

## Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussions

### Discipleship: The Fully Alive Christian - Video 1

How did the quote by Henry David Thoreau strike you? In what ways does it reflect your own desire for a deeper and richer life?

In all honesty, how may you have settled for making a living instead of making a life? As you reflect on that, how does that make you feel?

What do you make of Pastor John Ortberg's comment: "Okay is not okay." What may be some areas in your Christian living where you have settled for 'okay?'

What do you imagine living a fully-alive life to look like *in this season* of your journey? What sort of changes would need to happen for that vision of your particular life to have a shot at success?

Who can you talk to about all this? Who can you begin to journey with to work out your discipleship journey? List possible candidates that you can begin praying about approaching.

## Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussions

### What is a Disciple? Being a Devoted Follower - Video 2

Were you surprised to hear that the word 'disciple' is used 268 in the New Testament, but the word 'Christian' only three times? What does such a statistic say to you about what our most basic and essential position is as a follower of God? Have you ever thought that being a disciple is a later phase of the Christian journey, or something only for 'really serious Christians?' If so, why might that be the case?

What do you think of our definition of being a disciple: "A disciple is a *devoted* follower of Jesus who is *growing into* His image, and *committed to* His mission in the world." Is there something you would add to this definition? Why?

What aspect of the definition is particularly challenging to you? Why is that aspect challenging?

Steve shared that loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is not a strenuous duty to comply with, but simply the best way serious, intimate relationships can flourish and thrive. How has loving God with 'all' you are been a challenge to your journey over the past year? How have you grown in such an endeavor?

Steve mentioned that as a married man there is *no moment* in the day, *no place* in my day, where he is *not* a spouse. Then he added, “so also there is no place I drive, no place I go, no room I stand in, or activity I engage in in the course of my day where I am *not* a disciple of Jesus. Whether I’m digging ditches or making lucrative business deals, I am digging and dealing as a disciple of Jesus.” In what ways does your being a disciple show up in concrete and tangible ways the various places, activities, and work you do in the day?

Share about or reflect on a person you know who embodies the definition of a disciple, as we understand it thus far.

## Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussions

### What is a Disciple? Growing Into His Image - Video 3

Reread Ephesians 4.22-24 and 2 Cor.3.18. How do these words about becoming like Jesus speak to you? Does it seem so idealistic or so 'spiritual' that it feels meaningless? In what ways do you think Paul actually meant that it could happen?

Steve mentioned, "*Rules exist because character doesn't.*" In what ways do you think this might be true? What are some of your biggest struggles to grow in godly character? What practical things have helped you grow to become more like Jesus? What has been the least helpful?

If your church were to hire you as a pastor tomorrow, how much would change in your life in terms of your speech? Your expression of anger? Your patience or impatience? Your pursuit of wisdom, etc.? Why would a position in the church, and not the basic call of God on our lives as disciples, be enough to move us to live into a godlier lifestyle?

What are your reflections on Dallas Willard's comment: "It is not hard to bless rather than curse (when) blessing is *in* us. So, when Jesus says, 'Bless those that curse you,' He's not saying, 'Get your will all whipped up, and be ready now, and regardless of how you feel about the matter, squeeze out a blessing.' No, He is talking about becoming the kind of person *for whom blessing is the natural response.*"

Steve mentioned that part of the obstacle to becoming whole in Christ is that we get caught in the 'Sin-Wound' cycle. How have you seen that cycle at work in your life or in the lives of the people you know? What would you do to get out of it?

Dallas Willard once wrote: "The people to whom we minister and speak will not recall 99 percent of what we say to them. But they will never forget the kind of persons we are...The quality of our souls will indelibly touch others for good or for ill. *So we must never forget that the most important thing happening at any moment, in the midst of all our duties, is the kind of persons we are becoming.*" Who is the person *you* are becoming in this season of your life with Christ?

## Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussions

### What is a Disciple? Committed to His Mission in the World - Video 4

Steve said that a disciple of Jesus is intentional about bringing the purposes, power, values, and character of God *to bear on the world* in real and tangible ways. For example, to bear on the way we do business and education, the way we do family life, friendships, power and politics, the way we look at, and live with, and respond to the poor, the marginal, the foreigner, and even the way we treat His creation. In other words, discipleship is, in part, joining God in the completion of His purposes in the world. What are your thoughts or comments on such a goal? Share about a person you know lives this out. How do you live it out?

Steve's definition of disciple-making is: to care for and equip one another to love Jesus, to live like Jesus, and to serve Him in His mission to the world. Is there something you would add to this definition?

In what ways have others helped you become a deeper and stronger disciple of Jesus? In what ways have you helped others?

One of the biggest obstacles for people to step up and disciple others is that they often feel ill-equipped or inadequate for the task. What would you need to feel more equipped to step out and walk with another in a discipleship journey? What one practical thing can you actually do to seek out that equipping?

Christian thinker and writer Michael Frost has said: “If we limit our mission to getting people to heaven via a special (sinner’s) prayer, then the mission of God would amount to waiting. You say the sinner’s prayer, and you get promised heaven now, wait it out, and survive till we get to heaven.” What do you make of his comments? Is your version of mission limited to getting people to heaven or does it include more? What is the cost if we limit our view of Christian mission?

Reflect on the messianic mission as found in Isaiah 61.1-3. How does this add to your view of the Christian mission? What parts excite you and why do they excite you? What parts seem intimidating?

Steve quoted one writer who said: “We are eternally challenged to make a meaningful life by making a difference.” What difference do you want to make in this season of your life as a disciple?

In what ways can you imagine helping others move from being an attendee of Christian gatherings (church, small groups, etc.) to being a co-contributor?