

COURSE 1 - 2025
Basic Discipleship

The
JOURNEY
STEP THREE



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are so glad you're here! As you step into this journey of discipleship, know that you are entering a path designed to deepen your relationship with God and build a firm biblical foundation. This material is meant to guide you, no matter where you are on your faith journey. The tools and lessons you'll find here are adaptable to many settings—whether you're meeting one-on-one, gathering with a small group, or sharing in a larger community. It can be simplified to nurture the hearts of youth and children or enriched to challenge and inspire mature believers to grow even further.

Discipleship is a journey, not a race.

Our prayer is that this journey will help you engage with Scripture, build meaningful relationships, and discover how God is working in and through your life. Let's take this next step together with faith and intentionality as we grow closer to Him. Trust the process of growth and transformation that occurs over time as you walk with God.



JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION



I. JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS

CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS SATISFIES THE HOLY NATURE OF GOD

Our basic problem is that we all have sinned, and this has separated us from God. Our sin and God's holiness are not compatible. However, God is not only a God of holiness; He's also the God of love and grace who takes the initiative in providing the very offering (of Himself!) that turns away His own wrath.

By far, the most important work of Jesus on earth was His death on the cross. On Calvary, He offered himself up as an offering to turn away God's wrath from us, taking our sin and its punishment on Himself. The Bible says that Jesus is the "atoning sacrifice for our sins." Our sins were charged to Jesus' account, and He took our place in death, which satisfies both the holiness and the love of God.

1 JOHN 4:10 | *"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."*

ISAIAH 53:5 | *"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

ROMANS 3:23

1 JOHN 2:2

1 JOHN 1:7

1 PETER 2:24

2 CORINTHIANS 2:21

ROMANS 3:25



HOW DID JESUS' DEATH SATISFY GOD'S HOLY NATURE?

Jesus was 100% human, but also 100% God and therefore infinite in His being. Even though Jesus suffered for only a short period of time (both physically and spiritually), His suffering itself was infinite because He was God. The finite suffering of an infinite being (Jesus - God the Son) was equivalent to the infinite suffering of all human beings.

What this means is that Jesus (because He is God) suffered the equivalent of the eternal punishment of the whole human race. This could only be accomplished by God Himself (Jesus) and not by any man or angel. Jesus' suffering was infinite and therefore satisfied the holy nature of God for all human beings who accept it.

ROMANS 5:8 | *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 | *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

Additional Scripture References

ISAIAH 53:4-6
ROMANS 3:23
1 JOHN 2:2
1 JOHN 4:10

CHRIST'S DEATH AS REDEMPTION

Christ's death as redemption is simply the idea that His death was a payment of a price in order to release someone. But what was the payment, to whom was it made, and who was set free?

The payment was to God to satisfy His holy nature, the payment was Jesus' infinite suffering and death on the cross, and the people set free are humans who accept this sacrifice. Out of all the religions in history, only Christianity offers the one thing that can rescue people from being lost forever: a sin-bearer who is completely qualified. Jesus alone carries our sins, allowing us to escape their consequences.

1 PETER 1:18-19 | *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*

EPHESIANS 1:7 | *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"*

Additional Scripture References

GENESIS 3:19
TITUS 2:14
EXODUS 13:11-13
MATTHEW 20:28

ACTS 20:28
GALATIANS 3:13
ROMANS 3:24-25
1 PETER 2:24

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II. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Additional Scripture References

ROMANS 6:23

EPHESIANS 2:1,5

1 TIMOTHY 5:6

REVELATION 20:14-15

1 CORINTHIANS 15:4

ROMANS 10:9

LUKE 24:40-43

JOHN 20:24-28

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14

JESUS' RESURRECTION PROVES HE IS LORD

Jesus verbally made many claims of Lordship that could easily be seen as outrageous coming from a mere carpenter. He claimed to be Christ, the Son of God, sent by God, one with the Father, King and Lord, and to have the authority to forgive sins, among other things.

All these claims were put to the test when Jesus died, but they were proven true when God raised Jesus physically from the dead. Jesus was who He claimed to be! Eyewitnesses of the risen Christ cited His literal resurrection as proof that He is exactly who He claimed to be.

ACTS 1:3 | *"After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God."*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:6 | *"After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep."*

Additional Scripture References

MATTHEW 16:16-17

JOHN 8:42

JOHN 10:30

JOHN 5:23

MATTHEW 9:2

JOHN 18:37

LUKE 6:46

ROMANS 1:4

MATTHEW 28:18



JESUS' RESURRECTION CRUSHES HIS ENEMIES

The cross and Jesus' resurrection were the decisive battles against Jesus' enemies of Satan, sin, and death. At the cross Satan saw Jesus brought under the power of death. We can imagine Satan's short-lived glee as he gloated over the crucified Christ.

What Satan did not know (or apparently did not believe) was that Jesus would actually rise from the dead. But when God's power brought Jesus back to life, it completely crushed all his enemies (Acts 2:24). Jesus overcame death and showed He has total control over it (Romans 6:9).

HEBREWS 2:14-15 | *"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

COLOSSIANS 2:15 | *"And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."*

Additional Scripture References

GENESIS 3:15

JOHN 13:2

ACTS 2:24

1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-57

ROMANS 6:9

JESUS' RESURRECTION LEGITIMIZES HIS CROSS

Jesus' death was a defeat for His enemies, but this only became clear after the resurrection. His enemies thought they had beaten Him through the cross, but when He arose, they realized it was the other way around.

If Christ had not risen from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, the atoning work of the cross would have been nullified, and seen as illegitimate. The resurrection is the completion of Christ's work of atonement, and allows the continuation of His priestly work.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14;17 | *"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."*

ROMANS 8:34 | *"Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:8
HEBREWS 7:25
HEBREWS 8:1



NOTES

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JESUS' RESURRECTION BEGINS THE NEW CREATION

Jesus alone was raised from the dead never to die again. His resurrection was the very first event of its kind, ever. He was raised into a new dimension of physical creation. This was an amazing event comparable only to the original creation of Genesis 1:1, the beginning of "new heavens and a new earth."

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead assures us that a new world and new life await both the physical world and those who believe in Him. Jesus being the "firstfruits" means that others will follow in this new life.

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20-23 | *"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him."*

ISAIAH 65:17 | *"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."*

Additional Scripture References

REVELATION 21:5

COLOSSIANS 1:18

ROMANS 6:9

2 PETER 3:13

REVELATION 21:4

ROMANS 8:29

REVELATION 1:5

1 PETER 1:3

JESUS' RESURRECTION BRINGS THE DEAD TO LIFE

When Jesus conquered death, He released a powerful force that brings new life and will one day renew the entire universe. Believers are included in this transformation.

Because of "the power of His resurrection," our spiritual death is replaced with spiritual life. Jesus' resurrection also promises that our bodies, which die, will one day be raised to new life. When all believers are given new, glorified bodies, it will be because of Jesus' resurrection.

ROMANS 8:23 | *"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies."*

PHILIPPIANS 3:21 | *"who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."*

*Additional
Scripture
References*

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

JOHN 6:63

2 CORINTHIANS 4:14



JESUS' RESURRECTION REBOOTS THE UNIVERSE

When God first created the universe, it was "very good." However, the entrance of sin brought everything under corruption and death. In the final day, "the heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."

But out of this cosmic holocaust will come a new heaven and earth, a suitable home for creatures with glorified bodies. The renewal of this material creation is the ultimate result of the work of Jesus' resurrection, and He was the "firstfruits" of this new creation.

ROMANS 8:20-21 | *"For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."*

Additional Scripture References

2 PETER 3:10

ROMANS 5:10

GENESIS 1:31

REVELATION 21-22:5

1 CORINTHIANS 15:17

Want to dive deeper into your journey?

Scan the QR code for an in-depth exploration of Step 3: Jesus' Death and Resurrection?



NOTE: All verses are quoted from the NIV translation. The Bible remains the ultimate authority for understanding who God is.

For more commentary on who Jesus is, see Dr. Jack Cottrell's "The Faith Once for All" particularly chapters 13 and 14. We're grateful to have a grounding for many of the above thoughts and insights from not only this work, but from many others.

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BASIC DISCIPLESHIP STEP THREE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ice Breaker Questions

Have you thought any more about Jesus and who the Bible says He is from last week?

Any questions on that?

Have you ever had to fix a big problem that someone else made? How did you feel about that?

Question 1 - *Christ's Death on the Cross Satisfies the Holy Nature of God.*

What is sin? Does it make sense that everyone has sinned? Why does this mean we need a savior?

Question 2 - *How did Christ's Taking our Place Satisfy God's Holy Nature?*

This is a really heavy section. Let's talk about it. What parts, if any, are hard to understand?

Question 3 - *Jesus' Resurrection Proves He is Lord*

What would it mean if Jesus' resurrection were just an encouraging idea (or metaphor), instead of the physical resurrection from death that it actually was?

Question 4 - *Jesus' Resurrection Crushes His Enemies*

What do you think the devil must've said out loud when he heard Jesus was physically raised from the grave and alive again? What did it mean for him?

Question 5 - *Jesus' Resurrection Legitimizes His Cross*

Pretend you're talking to a friend who didn't know much about Jesus. What's a good way to explain how Jesus' resurrection proved what He went through for us on the cross was real?

Question 6 - *Jesus' Resurrection Begins the New Creation and Brings the Dead to Life*

What does Jesus' new resurrection body mean for us?

Question 7 - *Jesus' Resurrection Reboots the Universe*

Do you understand what happens for a Christian at death? What does the Bible say our final destination will be like?

Question 8

When did you first take communion as a Christian? Where was it, and what did it mean to you? Do you understand it pretty well, or have any questions?

Question 9

What would you tell a friend (who didn't know much about Jesus) why we sing in church?



26600 Westheimer Parkway
Katy TX 77494
281-395-4722 | www.currentchristian.org

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