatness if we practice it now by living as Christian disciples in our own homes, in school, and at play. Jesus is calling you to a special relationship right now and only you can choose to accept it.



*In the name
of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the
Holy Spirit*

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!

1. There are over 60 million Catholics and many other Christians living in the United States. What would our country be like if every Christian was serious about being a disciple of Jesus Christ? What would your community be like?
2. What are some ways we can live as true Christian disciples in our everyday lives, trying to live as Jesus taught us, to love God and love neighbor?
3. What are some ways that we can share our Catholic faith with other people? If we meet someone who does not know Jesus Christ, what could we tell them about our experience of being a Christian disciple?

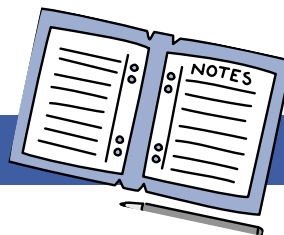
VOCABULARY

Disciple
Discipleship
Eucharist
Reconciliation
Apostle

Write about it!

Journal options:

- Write about one good thing you can do at home, at school, and at play to live more like a disciple of Christ. How would doing this show others that you want to be like Jesus?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge in trying to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? How can you meet this challenge as a Christian disciple?



Discipleship Prayer

by St. John Gabriel Perboyre, C.M.¹

O my Divine Savior

Transform me into yourself.

May my hands be your hands.

May my tongue be your tongue.

*Grant that every faculty of my body may serve
only to glorify you.*

*Above all, transform my soul and all of its powers, that
my memory, my will and my affections, may be the
memory, the will and affections of you.*

I pray you to destroy in me all that is not of you.

*Grant that I may live but in you, and by you, and for
you, and that I may truly say with St. Paul,*

“I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me.”

Amen.

