

discipleship cycles

7 Commands Of Christ

"for those who desire to follow Christ"

Bible Study Method

Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

This picture of a sword helps us to teach any passage of the Bible. When we think of a sword we think of four questions we need to ask.

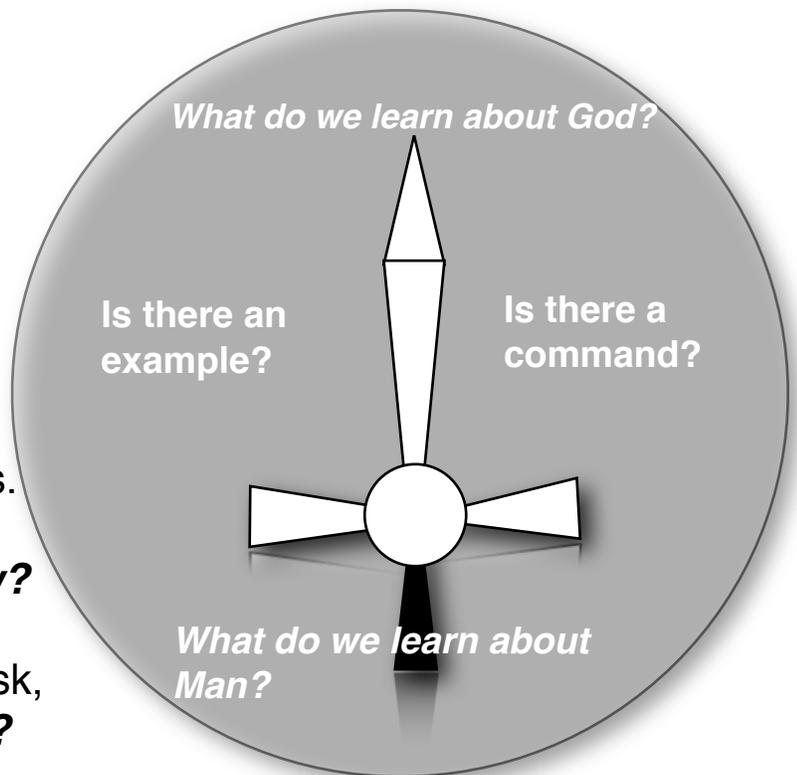
The arrow that points up is for God. ***What do we learn about God?***

The arrow that points down is for man. ***What do we learn about man?***

The sword also has two blades. The first blade makes us ask, ***Is there an example to follow?***

The second blade makes us ask, ***Is there a command to obey?***

After reading or telling *any* story from the Bible ask these four questions one at a time and search the story for answers. The answers you find will reveal the meaning of the story for our lives.



Seven Commands of Christ

An adaptation of George Patterson's Seven Commands

Basics of a Church

1 Holy Vision: Glorifying God, or Christ in you--the hope of glory

2 Corinthians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Habakkuk 2:14

2 Authorities:

1. God's Word – Col 3:16-17; John 8:31-32

2. Lordship of Christ through Holy Spirit – Ephesians 5:18-20, John 15:26-27, 16:7-15

3 Offices/Leaders:

1. Elders, Pastor, Overseer, Bishop – 1 Timothy 3:1-7

2. Deacons – Acts 6, choose among yourselves; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

3. Treasurer – example of Jesus' disciples, John 13:29

4 Marks of Maturity:

1. *Self-supporting* – Acts 11:27-30, 2 Cor 1:1-5

2. *Self-governing* – Acts 6:1-7, Acts 15:22, 25; Ephesians 4:11-16

3. *Self-propagating* – Acts 11:19-26, Acts 13:1-4

4. *Self-correcting* – 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Acts 15:1-34

5 Functions of the Church:

Read Matthew 22:36-39 and Matthew 28:18-20

1. Worship

2. Ministry

3. Fellowship

4. Evangelism/Missions

5. Discipleship

Read Acts 2:38-47, 11:19-30, 13:1-3: Discuss how the churches in these passages are demonstrating the five functions of a healthy church.

(Training Trainers) 3/3 Training

Process

First Third

- Pastoral Care – “How are you doing?”
- Worship
- Accountability – Review & Encouragement
- Vision-Casting

SecondThird

- New Lesson
 - (Enough Biblical Content to Obey)

FinalThird

- Practice
 - (Confidence to obey & train others)
- Set goals & Prayer

Good Accountability Questions:

FOLLOW:

How did you obey the lesson last week?

FISH:

Who are you witnessing to? Who has believed?

When are you training them in the same process?

Are these new believers witnessing, winning & training them??

Are the trainers, that you are training, training others?

**Don't leave out
the
RED PARTS!**

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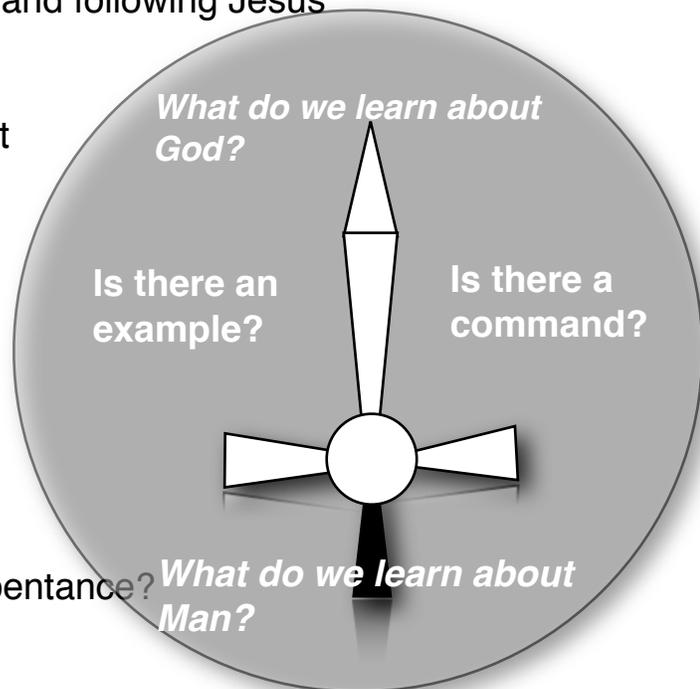
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Command #1 –Repent & Believe

Command—In Mark 1:15, Jesus says...

Read the Story—Zacchaeus' Salvation from Luke 19:1-10

- 1) What does repent mean?
Repent means turning from sin and following Jesus
- 2) What does believe mean?
Believe means choosing to trust Jesus as Lord.
- 3) Why should we repent?
Romans 3:23// Romans 6:23// Romans 10:9-10
- 4) Who should repent?
Acts 2:38-41- Everyone must repent for forgiveness.
- 5) How did Zacchaeus' life evidence repentance?
- 6) What is assurance?
1 John 1:9 says that when we confess our sins Jesus forgives us and cleanses us.
John 10:28—Our salvation belongs to Jesus.



Pray in your own words- Jesus I want to leave my old life of sin and follow you. I believe in you, become my Lord.

Assignment – Confess your sins before the Lord, turn from them and live a new life.

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Command #2 – Be Baptized

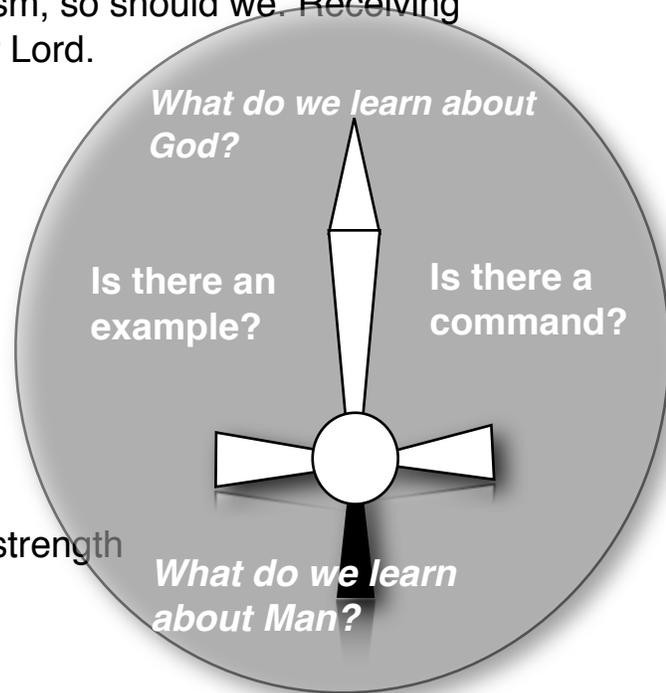
Command—In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says...

Read the Story—Phillip and a New Believer from Acts 8:26-39

- 1) What is baptism?
Romans 6:3-4 - Baptism is a symbol of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. It means we also have died to our old life and been raised to live a new life with Jesus.
- 2) Why should we be baptized?
Matthew 3:13-15 - Jesus received baptism, so should we. Receiving baptism means we identify Jesus as our Lord.
- 3) Who should be baptized?
Acts 2:38 - Everyone who repents and believes.
- 4) How should we be baptized?
Matthew 3:16 - Jesus went down into the water.

Pray in your own words—Lord give me the strength to identify my life with you through the symbol of baptism.

Assignment—Go down into the water and receive baptism.



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Command #3 – Pray

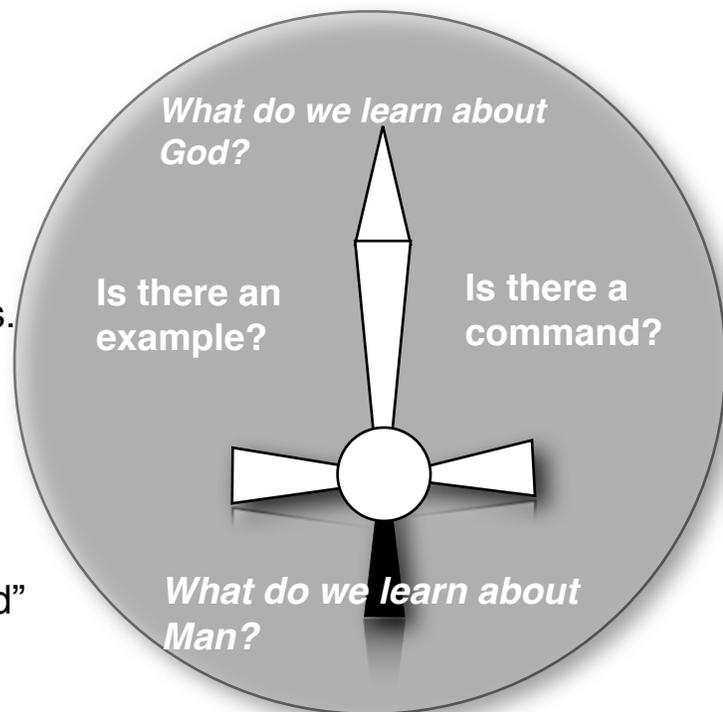
Command—In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus says...

Read the Story—Jesus Teaches about Prayer, Matthew 6:5-15

- 1) What is prayer?
Talking with God our Father.
- 2) Why do we pray? –
Matthew 6:9-13 God hears us.
We desire His will to be done on earth.
- 3) How do we pray?
By simply talking with God.
“Give us today our daily bread”
—pray for needs

“Forgive us our debts”
—pray for forgiveness

“Deliver us from the evil one”
—pray for resistance of temptation



Pray in your own words—Lord teach us to pray. Give us pure motives. May your will be done in us.

Assignment—Start and finish each day by giving thanks to God and presenting your requests to Him.

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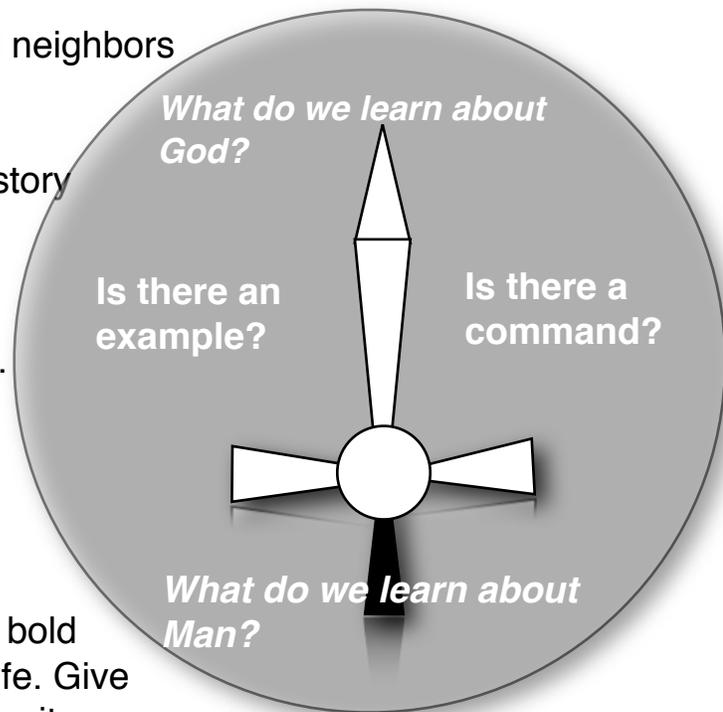
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Command #4 – Go Make Disciples

Command—In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says...

Read the Story—The Samaritan Woman from John 4:4-42

- 1) Who should we share with?
John 4:16—Our families, friends and neighbors
- 2) What should we say?
John 4:29—The woman shared her story and God's story.
- 3) Who is qualified to go?
John 4—The Samaritan woman was.
Every believer.



Pray in your own words—Lord make me bold to share what you have done in my life. Give me your words to share in my community.

Assignment—Learn how to share My Story and God's Story from the last page of this booklet. Also pray for opportunities to share with the people who are on your list of friends and neighbors that need to hear your story. Share with them.

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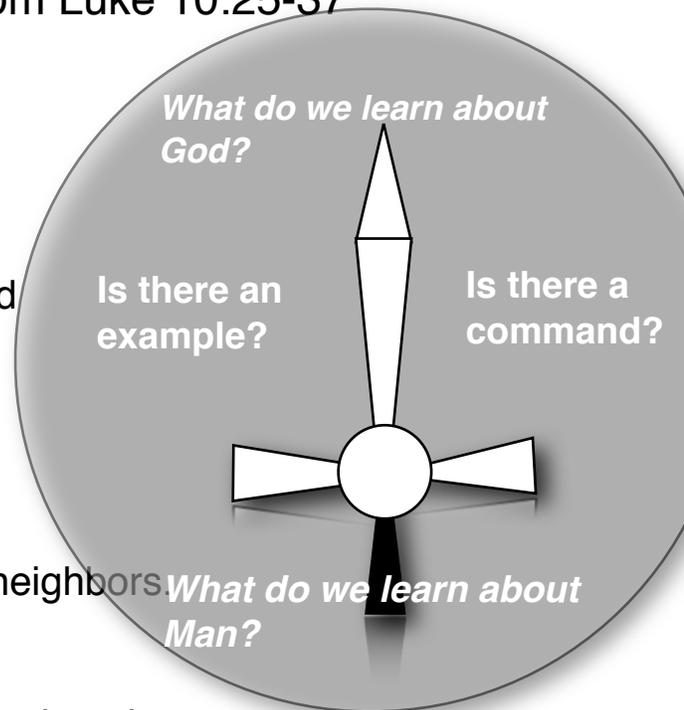
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Command #5 – Love

Command—In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus says...

Read the Story—Good Samaritan from Luke 10:25-37

- 1) What is love?
John 15:13 and 1 Corinthians 13
- 2) Why do we love?
John 13:34-35—Because Jesus loved us first.
Love teaches the world about Jesus.
- 3) Who do we love?
Matthew 22:37-39—First we need to love God. Then we need to love our neighbors.
- 4) How do we love?
John 14:15—Loving Jesus means we obey Jesus.
John 21:17—Loving others means telling them what God has done for you.



Prayer—Lord help me to love you by obeying you. Lord help me to love others so that they might learn that you love them also.

Assignment—Take time each day to intentionally show love by helping your neighbors.

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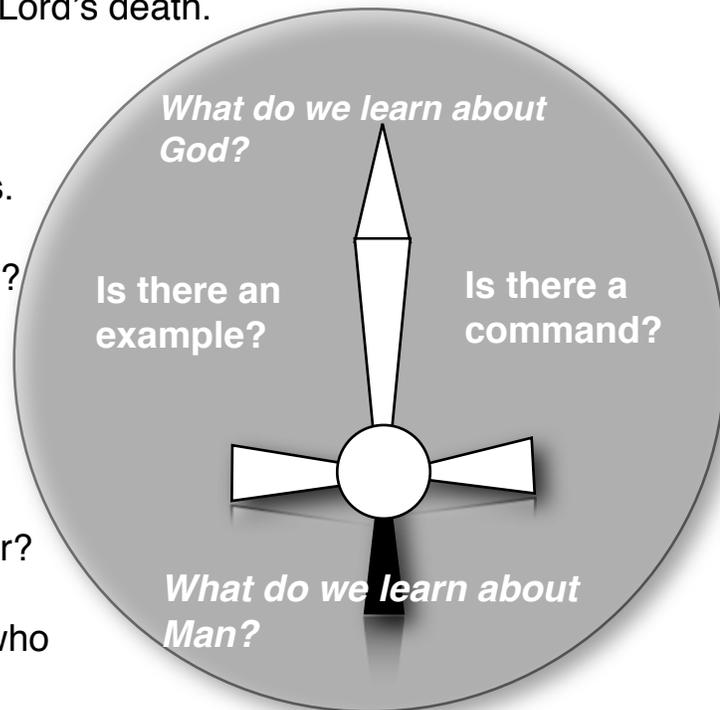
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Command #6 – The Lord's Supper

Command—In Luke 22:19-20, Jesus says...

Read the Story—Jesus' Last Meal from Luke 22:7-20

- 1) What is the Lord's Supper?
1 Corinthians 11:26 - A symbol of the Lord's death.
- 2) Why do we eat the Lord's Supper?
1 Corinthians 11:26—His body was broken, His blood was spilt for us.
- 3) How do we receive the Lord's Supper?
1 Corinthians 11:27-29—We must examine ourselves, confess our sins to God and remember Jesus died to give us forgiveness.
- 4) Who should receive the Lord's Supper?
Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 11:27-29—Baptized disciples devoted to Jesus who examine themselves.



Pray in your own words—Lord show me the sins I have committed. Forgive them. Thank you for giving your body and blood for me.

Assignment – Receive the Lord's Supper.

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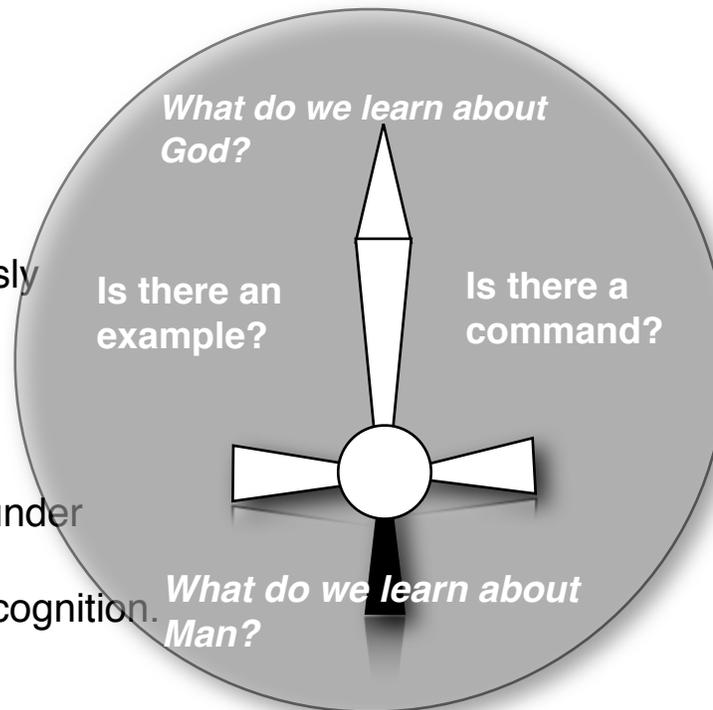
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Command #7 – Give

Command—In Luke 6:38, Jesus says...

Tell the Story—The Widow Gives from Mark 12:41-44

- 1) What should we give to God?
Our money, time and our lives.
- 2) Why should we give to God?
2 Corinthians 9:6-7—Give generously
and we will receive generously.
God loves a cheerful giver.
- 3) How do we give to God?
2 Corinthians 9:7—Cheerfully, not under
compulsion.
Matthew 6:1-4—Secretly, not for recognition.
- 4) Who do we give to?
2 Corinthians 9—A collection was given to a church.
Acts 4:34-35 - The church gave to all who had need.



Pray in your own words—Lord everything I have is yours. Teach me to give. Show me needs that I can help with my time and money.

Assignment—Decide this week with your family an amount of time or money you will give for the work of the church each week.

ITEMS TO REMEMBER IN LEADING YOUR GROUP

Basics of a Training Group

First Third of the Disciple Cycle (20-30 minutes):

- **Fishing:** Who did you retell last week's story to? How did it go? Were there challenges, questions? Pray for friend and people who heard the story that week!
- **Following:** How did you live out the story from last week in your own lives?

Second Third of the Disciple Cycle (20-30 minutes): Ask two willing volunteers to read the story below *in two different translations*, (ask two different people, or you read it once, and one other person reads it once) *then* Pray a SHORT PRAYER, (or ask someone to pray) for The Holy Spirit to teach us. *Trainer* then retells the story, to model for them to retell later.

Sword Bible Study Method: (*remember: encourage ALL participation and answers*)

1. **What does this story say about Jesus? What does this story say about God?**
2. **What does this story say about the Pharisee (Jewish religious scholar)? What does this story say about the tax collector? What does this story say about the disciples? What does this story say about the children?**
3. **What are the sins to avoid in this story? What are the promises to claim in this story?**
4. **What are the examples to follow in this story? What are the commands to obey in this story?**
5. **Who do you identify with in this story? Why?**

Final Third of the Disciple Cycle (20-30 minutes): Practice

- Get in groups of 2-3, and retell the Bible story above to each other in their own words. (or do a skit to retell the story)
- Ask 2-3 willing volunteers to retell the story to everyone.
- Trainers share whom they will tell this story to this week. Do they have a friend they can share this story with this week?
- Share personally (trainers) what you will do this week because of this story. Ask them what they will do because of this story.
- Pray for them to succeed at what they said they would do. (and other needs)



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