

CT Sample Teaching Curriculum: One-on-One Discipleship

In the following pages, you will find four sample sets of discussion questions for one-on-one discipleship meetings on the core Christian doctrine of *soteriology*. These questions are merely suggestions to help you get started—if you choose to use them, please adapt them to your own ministry needs and cultural context. Given that every relationship is unique and that each person's needs are different, we encourage you to come up with your own ideas as you plan out each meeting in more detail, tailoring the conversation to the particular person you are discipling.

Even though we have provided you with some sample questions here, it is essential that you spend dedicated time in prayer and studying/meditating on the biblical texts in preparation for each discipleship meeting. You may also want to consider looking through some resources on spiritual formation, if these are available to you. Likewise, please be sure to reflect on how this Christian doctrine might speak into the particular life of the person you are discipling, then adapt the material in this document accordingly.

A Few Quick Tips:

- 1) It's a good idea to spend the first few minutes of your session just catching up somewhat casually with the person you're discipling, in addition to any ways of getting to know them which may already be built into the curriculum for the session. Ask how they're doing, try to connect with some aspect of their life and/or context, etc.
- 2) Start and end with prayer. Ask the other person if they have any prayer requests.
- 3) Be humble enough to learn from the person you're discipling. Be sure always to treat them with Christ-like empathy, kindness, and respect.

Session 1 — Creation and Sin

Bible Passages: Gen. 1-3, Col. 1:16-20, Rom. 1:18-23, Rom. 5:12-21, Rev. 21:1-5

- Both you and your mentee should read the passages at least twice before meeting

Discussion Questions

- Use the bulk of your time together working through these questions about the passages

Part 1: The Wonder of Creation

Bible Passages: Genesis 1:1-2:3 and Colossians 1:16-20

Observation

- What repeated phrase(s) stands out in Genesis 1?
- What is unique about the creation of humanity?
- How does God describe his creation?

Interpretation

- What does Genesis 1 reveal about God's character?
- What does it mean that humanity is created in God's image?
- What does Colossians 1:16-20 add to our understanding of creation?
- In Colossians 1:17, what does it mean that "in him all things hold together"?

Part 2: The Entry of Sin

Bible Passages: Genesis 3:1-19 and Romans 5:12

Observation

- What lies did the serpent use to tempt Eve?
- What were the immediate consequences of Adam and Eve's sin?
 - Think of different aspects: relationship with God, relationship with each other, creation, new emotions, pain and suffering...
- What does Romans 5 say about Adam's sin and humanity?

Interpretation

- What does the serpent's temptation reveal about how sin works?
- What does Genesis 3 teach us about sin and shame?
- How does Romans 5 help explain the universality of sin?

Part 3: The Hope of Redemption

Bible Passages: Romans 5:18-21 and Revelation 21:1-5

Observation

- What are the results of Christ's act of righteousness?
- How does Paul compare the actions of Adam and Jesus?
- According to Revelation 21:4, what things will no longer exist?

Interpretation

- What does Romans 5:18-21 teach about God's justice and mercy?
- Why is it significant that God dwells with his people?
- How does Revelation 21 fulfill the story that began in Genesis 1-3?

Application

- Which part of the biblical story do you most easily recognize today—creation, fall, or redemption?

- How can Christians be good stewards of God's creation?
- Where do you see brokenness in your own life?
- What aspects or relationships in your life need God's restoring work?
- How can you bring hope into broken communities?

Prayer

- Be sure to spend time in prayer during your time together. Include prayer concerns from both you and your mentee.

Session 2 — Justification

Bible Passages: Rom. 3:23-24, Gal. 2:16, Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, Phil. 3:9

- Both you and your mentee should read the passages at least twice before meeting

Discussion Questions

- Use the bulk of your time together working through these questions about the passages

Part 1: Understanding Justification

Bible Passages: Romans 3:23-24 and Titus 3:5-7

Observation

- According to Romans 3:23-24, what problems do all people share?
- What has God done for all?
- According to Titus 3:5, what is not the basis of our salvation?

Interpretation

- What do you think the word “justified” means?
- What does Titus 3:5-7 tell us about God’s character and his intention for humanity?
- What is the significance of the fact that justification is a gift of grace rather than something we earn?

Part 2: The Foundation of Faith

Bible Passages: Galatians 2:16 and Ephesians 2:8-10

Observation

- According to Galatians 2:16, how is a person justified before God?
- What does Paul contrast faith in Christ with? And what is the conclusion of the contrast?
- According to Ephesians 2:8-10, how are we saved?

Interpretation

- Why does Paul emphasize that salvation is not by works?
- What is the difference between faith in Christ and works of the Law?
- If we cannot earn salvation, what role do effort and good works play in the Christian life?

Part 3: Justification Transforms Our Identity and Actions

Bible Passages: Philippians 3:7-9 and Luke 19:1-10

Observation

- What did Paul once place his confidence in?
- According to Paul, where does true righteousness come from?
- What changes do you see in Zacchaeus after meeting Jesus?

Interpretation

- How does Paul’s testimony illustrate the difference between self-righteousness and righteousness through faith?
- Did Zacchaeus change in order to be accepted by Jesus, or because he had already received Jesus’ grace?
- What does Zacchaeus’ story teach us about the relationship between justification and transformed lives?

Application

- What are some subtle ways you might fall into “self-justification” in your own life?

- How does knowing you are justified by faith change the way you view your identity?
- How should justification shape the way we extend grace and forgiveness to others?
- Is there someone you need to forgive because you have experienced God's grace yourself?
- This week, what is one way you can live out your identity as someone who has been justified by faith rather than trying to earn God's approval?

Prayer

- Be sure to spend time in prayer during your time together. Include prayer concerns from both you and your mentee.

Session 3 — Sanctification

Bible Passages: 1 Thess. 4:3-8, Rom. 12:1-2, Phil. 2:12-13, 2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Pet. 1:13-16

- Both you and your mentee should read the passages at least twice before meeting

Discussion Questions

- Use the bulk of your time together working through these questions about the passages

Part 1: Sanctification Is God's Will for Us

Bible Passages: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Observation

- According to verse 3, what does Paul say is God's will for believers?
- What behaviors does Paul specifically address in this passage?

Interpretation

- What does this passage teach us about God's character?
- How is sanctification different from simply following religious rules?
- Why is holiness an important part of the Christian life?

Part 2: Inward Transformation and Renewed Living

Bible Passages: Romans 12:1-2

Observation

- According to the passage, how are our lives transformed?

Interpretation

- What does Paul mean by offering our bodies as a "living sacrifice"?
- What does it mean to "not conform to the pattern of this world"?

Part 3: Cooperating with God's Work

Bible Passages: Philippians 2:12-13

Observation

- According to verse 13, who is working within believers?

Interpretation

- What does Paul mean by "work out your salvation"?
- How do God's work and our responsibility fit together?
- Why is it important to avoid both "God will do everything" and "I can do it myself"?

Part 4: Reflecting Christ's Glory

Bible Passages: 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 1 Peter 1:13-16

Observation

- According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, into whose image are believers being transformed?
- Who is responsible for this transformation?

Interpretation

- What does God mean when he says, "Be holy, because I am holy," as Peter quotes here?
- How should a growing Christian reflect Christ in everyday relationships?

Application

- In what area of your life is God currently calling you to grow?

- How can you intentionally make room for the Holy Spirit to transform your thinking and desires?
- Is there one area where you need to stop conforming to the world's values and begin living according to God's truth?
- What is one practical step you will take this week to cooperate with God's sanctifying grace?

Prayer

- Be sure to spend time in prayer during your time together. Include prayer concerns from both you and your mentee.

Session 4 — Glorification

Bible Passages: Rom. 8:30, 1 Cor. 15:35-58, Phil. 3:20-21, 1 Jn. 3:2, Rev. 21:1-5

- Both you and your mentee should read the passages at least twice before meeting

Discussion Questions

- Use the bulk of your time together working through these questions about the passages

Part 1: The Promise of Glorification

Bible Passages: Romans 8:28-30

Observation

- How does Paul describe God's saving work in this passage?
- What does Paul say about those whom God justified?

Interpretation

- Why do you think Paul speaks of glorification with such confidence?
- How does glorification complete God's work of salvation?

Part 2: The Process of Transformation

Bible Passages: 1 Corinthians 15:42-58

Observation

- How does Paul compare our present bodies with our future resurrection bodies?
- What contrasts do you notice between the perishable and the imperishable?

Interpretation

- Why is the resurrection of the body an essential part of the Christian hope?
- How should the promise of resurrection shape the way we think about suffering, aging, and death?

Part 3: Our Hope in Christ's Return

Bible Passages: Philippians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2

Observation

- Where does Paul say our citizenship is? What does this mean?
- According to Philippians 3, what will Christ do when he returns?

Interpretation

- What does it mean that we will "see him as he is"?
- How should our identity as citizens of God's kingdom shape our priorities in his world?

Application

- How does the assurance of your future glorification affect the way you live today?
- Are there areas of your life where you've become too focused on temporary goods? How can you reframe these in light of what is ultimate and everlasting?
- Who in your life needs to hear the hope of Christ's return and the promise of eternal life?
- How can you "practice" resurrection now?

Prayer

- Be sure to spend time in prayer during your time together. Include prayer concerns from both you and your mentee.