

How to Make a Disciple

Chapter Five

Audio lesson: New Testament 35



Objective: To understand how God uses His disciples to make other disciples.



Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

—Acts 10:34-35

Two stories in the book of Acts show us how God makes disciples. In one story, the Holy Spirit led Philip to go to the desert and share the good news with an Ethiopian official. The Ethiopian had been reading a prophecy of the Messiah in Isaiah but did not understand it. Philip shared the truth with him and, when the Ethiopian believed in Jesus, Philip baptized him. In the other story, God gave visions to Peter and Cornelius in order to help them overcome their prejudices, so Gentiles could hear the gospel just as Jews did. When Peter explained the truth about Jesus to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit came upon these Gentiles just as He had done on the day of Pentecost.

In these stories about Philip and Peter, we find a formula that shows us how to make a disciple. These inspired examples show us how the Holy Spirit must be working through the Word of God and in the lives of the lost person and the disciple-maker. When the Word of God is received in a heart of faith, a spiritual conception takes place. We can play an important part in making disciples as we share God's Word with people and as He works in their hearts to help them understand and receive it.



1. True or false? The Holy Spirit overcame people's prejudice several times in the book of Acts.
2. True or false? Peter refused to go to the home of a Gentile, even after God told him to do so.
3. True or false? Peter allowed Cornelius to bow down to him because Peter was a representative of God.
4. True or false? The Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles in Cornelius' home even before Peter finished speaking.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What was the meaning of Peter's vision of the sheet with the unclean animals in it?
 - a. The gospel is meant for the animal kingdom as well as for human beings.
 - b. God did not care anymore about one's diet.
 - c. We should never consider any human being to be unclean.
 - d. Peter was under a lot of stress and should get more sleep.
6. What social boundary did the gospel cross when Peter preached in Cornelius' household?
 - a. The line between military people and civilians
 - b. The line between Jews and Gentiles
 - c. The line between different age groups
 - d. The line between people of different skin colors
7. Why did Philip go to Gaza to speak to the Ethiopian?
 - a. He preferred to work in isolated places.
 - b. The Holy Spirit told him to do it.
 - c. He knew the Ethiopian's travel plans and decided to be there.
 - d. It happened completely by chance.
8. What is the most important aspect of baptism?
 - a. The mode—whether a person is immersed or sprinkled
 - b. The place where it occurs
 - c. The words spoken before, during, and after
 - d. The meaning of the event and the person's faith
9. Which of the following is a good description of baptism?
 - a. A spiritual wedding ceremony
 - b. A private, internal attitude
 - c. An unnecessary attempt to prove one's spirituality
 - d. A rigid, detailed ritual that must be done perfectly

10. What does baptism accomplish?
- a. It saves us from our sins. We cannot be saved without being baptized.
 - b. It proves that we are sincere.
 - c. It is a public confession of our faith.
 - d. It shows everyone how spiritually mature we are.

11. Which of the following are vital resources for making a disciple?
- a. The Word of God
 - b. The Spirit of God
 - c. A servant of God
 - d. All of the above

12. In whom must the Holy Spirit work in order to make a disciple?
- a. In the person who shares his or her faith
 - b. In the person who hears the Word and receives it
 - c. Both the one who shares the Word and the one who hears it
 - d. Neither—it is entirely an intellectual decision



Have you ever asked God to use you to help make a disciple? If not, why not? How might God want to use you to help fulfill the Great Commission? In what ways would you need to be empowered to do so?



Thank God for the people who have shared the good news of salvation with you. Thank God for the empowerment and spiritual gifts He gives to each of us. Ask Him to help you grow as a disciple and to lead you to people with whom you can share your faith.



Going Deeper

1. How did the decision of Paul to move into Europe rather than Asia impact church and secular history? _____

2. The first two chapters of Galatians inform us that Paul spent somewhere between three and fourteen years in Arabia with the risen Christ before he consulted with the apostles and began his dynamic missionary ministry. How do you believe Paul was able to convince the men that he was as much an apostle as they were? _____

3. How do we apply what we learn about divine guidance from the reality that God told Ananias an overview of His will for the life of Paul but only gave Paul one directive? _____

4. How are we to apply what we learn about divine guidance from the reality that the Apostle Paul saw a man in his Macedonian call/vision, but when he arrived in Philippi he found a prayer meeting made up solely of women? _____

5. How do we apply the reality that, beginning with what God gave him, Paul opened the Word, the Holy Spirit opened the heart of Lydia and she opened her house, which became Paul's favorite and most important sending church? _____

6. What does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and know that you and your house will be saved? _____

7. What was different about Paul's strategy and preaching in Athens and Corinth? Why do you think he changed?
